### Acts 17:22-26

# The Author O HALLES

## What roles do birth & life play in God's plan for mankind?

- God shows His desire to give and sustain life in the Genesis account of creation.
- Satan then shows His desire for our demise and death by deceiving Eve into disobeying God's commandment.
- The rest of the Bible continually echoes God's efforts to restore life to mankind, & ultimately the goal is to do so through Jesus Christ the Messiah.

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Through Jesus, all men have the ability to be born again and have new life.

1 What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? **2** Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, 7 since a person who has died is freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him, 9 because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over Him. **10** For the death He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life He lives, He lives to God. **11** So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:1-11)

**17** Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their thoughts. **18** They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them and because of the hardness of their hearts. 19 They became callous and gave themselves over to promiscuity for the practice of every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more. 20 But that is not how you came to know Christ, **21** assuming you heard about Him and were taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to take off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, 23 to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth. (Ephesians 4:17-24)

25 Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another. 26 Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the devil an opportunity. 28 Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. 29 No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. **30** And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by Him for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. **32** And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. (Ephesians 4:25-32)

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- This is all leading towards our resurrection from the dead to eternal life with God.

50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. 53 For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality. 54 When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: **Death has been** swallowed up in victory. 55 Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting? 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! (I Corinthians 15:50-57)

**1** Then He showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the city's main street. The tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations, **3** and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will worship Him. 4 They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5 Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5)

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