

# ***“The Great Purpose of God is to bring man to the end of himself, where he no longer trust himself but God”***

*Ruth Paxon*

Of the many things God has showed man through the dispensations, the lesson that should stand out above the others is that man is *a hopeless rebel, utter failure, and without hope without God*. He is simply *not capable* of living up to God's righteous standard no matter how "enlightened" and able he may think he is.

Place him in a beautiful garden with everything he needs, including fellowship with God, a beautiful and compatible wife, the earth under his dominion, access to the Tree of Life, etc., and man will *forsake it all* and choose death. Leave him alone with his conscience to guide him and man will become so *exceedingly wicked* that he must be removed from the earth with a flood. Give him great and sure promises and man will flee them and *speak lies in unbelieving fear*. Make of him a chosen nation for God to speak through and dwell among, with His holy Law and priesthood, and man will abandon his God and *worship dumb idols*. Give him an eternal redemption from sin and hell, everlasting life, an indwelling Holy Spirit, the promise of a new body, a home in New Jerusalem, and birth him into God's own family making him His son, and man will repay his Savior with *rebellion, worldliness, and indifference*. Give him a perfect, uncursed earth, a cooperative environment, no Satan to tempt him, extended lifespan, and Jesus Christ himself to reign over him, and man will *revolt and try to force Christ from His throne*. All is clear. Man is a wicked, vile, evil, selfish, and vain creature, and apart from God he is utterly hopeless and bound for hell. The surest proof of this is God is near the last millennium of his dealings with man (now 6000 years along), and man collectively has *not learned this ONE lesson yet!*