



## What is Wrong With the World?

by Vaughan Durston

Often I have had the opportunity of sitting down with a stranger in a crowded coffee shop, mostly because there wasn't room somewhere else. Usually we start out talking about the weather and then the bad news of the day or night before. Invariably at this stage I like asking the question, "What do you think the worst problem in the world is?" What do you suppose these strangers give for an answer almost without exception? It is **selfishness** and **greed**.



At one time there was no selfishness in the world or universe. All God's creation loved God, pleased God, were full of God's wisdom, and were perfect in their ways. Everything was in unison with God. What a beautiful place it was. How long it was like this, we don't know, maybe for thousands of years. Even Lucifer, the bright and shining one, was like this. Meditate on a universe and world with everything and everyone in harmony.



What happened? Read *Isaiah 14:12-17*. Lucifer with his opportunity to love God or to not love God decided to love himself and please himself. His wisdom became corrupted (foolish) and he became the father of lies.

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### Testimony

I wanted to let you know how much of a blessing you are to my family and particularly me. I have learned so much just by going through the lessons and questions. I know that everything is done voluntarily so I want to thank every volunteer for giving up your time to be a blessing and make a difference in a kid or adult's life and I can tell you it does! So, on behalf of everyone "THANKS". Don't ever think that this organization is worthless cause its doing more than you can ever know." (age 14)

## Ten Terrific Traits

### Part 3: PERSONALLY CHOSEN

by Brian Cummins

1 Chronicles 12:23-40 records significant characteristics of the men God brought around David to help him become such a great leader and follower of God. In earlier columns we saw the first two characteristics: they were **prepared** and **prayerful**. Verse 31 identifies the third characteristic — they were **personally chosen**.

From the half tribe of Manasseh 18,000 came to David "designated by name". That's a lot of people to call by name! In God's economy these men were far more than numbers in a military machine or impersonal ciphers in a national bureaucracy. God knew each one, and He called them all "by name".

One of the wonderful mysteries of being a Christian is that, while we may think we "made the decision" to become a Christian, in fact it was *God* who did the choosing. Jesus said, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:16). Think of it—God chose you, He "designated you by name"!

And He did so for a purpose: "that you should go and bear fruit". There are at least two aspects to this. First, the fruit of the Spirit should increasingly be seen in our character development. And then as we "go" into our lost dead world—personally and as members of the ministry family of D&J—may God produce fruit by *growing godly kids* within our spheres of influence.

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This decision changed the universe from a place where love, joy and peace reigned with unity to a place where Satan was in rivalry with God; and all forms of sin began in his life. God has been in a program of reclaiming this world of sin since then.

Lucifer Before the Fall



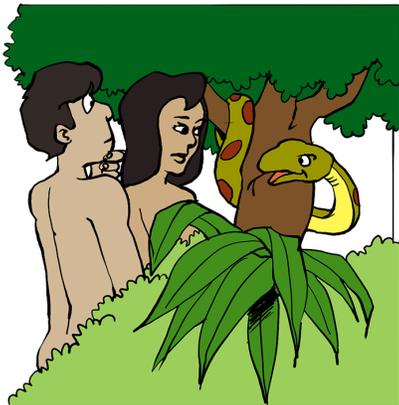
What a Great World!

Satan After the Fall



What an Awful World!

Even worse on Satan's part was the fact that he sought to get as many angels as possible to live as he now lived. It seems many listened to his foolish wisdom and lies and followed after him.



When God created man in the Garden of Eden, Satan was soon there making a visit, seeking to get Adam and Eve to move from loving God, etc. to loving themselves, etc. Read *Genesis 3:1-19*. Ever since Adam and Eve began to sin, all their children have followed in their ways. God says so in *Isaiah 53:6*.

We started out by asking the question, *"What's wrong with the world?"* The men in the coffee shop were right.

Selfishness and greed is the problem; but will we admit that it is **our own personal problem** and not just the world's problem, our friend's problem or our brother's problem?

The answer is bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our youth, and discipling them in His ways. This is the vision and desire of all of us as we are reaching out to our world this summer.

## Testimony

"I started the lessons through summer camp, and continued them until I graduated High school. They helped me build a firm foundation in the faith. Thank you for everything!"  
(former student, now a donor)

## Our Mission

"developing young people  
after God's own heart"

## Our Vision

"to see Jesus seated on  
the throne of every 'David'  
and ruling over all the  
aspects of their life."



## TEXAS

What an exciting time of year! Long, warm summer days, swimming, vacations... We are excited about the renewed opportunities that summer brings to share the Gospel. **10,000 lessons** are waiting to be distributed in backyard clubs throughout El Paso and area. Lessons on our shelves are waiting to be mailed across the country. A local **church** is using the lessons as **follow-up** for their VBS. A pastor's wife uses the lessons in her **Sunday School classes** urging the parents to allow less TV time in their homes and to encourage the children to prepare for the "tests" that she will give the following Sunday. And we are very excited about the fact that now more **online lessons** are available in **Spanish!**

Please continue to pray with us. God is answering! A woman writes that her granddaughter is attending church regularly now and will be baptized soon. The lessons have been a great influence in her life. A young woman who suffered from abuse in her childhood, shares that the lessons have helped her to see her worth and dignity in Christ. And a little girl who is doing online lessons says,

*"I am loving Jesus more every day."*  
Doesn't that excite you, too?

## Club DJ

It has been exciting to see the growth in churches across Canada who have been running **Club DJ** for years, as well as the churches who just started up last fall. One such report came from a church in Russell, Manitoba. They wrote, *"As we began in September we asked God for 40 children. As we close for the year we had 41 children registered. Of those, only 13 come from our church families. God is good and has again opened the door of ministry to the children in our community."* (Three children accepted Jesus as their Saviour in this church!)

Already this spring we have been giving **Club DJ** presentations for new churches for next fall. One such presentation was at Duck Lake for the children on Beardy's Reserve. This will be the first **Club DJ** to be held on a Reserve and it is exciting to see God continue to open new doors. (See the **Club DJ** website at [clubdj.ca](http://clubdj.ca) or email Jerry at [jdurston@clubdj.ca](mailto:jdurston@clubdj.ca) if you would like more information.)

## ONTARIO

Since the end of the 2008 camping season we have received over 800 Bible lessons from children and youth from **twelve camps**. We trust they have received the Word of God into their hearts and minds in their early years of seeking the Kingdom of God.

The response to the **online** lessons has increased here in Ontario for which we are grateful. One person wrote, *"now I have found a place where I can meet God."*

## SPANISH LESSONS ONLINE



Our website now has **24 new lessons in Spanish** for kids aged 5–10, in addition to 16 lessons for Spanish-speaking teens which have been available for a couple of years. And we expect to add more courses for Hispanics over the next few months. Pass the news along to anyone you know who might be interested in using these lessons. The main webpage is [ubdavid.org/espanol](http://ubdavid.org/espanol).

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Please pray with us for the new season ahead.

## SASKATCHEWAN

A few months ago circumstances prevented a young lady from joining a missions team from her youth group. Deeply disappointed she surrendered her own wishes to the will of God. Just recently this same girl called me to let me know that she had just **led two girls from her school to the Lord**. She bubbled with joy that comes from helping others find Christ. In the phone call the girl concluded that it was probably because she could not go to the mission field that God brought the mission field to her.

## ALBERTA

A magazine recently stated that the most important thing we can do for the next generation is to help them gain a working knowledge of the Bible. This is what we are doing here at *David & Jonathan*. One of the ways we do this is to partner with the **Bible Camps**. This past month we have been busy filling camp orders, encouraging their directors through emails, and praying for camps at our weekly prayer time. We still need an **executive director** for Alberta/BC—please pray. But we are still encouraged with what God is doing. We just had one student complete all the work to earn a study Bible.

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## Our Method

*Jonathans building up Davids*  
“And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking with Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”

(1 Samuel 18:1)

## TESTIMONIES...

“Wow...I found this one quite challenging! I didn't really know what it meant to conform.”

(14 year old)

“Thank you for giving me these Bible lessons. God bless you for your work.” (8 year old)

“I really like the way you explained heaven and judgment and everything. Thanks to you I'm starting to understand the importance of being a good Christian so that I can go to heaven.” (14 year old)

“These worksheets have really helped me to come to God and love myself and others. I feel confident with God.” (13 year old)

“Thank you very much for these [lessons]! I learned a lot and really enjoy them throughly..”

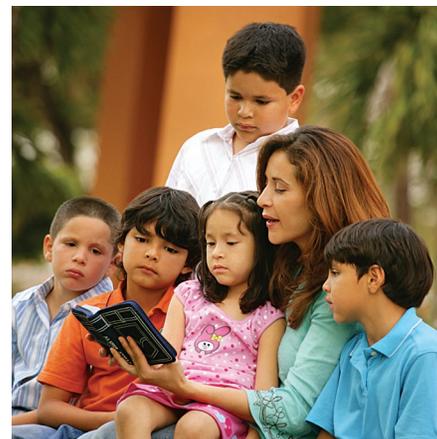
(17 year old)

“Our daughter has just started the Bible lessons that you recommended... Thanks for introducing these spiritual and vital lessons to my family.”

(parent of online student)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- \* Pray especially for the many **Bible camps** as they reach thousands of young people this summer across North America. And pray that many of these kids will get going with D&J lessons when they return home.
- \* Pray for **Vacation Bible Schools (VBS)** and 5-day clubs reaching many children especially in Saskatchewan and Texas.
- \* Pray for our need for an **executive director** for the **Alberta/BC** ministry.
- \* Pray that many more children, teens and adults will find our **online lessons** and that God will use this resource for their spiritual growth.
- \* Pray for our **expanding outreach** through the Internet to **Spanish-speaking** students.



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**Online donations** can also be made via the *CanadaHelps* link from our home page.

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