

The End of Sin

SIN is God's number one enemy. It is an "invading force" that polluted and cursed everything God had created. It is the nature of the "Serpent" that found a home in the hearts of fallen humanity. The "serpent" that deceived Eve had once been "the anointed cherub that covereth" Ezekiel 28:14, who was "perfect in his ways" until iniquity was found in him Ezekiel 28:15. His name was "Lucifer," which means "the shining one." Iniquity was discovered in Lucifer when he said in his heart: "I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: ...I will be like the most High**" Isaiah 14:13-14. Self-exaltation was the iniquity which destroyed God's "anointed cherub."

"Lucifer (the serpent) came to Adam and Eve with the promise, "... your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil**" Genesis 3:5, if they would simply disregard the command of God and eat the forbidden fruit. Eve believed the serpent's lie, ate of the fruit, gave it to Adam, and "their eyes were opened." Instead of becoming "as gods," however, they saw they were naked and they were ashamed, because "the glory of God" had departed from them. Adam's disobedience opened the door for Sin (the nature of the serpent) to become his master, and Lucifer (the serpent, the devil) became "the god of this world" II Corinthians 4:4. Every descendant of Adam for all time would be born with Sin in their heart and nature.

Lucifer's quest to exalt himself into the throne over men was amazingly successful. Even though God beckoned, called, and chastened mankind, very few actually served him. In the days of Noah, however, God said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man" Genesis 6:3. One hundred and twenty years later, God destroyed every living person with the exception of Noah and his household. Millions of sinners died in the great flood, but sin came through untouched, hidden in the nature of Noah and his family.

The great flood did not make an "end of sin" upon the earth. Sin in the nature of only eight people survived the flood and again "contaminated" the whole earth. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, but it did not bring an end of sexual perversion any more than the destruction of Jerusalem brought an end to abominations among the children of Israel. Sin must be destroyed, but destroying sinners proved not to be the answer to the sin problem. Somehow, at any cost, Sin itself had to be eradicated. The "cost" to do so was both "infinite" and "eternal" when Christ, who was in the beginning "with God" and "was God" John 1:1, became a man to die on a cross Philippians 2:5-8, to "take away the sin of the world" John 1:29.

The death of Jesus Christ at Calvary was not a "punishment for sin." It was not a "penalty taken" or a "debt paid." His death was as a "lamb without spot or blemish," the "Lamb of God" offered to "take away the

sin of the world" John 1:29. God was not seeking to "punish" us when He sent Christ to the cross. His purpose was to "redeem us." We were all slaves to sin through no fault of our own. Everything we were without Christ was the result of the one sin Adam committed when he disobeyed God. Why would God punish us for what Adam did? ...and why would He punish Jesus for what we did?

We were all born into this world as sinners because of Adam's sin, and we all sinned because we were sinners. It was not our sin that made us to be sinners. It was Adam who "sold us under Sin" Romans 7:14, and being "under Sin," we were "slaves to Sin." John 8:34-36. We did not "owe a debt" any more than the slaves in America owed a debt. And as the American slave owners were not "paid" to release the slaves, neither did Christ "pay a debt" for our release. Instead, He destroyed the "slave master." The Bible says He "bruised the head of the serpent" Genesis 3:15, "...destroyed the devil" Hebrews 2:14, and "...destroyed the works of the devil" I John 3:8 for all who would believe and trust in Him. In the flood, God destroyed the sinners, but at Calvary he destroyed the Sin!

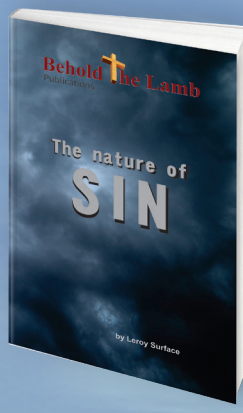
When God considered the plight of a world filled with sinners, He considered that it was "by one man" that Sin "entered into the world" Roman 5:12. God determined, if He were to be just Romans 3:26, there had to be a "second man" to "take away the Sin" that entered into the world by the "first man." The "second man" must be born of a woman, yet be of a Spirit that transcends humanity. Who better to be the "second man" than the creator Himself? The apostle Paul said of Adam, "the first man is of the earth, earthly..." I Corinthians 15:47, but he said of Jesus Christ, "the second man is the Lord from heaven." He was "the WORD, made flesh" John 1:14. So the eternal Christ became a man and was offered as a spotless lamb in order to "take away the sin of the world."

Everything sin contaminated that has not been "redeemed from all iniquity" Titus 2:14 will be destroyed.

The curse that sin brought on God's creation was such that even the heavens and earth must "pass away" to make place for "a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" II Peter 3:13. The "heavens and earth" as we know them will "pass away" Revelation 21:1, being burned with "fervent heat" II Peter 3:10. Only those who are "born of God" and thus "washed from sin" Revelation 1:5 will enter the "the new heavens and the new earth." At the judgment, everything in which Sin remains will be cast alive into the lake of fire with the devil and all his angels, there to be contained forever, separated from God and His new creation.

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