

God's Greatest Enemy

Most people would probably think that Satan is God's greatest enemy. Yet, consider this for a moment; Satan, the devil, was not always the devil. In fact, he was one of God's most trusted angels. He was *"the anointed Cherub that covereth"* Ezekiel 28:14. God spoke of him, saying, *"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee"* Ezekiel 28:15. The Bible describes his sin, saying, *"Thou has said in thine heart...I will exalt my throne...I will be like the most high"* Isaiah 14:13-14. The "original sin" actually occurred in heaven with the corruption of God's *"anointed Cherub."* Hence, God lost His special *"anointed cherub"* to that dark thing God calls sin.

Earth was once a paradise placed under the dominion of the man Adam, whom God had created in His own image and likeness. In order to *"be like the most high,"* the anointed Cherub, whose name was Lucifer, sought to become god on earth. In the form of a serpent, he enticed Adam's wife Eve to disobey God by eating of a certain tree which God had forbidden them to eat of. She gave the fruit of the tree to Adam, and he ate of it. This was the moment that sin and death entered into the heart of the man God had created in His image, and through Adam into this entire world of people. Thus, God also lost Adam and all his descendants to the corruption of sin.

When God created the heaven and the earth, He created them to last for eternity. With the entrance of sin into the world, however, the entire universe was contaminated and had to be destroyed. Jesus told us *"Heaven and earth shall pass away."* Luke 21:33. The Apostle Peter said, *"The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."* II Peter 3:10. After God made mankind, He God looked upon everything He had created and said, *"It is very good."* Genesis 1:31. Yet, within seven thousand years from Adam's disobedience, it will all be lost because of God's greatest enemy, which is sin!

God has never and will never forgive sin. He forgives sinners, and He forgives "sins" but never "sin." "Sin" is a nature that every person is born with. It is such an enemy to God that He *"gave His only begotten Son"* John 3:16 to die on the cross to *"take away our sin."* I John 3:5. This speaks of the "sin" which entered into the world by Adam's disobedience. Paul wrote in his

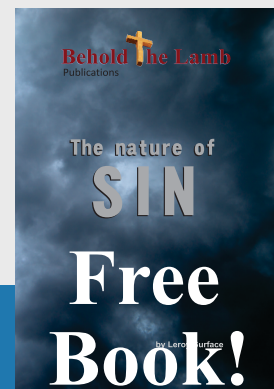
epistle to the Romans, *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."*

Romans 5:19. John the Baptist was the first to understand this when he introduced Jesus to the people, saying *"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* John 1:29.

Considering the fact that sin is God's greatest enemy, why does the modern church treat it as a light thing? For example, the Apostle John told the church of his day, *"He that commiteth sin is of the devil."* I John 3:8, while giving the alternative in the next verse; *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin..."* I John 3:9. Yet, the mantra of the modern church is "We are all sinners and we sin every day." It seems obvious that God has also lost the modern church to His greatest enemy, which is still sin.

Because of the corruption and eventual destruction of the original creation, God promised *"Behold, I make all things new."* Revelation 21:5. He began with a *"new creation in Christ Jesus."* II Corinthians 5:17. When Jesus was born to Mary, He was conceived by the Holy Ghost. He had no human father, and thus no sin nature. He was the *"first man"* of a *"new creation."* There would have never been another like Him if He had not died on the cross as the *"Lamb of God"* to *"take away the sin of the world."* In the last week before suffering the cross, Jesus said, *"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."* John 12:24. Jesus was the *"corn of wheat"* which fell to the ground and died. Those who are born again of that *"incorruptible seed"* I Peter 1:23 are the *"much fruit"* He brought forth through His death and resurrection. Just as the harvest is like the original seed, those who are truly born of God are like Christ. They are no longer sinners because He has taken away their sin.

Sin, and everything it has corrupted will be destroyed. Only those who have been washed from their sin by the shed blood of Christ will inhabit God's *"New Heavens and New Earth."* Revelation 21:1. The Bible says, *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* Revelation 21:7-8. Which do you choose?



To order, visit cochurch.org or write to:
Behold the Lamb PO Box 750 Porter, TX 77365