

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

August 26, 2023

Never Again

The first chapter in the Bible begin with the words *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* Genesis 1:1. After giving a brief account of the creation, the scripture then records *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."* Genesis 2:1. At this point there is no mention of evil, iniquity, depravity, or spiritual darkness. We only know that *"God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."* Genesis 1:31.

It is not until the Serpent deceived Eve that we discover "evil" in God's creation. This evil began in an angel God called *"...the anointed cherub that covereth."* Ezekiel 28:14. The Hebrew word translated "covereth" in this passage speaks of "protecting." This angel was made to be a "protector" and God set this angel *"... in Eden the garden of God..."* Ezekiel 28:13. I believe he was set there to watch over the man and woman God had made. God completely trusted this angel until the evil of his heart was discovered. God spoke to this angel, saying, *"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."* Ezekiel 28:15.

The iniquity in this angel was that he *"...said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt*

my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:13-14.

This iniquity was manifested when he deceived Eve, and through Adam's transgression, brought the whole of humanity under Satan's dominion.

This first act of iniquity set in motion events that would devastate "*the Heavens and the Earth*" for thousands of years. The Bible says, "*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels...*" Revelation 12:7. This rebellion not only brought war to the Heavens, but it brought about the damnation of many billions of souls contaminated with the disease of sin. With this it also brought untold cruelty, violence, murder, and every horrid and perverted thing imaginable. Man, who had been created in God's image, was now a defiled creation which bore the nature of the Serpent.

This war in Heaven continued for thousands of years without victory for either side. Only when Jesus Christ shed his blood upon the cross was the victory won. Then, finally, "*...the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*" Revelation 12:9. We know this was accomplished at the cross because the next words spoken were "***Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God***"

day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb..." Revelation 12:10-11.

Now let's move forward many thousands of years from the creation of the first heavens and earth to a second such event. The Apostle John wrote, *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."* Revelation 21:2. As John saw the *"New Heavens and New Earth,"* he also saw *"...the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven..."* Revelation 21:2. Then he heard God say, *"Behold, I make all things new."* Revelation 21:5.

As John continues describing the *"New Jerusalem,"* he comes to these final words. *"And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. **And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth,** neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."* Revelation 21:25-27.

The words, *"**there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth,**"* are more than a warning. They are a promise! Iniquity in the heart of a single angel in the first creation, defiled and devastated both *"the heavens and the Earth."* This will not be allowed to happen in the new. The defiled will never enter in, and those who enter will never become defiled.

Jesus was clear that the content of a person's heart is what *"defiles"* them. He said, *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil*

thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: **All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**" Mark 7:21-23. This is the reason Jesus Christ shed his blood for you. The Bible says, *"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean (the defiled), sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* Hebrews 9:13-14. The "conscience" speaks of your inner most thoughts and feelings. Jesus Christ shed his blood to wash the defilement of sin from your heart and nature.

Today, there is a fountain open for sin and uncleanness. In God's great love and mercy, he made a way for sinful humanity to be purged from sin so they might be with him in the *"New Heavens and Earth."* Yet even his love will not change his promise: ***"there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth."*** Those who reject the cleansing power of the blood of Christ today banish themselves from the "Heaven" of tomorrow. It was defiled once, but never again! Sin will never enter there!