

THE FIRST MURDER

Reading the Bible should be always interesting, sometimes exciting, other times horrifying as you see peoples lives being shattered as things fall to pieces. And as we look at the next lot of verses we find this is one of those times.

Cain's offering to the Lord God of Heaven has just been rejected because he has not acknowledged the divine will in bringing the blood sacrifice as a substitute for his own sins, to die in his place, instead he brought the offering of his own works which is unacceptable in the sight of God., for the putting away of sin.

Quite often when people become angry they take it out on others, this is not a new thing, Cain had sinned against God, but what does he do?

Gen 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Sin begins in the heart as we see in ***Pro 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...*** The thought in Cain's heart showed in the words that he expressed and that boiled over into action, the first murder was committed against his younger brother, his own flesh and blood.

Again we see, the God who knows every thought and action before whom we will stand on judgement day coming to Cain and as he did with Adam and Eve and questioning him of the whereabouts of his brother, this was to challenge him and if there was a sense of guilt at all to bring him to acknowledge it and seek forgiveness.

One sin inevitably leads to another, now Cain tells a lie, and in a sense challenges God to prove otherwise.

Many a child can still hear the words of their parents ringing in their ears, **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?**, but here the Lord God of Hosts describes in graphic words the murder of Abel,

Gen 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

ORIGINAL SIN

How Adam and Eve's heart would have smote them, the sin which they had committed which seemed so small at the time had now degenerated into a major crime.

Their original sin had been passed on to the next generation, how true the Bible is,

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Here we see two brothers representing all the people of the world, both born in the shadow of the fall into sin, two men, two sacrifices, two standings before God, both being instructed in the means of grace, that is, sins forgiven through the substitute sacrifice.

This is the plan that the Heavenly Father had ordained before he even made the world, which shows how important God considered the redemption of his children.

God accepted that a innocent animal without blemish would be accepted in their place, the death of the animal graphically depicted the punishment that any and all sin deserves.

Then God said, ***Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.***

If thou doest well, that is, if you do it the way I have instructed you, not through works, prayers etc. Good deeds will never counteract or cancel out sin, Adam and Eve's covering of leaves was not accepted of God, nothing but the blood of the innocent sacrifice will do.

Abel was the first martyr for his faith in the Lamb of God. Cain, the first in line for the persecutors of the Faithful, and so early in the history of the world .

Gal 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

See how envy turns into hatred and that turns into Murder. Jesus said, if you hate your brother in your heart, you are a murderer. All you need is an opportunity to carry it out.

RELIGIOUS BUT LOST

The Lord says that the HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS...Jer.48.10

Yes, our heart can and does deceive us, we can only trust the Word of God, as Jesus answered Satan IT IS WRITTEN.

We are in a battle zone all the time, if Satan which is the Devil can deceive us into feeling religious but miss the clear instruction of his word, he has succeeded in cutting us off from God even as he did with Adam and Eve.

THE BROAD OR THE NARROW WAY

Many people and even religious groups would call this doctrine narrow minded, and so did Jesus

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:

He believed and taught that there was only one way to approach God the Father and that was his way, the narrow way.

When God first created Adam and Eve, they only knew what was good, nothing evil entered their heart.

But when they in rebellion disobeyed Him they found out that not everything was good.

Satan had deceived Eve into believing that the eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would give her many benefits, but no sooner they ate of that fruit they were filled with shame, fear and guilt.

It is so important to understand that the blood of animals could never pay for sin. God did not accept Abel's lamb as the payment for his sin, but God forgave Abel's sin and accepted him and his offering because he trusted, not in himself, but in God who had promised to send a deliverer who would offer himself as a once for all never to be repeated sacrifice for sin.

This is where God's remedial action came into play, it was necessary to drive them from the vicinity of the tree of life to prevent them from living forever in their sin.

Can you imagine what it would be like if all the evil men in history lived for ever, and we had to put up with them even now.

DESCENDANTS OF SINFUL MEN

Cain and Abel were born sinners because their father was now a sinner. Now we don't like to think that we are born with a disposition to sin, but God does not deceive us, but plainly says,

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We are the product of sinners and are stuck with it, so the black streak of sin can be traced back from generation to generation to the first culprit, Adam.

Some people think that we are all the children of God, and it would be a great comfort if it were true, but that's not what Jesus taught. If we look at the Gospel of John. Chapter 8 we see the Scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus in the temple, now these men were top of the line religious and very moral, at the least in their own eyes, and they challenged Jesus on many things, but in the end Jesus said to them in

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. Now that is the bad news, but God never intended to leave us in our sin,

1 John 3.8 He that committeth sin is of the Devil; for the Devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the Devil