

# FOUNDATION MINISTRIES (UK)

## Apostolic Ministry to the Body of Christ

### EXPOSITORY & INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING & SERMON NOTES

Subject: - Great Christian Doctrines

Study: - 016. The Origin of Sin

Bible Reading: - Genesis 3:1-24

#### Presumptuous Sin

The very first act of disobedience in God's creation was as the result of an act of presumptuous sin by Lucifer the anointed Cherub, who allowed pride to creep into his heart presuming that he was more important than he was, **Isaiah 14:12** "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Young's Literal Translation) "How hast thou fallen from the heavens, O shining one, son of the dawn! Thou hast been cut down to earth, O weakener of nations". The word morning or dawn, is speaking of the beginning of the day, Lucifer was the son, the Hebrew word ben, meaning offspring or off spring of creation, therefore Lucifer is not an eternal being for he was created by God for a specific task and that task was as the anointed cherub, **Ezekiel 28:14** "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire."

Cherubim were the interface between God and man, so was Lucifer the anointed Cherub, today the only mediator between man and God, is the man Christ Jesus, **1Timothy 2:5** "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" When God appeared to Adam in the garden of Eden and when He spoke with Moses face to face, He did so from the covering of the cherubim, Lucifer or the cherubim would then be the visible outward expression of God's glory, for God is spirit having no similitude and the glory which man's eye beheld when God appeared was that of the Cherubim which surrounds Him, **Deuteronomy 4:12** "And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice." Within the Cherubim was the whole of the beauty of creation summarily seen, a resplendent creature created to reveal God's glory, of which Ezekiel speaks and the Elders of Israel and Isaiah both saw, **Exodus 24:9-11** "Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink. See also, Ezekiel 1:4-14.

Paul tells us that Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, so if you want to see God in all His glory look at the life of Jesus Christ, **Colossians 1:15** "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:" When Jesus says to His disciples that He is returning to the Father to prepare a place for them and where I go you know and the way you know, Thomas says how can we know, to which Jesus says, **John 14:6-7** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him." John having spoken of Jesus as the Word made flesh dwelling amongst us, says we beheld His glory, the glory as the only begotten of the Father, and that no man has seen God at anytime, only Jesus who is in the bosom of the Father He has declared Him, Jesus Christ the Word of God in human flesh revealing the Glory of God, **John 1:18** "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

God is then a consuming fire and we are told that Lucifer was on the mountain of God and walked in the midst of the stones of fire and further he was in the Garden of Eden, **Ezekiel 28:12-15** "Thus saith the Lord GOD: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have

set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Lucifer walked upon God's Holy Mountain and stood in the very presence of God, under whose feet was as it were a pavement of sapphire and His glory was like devouring fire, **Exodus 24:10** "And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness." Satan (no longer called Lucifer) rightfully and justifiably had access into the presence of the LORD God, for the role given to him by God permitted him that right, but instead of him being a mediator for the good of man he became his adversary, his accuser and destroyer, and this aspect is highlighted in those events surrounding the testing of Job, when Satan presents himself before LORD, **Job 2:1-6** "Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life".

Because the LORD God is a righteous and a just God he permits Satan to maintain his position, for Satan is continually able to lay claim of man's failing and sinfulness, and we see this in the case with Joshua the high priest, we note that Satan is standing at the right hand, being the place of counsel, **Zechariah 3:1-4** "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Therefore Michael the archangel when contending for the body of Moses could only rebuke Satan, and he contested on the ground of Moses' sin at Meribah, and his murder of the Egyptian, yet Michael just rebuked Satan, **Jude 1:9** "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." These Old Testament saints by faith saw and witnessed the promise of Jesus Christ, afar off, and that we with them in due time should be made perfect in Jesus Christ, **Hebrews 11:39-40** "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

King David prayed that he would be cleansed from his secret faults and to be kept back from entering into presumptuous sin, for he then says, I shall be upright and innocent of the great transgression, **Psalms 19:12-13** "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." For it is those secret thoughts that if we are not careful can become reality, especially if we think of ourselves to be more highly than we ought and consider ourselves to be without sin, **1 John 1:8-10** "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." It is those secret thoughts and desires that if not dealt with can lead to us falling into sin, **James 1:13-15** "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

King David did not want to think of himself more highly than he ought, for he was only too aware of his heady position as the king of Israel and how easy it is to abuse such a position of trust. King David's success rested in

the hands of the LORD God who chose and anointed him to be king over His people Israel. There were times that David mistakenly thought he could do as he pleased and get away with it by hiding it, such as was his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah, which resulted in God humbling David in the sight of all Israel. David's prayer recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm, firstly praises the greatness of the work of God in creation, stating that the heavens declare His glory and the firmament show forth his handiwork, **Psalm 19:7-11** "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." David continues this note of praise when he declares that God's Law is perfect for it converts the soul, i.e. it brings the consciousness of sin to our soul and awakens us to our transgressions, therefore it is more to be desired than fine gold, **Psalm 19:7-11** "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

Lucifer placed in a position of trust by the LORD God and whose presence then reflected the radiant beauty of the glory of the LORD God, created and chosen to serve his creator, sadly was corrupted by his beauty and he thought of himself more highly than he should and presumed himself to be of a greater importance than he was thereby challenging the authority of God his creator. Sadly through his pride and an act of rebellion Lucifer becomes Satan, the Destroyer, **Isaiah 14:13-15** "For thou hast 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. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Paul warns Timothy that no novice should be appointed as a bishop (overseer) or elder lest they become puffed up, or consider themselves to be overly important, or self righteousness and let pride creep in, **1 Timothy 3:6-7** "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

Moses failed to sanctify the LORD God before His people and sadly allowed the sin of presumption to overtake him, for when the LORD told him to speak to the rock so that water would come forth, he said must we fetch you water out of this rock, which he then struck twice with the rod, **Numbers 20:7-12** "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels: must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them." Moses sin was that he failed to sanctify the LORD God in the eyes of the children of Israel, and lost out on the greater blessing of leading the children of Israel into the promised land, through presuming to take the credit for bringing forth water from the rock, and not by speaking to the rock as instructed by LORD, thereby showing it was the LORD God's miraculous and almighty power and sanctifying, or maintaining His glory, in the presence of His people. Paul tells us that the rock was Christ, **1 Corinthians 10:4** "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

In our ministry we have to be careful that we do not enter into presumptuous sin, in not magnifying ourselves when God uses us, by ensuring we give Him the credit, the praise and glory. Sadly there are many in the ministry of our LORD Jesus Christ today, that preach the name it claim it doctrine and the positive confession and prosperity message, having the members of the Church believe that they themselves can determine the outcome of events and their future, rather than humbly putting their trust in the Sovereign God, The LORD Jesus

Christ. Satan subtly suggested to Adam and Eve that they shall be as gods themselves if they partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sadly this is presumptuous sin. Those who preach such doctrine are working in the flesh and are the cause of much deception and hurt to believers, by making the proclamation of a miraculous work which when it does not materialise, then blaming the believer for their lack of faith. There are some who have tasted the LORD's blessing upon their ministry and fall into deception by believing they are more important than they are and thereby exploit the adoration of church members for financial gain.

**In the Book of Ezekiel from the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter through to the 28<sup>th</sup>.** we read of those prophesies concerning Tyre and its coming judgement on its prince and king, Ezekiel 28:2 "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyre, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:" & Ezekiel 28:12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." The language of Ezekiel's prophesy is primary applied to the king of Tyre, yet its implications go beyond both the prince and king of Tyre unto to Satan himself, described as the god of the world of commerce, trade, and material wealth with all its religious pomp and pride, 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them". & Ephesians 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" Satan the inspirer and unseen ruler in the hearts of those men and women who pursue such gain, and sadly they bear his mark in the foreheads and in their hands, Revelation 13:16-18 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

The king of Tyre being then the physical representation and agent of Satan and Tyre in accordance with Ezekiel's prophesy was physically destroyed by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon. Yet the king of Tyre's or Satan's influences continue to this day in the world of commerce, trade, and material wealth with all its religious pomp and pride etc. as John reveals to us, for he was, and yet is not, and yet is, in other word his influence continues to this day, Revelation Chapter 17:7-11 "And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. **And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.** And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition". Satan has then through his evil wisdom and wiles trapped the souls of men and women into drinking from the golden cup of Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, being the personification of the wisdom of Satan and unseen world, full of abominations and filthiness, of which we read in, Revelation Chapter 17:3-6 "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH** And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration".

It is through this world system of commerce and trade in which Babylon the great which sits over the nations as a queen to be adored, yet is driven by Satan, having enslaved many, Revelation Chapter 17:15-18 "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations,

and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. **And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.**" The Leaders of the nations (G20) are perplexed how to resolve the world's financial problems, for "Babylon the great" teeters on the brink of collapse before their eyes, we do not know what the outcome of such talks will be or their actions over the coming days, months or years and will they come to a universal and unanimous agreement, **Revelation Chapter 18:9-11** "How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:"

**Jesus in that last week of His life here on earth makes reference to the judgement of this world and its prince.**

Jesus shares the Sabbath with Mary, Martha and Lazarus and His disciples, and it is here Mary anoints Jesus feet with spikenard ointment, and then on the first day of the Passover week enters Jerusalem where the crowds throng Him crying Hosanna, blessed is the king of Israel that cometh in the name of the LORD. Within this crowd were certain Greeks who desire to see Jesus, **John 12:21** "saying, Sir, we would see Jesus." Andrew and Philip tell Jesus of their desire to which Jesus replies saying that hour is come when the Son of man should be glorified speaking of His death. Jesus uses the illustration of the need for a grain of wheat to fall into the ground and die in order to bring forth fruit, and then says he that loveth his life shall lose it, yet he that hated his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life, **John 12:25-26** "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." Jesus reply to the request was that if they desired to see Him that they must firstly die to this world, in other words surrender their lives to Him and be his servants, for it is only then that they will see Him. Without the death of our old sinful nature there can be no resurrection to eternal life. At this point Jesus soul becomes troubled and asks the Father to deliver Him from this hour, but reminds Himself it was precisely for this hour that He came to earth, **John 12:27-33** "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. **Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.** Jesus through His vicarious suffering on the cross for the sins of the world will destroy the work of Satan, he shall be judged for he is the deceiver and father of lies and the truth will set people free from his traps and wiles, for he will no longer have any hold over the hearts and minds of men and women who freely surrender their lives to Christ acknowledging Him as their LORD and Saviour. Jesus reference to Satan being cast out, I believe applies to the fact he is cast out of heaven, as spoken of in Revelation chapter 12, for through Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, an atonement will be made for the sin of mankind.

Jesus replies to the scribes and Pharisees when questioned concerning His origin that He was the Son of God, that they were of their father the devil and he is the father of lies, **John 8:44** "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." The scribes and Pharisees tested Jesus concerning a woman caught in the act of adultery and they say to Him that the Law says she should be stoned. Jesus ignores them being only to aware of their intentions to catch Him out and after a while Jesus says to them you that is without sin amongst you let him cast the first stone, and scribes

and Pharisees being the guardians of God's word, who sat in the seat of Moses, knew that all men were guilty of sin before God, hence the statues and ordinance of sacrifices administered by the priesthood, therefore their conscience pricks them and they walk away, **John 8:9** "And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."

Later when Jesus was teaching in the treasury of the Temple, He spoke saying He was the light of the world and those that follow Him shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. The Pharisees accused Jesus of bearing witness of Himself, to which Jesus replies they judge after the flesh, yet when He judges, His judgement is true and reminds the Pharisees that in the law the testimony of two men is true. Jesus says although He bears witness of Himself, yet also His Father that sent Him bears witness of Him, **John 8:17-19** "It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also."

Jesus then goes on to speak to them about knowing the truth and the truth shall make them free, to which they reply they are of Abraham's seed and therefore in bondage to no man, **John 8:33** "They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?" Jesus then goes on to say to them that whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin and yet if the Son makes you free you will be free indeed, **John 8:36-38** "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed: but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father." Jesus had said to them that He knew they were Abraham's seed, but ye seek to kill, to which they reaffirm that Abraham is their Father, and Jesus replies to them that if they were Abraham's children they would do the works of Abraham and not seek to kill Him. The Pharisees reply to Jesus and say, **John 8:41-43** "Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication: we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word."

The Pharisees being offended at what Jesus said reply to Him stating that we have one Father, even God. Jesus says to them that if God was their Father why do they not understand His speech, and He then tells them they are of their father the devil, because there is no truth in him, he speaks of his own, and was a murderer and liar from the beginning, **John 8:44** "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" Satan deceived Eve, for he could not appear as the Lucifer the anointed Cherub, because his identity was known to both Adam and Eve, therefore he uses the serpent as his mouth piece to lie and deceive Eve, **Genesis 3:4-11** "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. Because of their sin Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden from the presence of the LORD God and from the Tree of Life, in case Adam put forth his hand and did eat of it, and live forever, **Genesis 3:22-24** "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

### **The Judgement of Satan (king of Tyre)**

Following the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ into to sit at the right hand of the Father, we find that He takes the book (scroll) out of the right hand out of Him who sat upon the throne (the Father), **Revelation**

5:1-7 "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne". Throughout the rest of the book of Revelation there is the opening of the seven seals revealing the judgements upon Satan's evil wisdom which has destroyed vast multitudes of lives and we are told that there was a war in heaven and Satan and his angels were cast out, **Revelation 12:7-11** "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And 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. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 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, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Satan no longer has access into the presence of God to accuse us because we are now justified by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, who died that we might be forgiven. Having now been cast down to the earth Satan has great wrath knowing he has but a short time, **Revelation 12:12** "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time".

Peter therefore warns us that we should be sober and vigilant for the devil walketh about seeking whom he may devour **1Peter 5:8** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" The believers overcome Satan through the forgiveness of their sins, by believing and proclaiming God's Word, and daily living our lives fully surrendered to God's will and purposes for them.

- "him by the blood of the Lamb,
- and by the word of their testimony;
- and they loved not their lives unto the death."

## **Atonement for Sin**

The first recorded act within the scriptures of man bringing an offering to God, involved Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve, of which we read of in the book of Genesis. The nature of this offering required by God from Cain and Abel was one that would show the recognition of their sinfulness in His presence, the consciousness of their sin, i.e. their shame and nakedness in His eyes. As was the case with their parents Adam and Eve, who upon their transgression became conscious of their sin, their shame and nakedness, in the presence of the LORD God and therefore hid themselves from Him, **Genesis 3:4-7** And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" The LORD God provided a covering for Adam and Eve with animal skins and this would have required the shedding of the blood of those animals, and these skins would have undoubtedly come from sheep or lambs. God has always demanded that the only way man can approach Him was through the death of a Lamb through the shedding of its blood. God's lamb being Jesus Christ who through His vicarious suffering on our behalf became the propitiation or appeasement for our sins, **John 1:29** "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

The act of covering Adam and Eve with the animal skins demonstrated to them they could only come into God's presence provided their sins were covered through the shedding of blood, they deserved His judgement for their transgression, i.e. death, rather than mercy, **Genesis 2:15-17** "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The way into God's presence for sinful mankind is only through the shedding of blood, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sin. The first covenant which God enjoined to or made with the children of Israel was dedicated with the blood of sprinkling, **Hebrews 9:18-22** "Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." So it is with the New Covenant in which Christ with His own life's blood enjoined us unto God and that He sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying Abba Father, **Hebrew 9:12** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

### **Cain's Presumptuous Sin was to presume he could come before God on his own terms**

From this point on the only way that sinful mankind could feel safe when approaching God was through the sacrifice of a Lamb and we see this truth born out in an incident recorded in the scripture concerning the lives of Cain and Abel. Cain and Abel would have been aware of the failings of their father and mother who through their disobedience were cast out from the presence of God, and their nakedness was covered by God with animal skins. Cain's offering of the fruit from the ground did not involve the slaying of an animal and the shedding of blood, and was rejected by God, whilst Abel brought the firstling of the flock, **Genesis 4:1-5** "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell."

**At the time appointed by the LORD,** "And in process of time it came to pass," the meaning implied here is at an appointed time, at the period of days set by the LORD, both Cain and Abel were required to bring an offering.

- God did not regard, look upon or consider Cain's offering, for it was not acceptable in His sight; Cain had a disregard for the LORD God and presumes that he could come before God upon his terms and God would accept him.
- Abel humbly came in faith and offered a lamb from the flock which he had cared for, and this required him to shed its blood, and we are told that Abel obtained witness that he was righteous in that God accepted his offering, We are told that by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice, **Hebrews 11:4** "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh".

We can immediately see by Cain's attitude there was no repentance of Godly sorrow about his action, for we are told he was very wrath, **Genesis 4:5-8** "And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wrath? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." Cain was given the opportunity to offer a blood sacrifice by God, for the LORD placed at the threshold of his dwelling a sacrificial lamb and showed Cain that if he was to do the right thing and offer the required

sacrifice then he would do well and he would be accepted, sadly as we know Cain chose to reject the way of salvation and allowed his anger (sin) to have dominion over him and therefore slew his brother Abel, **Genesis 4:6-8** "And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wrath? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. 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, if it is not dealt with, becomes a very destructive force not only destroying our lives but the lives of others.

Jude announces certain fate and great sorrow upon those who have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward and perished in the gainsaying of Korah, **Jude 11** "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah."

- **The way of Cain** is anger against God, by refusing to accept your actions are wrong, i.e. rebellious pride, and that God's ways are right, the result of this attitude is that it allows sin to have dominion over you.

Jude then quotes from Enoch's prophesy, **Jude 14-16** "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage." Enoch being the seventh from Adam who was a godly man walking righteously in a wicked generation and whom God took for he pleased Him, **Genesis 5:24** "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." Enoch is also spoken of in the epistle to the Hebrews as being a man of Faith, **Hebrews 11:5** "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Enoch was evidently engaged in public ministry being a preacher of righteousness in an ungodly generation, for when you look at scripture you see there was another seventh from Adam and that being the evil and ungodly Lamech who was the descendant from the line of Cain, **Genesis 4:16-18** "And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech."

Lamech had a complete disregard for God and we see from the scripture that he lived in total rebellion to the ways of God, and we see rebellious pride surfacing in his life just as it had with his forefather Cain, who murdered his brother Abel. Lamech practiced bigamy for he had two wives and in addition to bigamy he murdered a young man who had offended him and so he took vengeance upon him, **Genesis 4:19-24** "And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah. And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold." It was not enough that Lamech took the young man's life, but further he boasted about his murderous act to his two wives and arrogantly declared if anyone tried to punish him for his act, the punisher would be punished 77 times. This man had no respect for law or authority as he appears to be a law unto himself, we have here with Lamech a "macho man" culture, which is very much what we are witnessing on our street today, with ceaseless acts of murder amongst young people and the reason being as a society we have turned our back on the Word of God.

**Prepared by Pastor Colin Wilkinson**