

PRESENT TRUTH

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Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. ([2 Peter 1:12 KJV](#))

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Spiritual War Series

The Origin of Heathendom Part 1

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Previously

In our previous issues in this Spiritual War series we began to discuss the things that occurred prior to the creation of man and the resulting spiritual and physical chaos that war produced as the kingdom of darkness was established. We determined that its headquarters is in the heavenlies and it comprises the principalities and powers that we struggle against (Eph. 6:12). It is from this position that spiritual wickedness is coordinated against the purposes of God.

This issue will begin to look at the work of the kingdom of darkness in the earth.

The Fall of Man

Sometimes we need a broader picture of God's intents and purposes for man. When man was created, he was given a directive by God.

[Genesis 1:27-28 NASB](#)

(27) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

(28) God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

This directive was composed of three separate parts:

1. be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth;
2. subdue the earth, and
3. rule over every living thing that moves on the earth.

The Hebrew word for “subdue” means “to bring into subjugation”. The implication of this is that the world needed to be subdued.

Genesis 2:8 NASB

(8) The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

Since God planted a garden, the implication is that the rest of the world was not garden-like. However, it was in the garden that God placed man.

Genesis 2:15 NASB

(15) Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

We can see in this the reason that God planted the garden. It was a “training ground” for man. God put Adam in the garden, gave him work to do, and one commandment to obey. The nature of the work was such that, had he learned obedience, he would have been prepared to “subdue and rule” the world and the creatures on it. However, he was not obedient and in his fallen state he was incapable of accomplishing the purposes of God.

When the enemy deceived Eve and she gave the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil to Adam, the Devil prevented Adam from fulfilling the purpose for which he was created. Adam through sin became *incapable* of fulfilling God's purpose. There was a danger that Adam, in his fallen state, might partake of the Tree of Life, which would be a disaster. God took immediate steps to prevent this.

Genesis 3:22-24 NASB

(22) Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--

(23) therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

(24) So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Through Jesus, we again have access to the Tree of Life for it is in Him. It is in Jesus that we are now *capable* (through Him) to fulfill the purpose of God for man. The question is, how many of God's people understand what His purpose is for man?

The First Prophecy

When God confronted Adam and Eve about their disobedience, He pronounced judgment on their actions and the result was that the ground was cursed and the serpent was cursed. The consequences included pain in childbirth for the woman, laborious work to make a living from the cursed ground for the man, and crawling on its belly, eating dust for the serpent. [When God judged sin the result was a curse. Only Jesus can remove the curse from God's judgment because the Scriptures tell us that He became a curse for us in order to redeem us(Gal. 3:13).] However, in the middle of these curses, God speaks the first prophecy.

Genesis 3:15 NASB

(15) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

This speaks prophetically of Jesus as the seed of the woman and, while the serpent strikes His heel, Jesus will crush the serpent's head. Now consider for a moment that our enemy doesn't have full knowledge of the intents and purposes of God any more than the other angels do. These things are mysteries that the angels desire to know more about (1 Peter 1:12). So, there are things that relate to God's purpose for man that the Devil doesn't know unless they are spoken. This prophecy becomes the first word of God's unfolding plan. Now, the enemy understands that the seed of the woman is his nemesis and, from his viewpoint must be stopped. The devil realizes that he must corrupt the seed of the woman either physically, spiritually, or both.

The First Attempt

When Eve gave birth to Cain, she thought that he was the promised seed that God had said would come.

Genesis 4:1 NASB

(1) Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD.*"

The next verse says that she also gave birth to Abel. There are some who believe that Cain and Abel were twins with Cain being born first. Others believe that a number of daughters were born between Cain and Abel. I, personally, am one that believes that they were twins. The next verse begins with "again" in the NASB. This word in the original means "added to", "continue", "proceed". I think that after the birth of Cain, Eve proceeded or continued and gave birth to Abel. Regardless, with the birth of Cain and Eve's declaration, the enemy was put on high alert.

So, in an attempt to stop the promised seed, the enemy of our souls proceeded to stir up murder in Cain so that he killed Abel, his brother. The enemy thought that he had achieved his goals. If Cain was the promised seed, his heart was now corrupted by murder. If Abel happened to be the seed, he was physically dead. From the Devil's viewpoint, the problem was solved. Of course, the Devil, like Eve, had no concept of the time line of God for the bringing forth of the promised seed.

Cain, under the curse of God, became the father of heathendom. [Interestingly, his descendants created what we would call civilization—dwellings, farming and livestock, metal working, implements, cities, etc.] This was a heathendom that knew that God was real, but they wanted nothing to do with Him. Cain, I am sure, told his kids and grandkids about what had happened to him and what God had done to him. People lived long enough that I am sure that Adam and Eve told stories about their time in the Garden of Eden. So, all that were born during this time had first hand accounts about the works of God. They obviously knew God; they just didn't honor Him as God.

Romans 1:21 NASB

(21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

We have already seen in our previous issues in this Spiritual War Series that the fallen angels were running amok during this time and were even taking wives of women with the resulting offspring being called Nephilim (Gen. 6:1-4). These fallen angels were apparently passing themselves off as gods. They and the Nephilim are probably the basis for many of the various mythologies, especially those of Greece and Rome.

Romans 1:22-23 NASB

- (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools,
- (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Since they didn't honor God, they accepted the false gods (probably because of a promise of power and knowledge, Satan had promised Adam and Eve that they would be as gods). Notice in the verse above the downward progression: from the incorruptible God to images of man, then birds, then four-footed animals, and finally crawling creatures [once a depraved path is chosen, it continues downward becoming ever more depraved].

It was the enemy's goal to prevent the coming of the promised seed. He had a two-fold strategy to accomplish this. The first was the moral corruption of man—to create such depravity that it would be impossible for God to bring forth the one that would crush his head. It is recorded that he apparently accomplished this goal.

Genesis 6:5 NASB

- (5) Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The second goal of our enemy was the physical corruption of man's bloodline. He attempted to accomplish this through the sexual interaction of the fallen angels and women producing the Nephilim—a hybrid race that was not in God's intention. If he could corrupt man genetically, then it would be impossible for the “seed of the woman” to come forth. In light of this, it is interesting to note how Noah is described in the Scriptures.

Genesis 6:9 NASB

- (9) These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.

The Hebrew word (*tâmîym*) that is translated as “blameless” means “without defect” and is the same word that is used to describe the animal sacrifices in Leviticus. This verse is but one example of its usage:

Leviticus 1:3 NASB

- (3) 'If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer it, a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD.

In the original both “blameless” in Gen. 6:9 and “without defect” in Lev. 1:3 are the same word and it points to physical purity or perfection. In the King James Bible, as a description of the animal sacrifices, it is translated as “spotless and without blemish”.

Apparently, if these scriptures are read honestly, the enemy almost accomplished the second

goal. It seems possible to me that Noah may have been the only one left whose bloodline wasn't tainted by the Nephilim corruption.

[Of course, in these thoughts that I have presented, I am giving my opinion and understanding of the scriptures. You can still go to heaven without believing any of this.]

Our next issue of Present Truth will be Part 2 of the Origin of Heathendom. We will look at its re-emergence after the Flood.

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