

# **THE STORY OF MAN'S DESTINY #2**

**THE HOLOCAUST OF SIN.**  
**GEN. 3:17-24; ROM. 1:18; 21-32.**

## **INTRODUCTION.**

When I was a child, I remember a song that was sung in many churches entitled: "Sin Is to Blame". Sin is to blame for all sorrow, heartache, troubles and death. And sin truly is the culprit that is the cause for all the grief and heart break of the human existence. Oftentimes people will attempt to allay the responsibility and guilt of life's failures by placing them in the category of being a disease. Since it is a "disease" or "sickness", we are not accountable for its havoc. The reasoning is that certain individuals have a greater proclivity toward alcoholism, drugs, pornography, gambling, etc., and this is a sickness they must bear. As a result we throw more money at the consequences and never try to reach the cause. The Aids virus is like this. No doubt it is a horrible "sickness" to be dealt with. So how does society respond? By raising an international outcry for massive injections of money to "band aid" the problem, while we search frantically for a pill or vaccine to counteract it's devastating power. How much of an international outcry have you heard in an attempt to stop the known cause of 80% of this disease, which is: contaminated drugs and promiscuous sex. The modern mindset for prevention is to pass out free condoms to school children and, as one state representative proposed, pass out free needles for drug users. I don't object to money for aids research. But more than for cancer or heart disease shows our collective imbalance. Why not follow the example of one of the African countries dealing with the blight of aids by teaching abstinence and thereby they have achieved a tremendous reduction in the incidence of aids. Regardless as to what your religious viewpoint is, if this method will achieve noticeable results, society and its leaders are foolish to avoid it.

I think that I can agree that these plagues of humanity are diseases. However, the diagnosis is not aids, alcoholism or pornography addictions. The diagnosis of the root cause is "sin". Sometimes it is the pall of sin that the posterity of Adam has inherited from him and sometimes that sinful inheritance is augmented by our own personal choices and actions. In either case, what so much of the world never seems to fully realize is that we are dealing, not with just the sad consequences of disease, but we are dealing with an international "HOLOCAUST OF SIN". So let us take a short trip across the landscape of human history and observe some of the landmarks of this sad, inhumane holocaust precipitated by the sin of Adam and subsequently inherited by every succeeding generation since then.

## **FALLEN FROM GRACE!**

Falling from (the) grace (of God) is something many in the Christian community think is impossible. "Eternal security" or "once saved always saved" theology is very wide spread. They make you think that they have never read the story of Adam and his fall from the grace and favor of God. If ever a man was endowed and blessed with an abundant measure of the sustaining grace of God, that man was Adam. Can anyone put forth a Biblical argument that they have more grace today than Adam had? I think not. All the mercy, favor, kindness and goodness of God's great character were available to this man whom God created in his own image and likeness and gave him dominion over the world.

Nevertheless, the sad story is, that Adam rejected, even contemned the grace of God for the lie of the serpent and the satisfying of his own carnal lusts. In so doing he violated the most loving and gracious trust ever granted to mankind and willfully, of his own choice, abused this grace and brought ruin, sin, sickness and sorrow upon the entire human family for all generations to come. Indeed, Adam stands as an equal to Judas Iscariot in the gross violation of his sacred trust. He fell from grace, completely!

### A GENERATION OF WICKED IMAGINATIONS OF MEN'S HEARTS.

Gen. 6:5-7; 7:21-23. These scriptures relate for us the consuming wickedness of all the earth and God's grief that he had ever created man. The wickedness was so great that God "repented" for having created man and purposed to destroy him from the face of the earth by a flood

There has never been a greater or more cataclysmic event in the history of man than the flood in Noah's day. Its massive effect has, in one way or another, registered in the history of the nations of man around the world like no other. It was, as we say today, a "tsunami, of worldwide proportions. Its story is preserved in the history of the nations of the earth.

This was not just a natural disaster ignited by the normal forces of nature that just happened to coincide in a single moment of chaos. Instead, it was the specific hand of God in direct judgment upon a generation of incorrigible wickedness. The sin and wickedness was so all-pervasive and vile that God determined that the only remedy was the utter extinction of all mankind from off the face of the earth. This wickedness had its origin in the fallen, corrupt and sinful nature which the Antediluvians inherited from the posterity of Adam.

But Noah, a man of righteousness in a hopelessly wicked world, found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

### GEN. 18:20-21; 19:23-28; JUDE V7. THE WICKEDNESS OF SODOM.

In the northern end of the Dead Sea is the presumed location of the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrha upon which God rained down fire and brimstone and utterly destroyed them. Abraham's nephew Lot lived in this city. It was no doubt Abraham's prayers for him that delivered him from the fiery judgment upon the inhabitants of this place. According to Jude V7, these cities suffered the vengeance of "eternal fire". That is, the fire that destroyed them was eternal in its affect; not eternal in its duration because the cities are not there today and they certainly are not burning now.

Why were these cities destroyed? It was for one reason: sin! The people were described as wicked. They were perpetrators of fornication; strange flesh; drunkenness, and if you consider all the evidence against them, they were the first openly homosexual society among men. They were overrun with a godless, sensual, morally decadent life style. For God to be so grieved with their wickedness that he would rain fire and brimstone on them, indicates that they were wicked beyond hope.

Where did their wickedness come from? From the same source as James describes in Jas. 1:15, where he says that lust when it is conceived bringeth forth sin and sin when it is finished brings forth death. Their sinfully corrupt blood received from Adam caused them to sink into the pits of all evil. And God destroyed them in a day as an example to all that should afterwards live ungodly.

### THE BONDAGE OF EGYPT.

Perhaps there is no event or circumstance in the history of man that is more compelling in the description of the bondage and oppression of the sinfulness of human nature than the captivity of Israel in Egypt. For 400 plus years, the off-springs of Jacob endured a miserable life in this foreign land. At first, just like all sin, it looked good and inviting. After the death of Joseph, oppression, bondage, slavery, along with harsh and bitter treatment, escalated daily. It became so bad that their bitter cries came up to God for deliverance. Thankfully, God called Moses whom he had been preparing for 80 years, and sent him to deliver his people who were so oppressed under the wicked hands of Pharaoh.

It just may be that the very extreme measures necessary to bring about their deliverance is an indication as to just how oppressive and bound they were to the task masters of Egypt. As many as 2 to 3 million people without a name, a home of their own, any personal rights, bowed under the load and whip of these task masters who had no sense of justice, humanity or mercy. They could not walk

away for fear of their lives. And then they started mercilessly killing the babies as a population control measure.

What a dark, dismal, tyrannical picture this is of the power of sin over human existence. Only the powerful hand of God could deliver them. The Egyptian bondage of Israel will forever remain the classic example of the power and consequences of sin over the individual life. There is no escape from it within the power of man.

### **THE SINFULNESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE.**

So much of the entire Old Testament writings are about the sins of God's own people. It wasn't just the heathen, godless, Gentile nations who were under the power and temptation of sin. The voices of the prophets were spent largely calling Israel back from their pursuit of the ways of the world and their own sinful impulses. It never let up. As soon as some sense of reform prevailed, they would immediately forsake God and back slide again. Even though they had the law to tell them what they ought to do, yet it did not have the power to effect goodness and righteousness in their hearts. Their problem, just like Adam's, was that they could not resist the temptations of sin and consequently were regularly in its snares.

David sinned grossly with Bathsheba. Solomon pursued strange women and idolatry. Manasseh did more wickedly than all that were before him. Ahab and Jezebel his wife had a reign of gross ungodliness and sin. Many priests violated their sacred offices. Idolatry, covetousness, sexual sins, drunkenness, rejected commands of God, abuse of neighbors and much more, was forever at work among the people of Israel. No matter how much God did for them or how great the miracles he performed, they still would turn their backs on him; join the heathen world and wind up enslaved by Gentile nations.

Along the lines of the sins of God's professing people, we cannot over look the classic examples of hypocrisy, self centeredness and gross sinfulness of the Pharisees. They were so well known for their wickedness and religious pretensions that the very term "Pharisee" has come to denote anyone who is overly religious yet patently empty of real godliness. Jesus reserved his most scathing rebuke for this class of people in his day.

You would think that being God's children would shield them from sin and its destructiveness. But no one is exempt. The nature and power of sin is not about who you are or what you are, it is about the inward thoughts and desires of the individual heart. The sins of God's own people have littered pages of all history with their shameful embarrassment and dishonor of God.

### **SIN'S BLACKEST DAY.**

The story of man is really a continual, day by day, catalog of blackness, darkness, cruelty, base immoralities and gross blasphemy of God. But there is one day that stands out above all the rest as the most glaring, vile, corruptible and inhumane example of the sinful nature of all mankind. That day, the blackest of all days and acts of sin, is the day Jesus Christ was crucified.

Very naturally, we hail the death of Jesus as the manifestation of the great love of God for all men for such it was. But on the other side of that story is the manifestation of the cruel, selfish, hatefulness of centuries of sin. It is abundantly true that the love of God for us was the driving force that led Christ to voluntarily die at calvary. But it is also abundantly true that it was the sins of all men of all time that made it necessary for God's love to be desecrated in such a cruel manner. If you could take the lusts and passions of every single thought and act of sin from every single human being who ever lived and compress it into one gigantic sin, you would have the sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. That is the ugliness of sin; that is the measure of the cup of sin; that is the awful consequence of sin. An innocent, pure, righteous man, who was God in human form, must lovingly die to create a chance of reversing the sin of Adam in the garden.

More personally, we must not think only in the terms of “Adam’s sin” that ultimately led Christ to die at calvary. We must think of the sins of every single human being prior to calvary. We must not only think of the sins of the Roman soldiers that officiated at calvary; we must think of every generation of man since calvary. And we must not think only of the sins of the Jews and the high priest that caused the brutal death of an innocent man. We must think of your sins and my sins. And these sins of all ages that caused his death, are not bloodless “white collar” sins. They are gross, hateful, deceitful, murderous, diabolical sins aimed at putting an end to the righteous will of God from the Garden of Eden to the end of time. It was not inconsequential, meaningless sins. Instead it was sins conceived and carried out in the lustful hearts of a depraved, wicked and condemned human family. In God’s holy sight, there is no good sin. They all bring death.

The crucifixion of Christ, beyond its wonderful manifestation of God’s eternal love for us all, is also a demonstration of the awfulness of sin of all men and all time along with the bondage, burden and imprisonment it has upon us all. It is the greatest single example of the “Holocaust of Sin” the entire world has experienced as the direct result of Adam’s transgression.

### THE SINS OF THE DARK AGES.

About 30 A.D., the Lord established his church on the power of the message of a resurrection and the experience of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, guided by a spirit of love, kindness and grace. The external repercussions and the internal human behavior has caused the church to travel a road of warfare and trial, inflicted by individuals, religions, movements, institutions and governments that aligned themselves against the message of Christ and his church. Beginning with the violent protests and schemes of the unconverted Jewish community, the humble followers of the Galilean have suffered untold miseries, all emanating from the jealous, hateful, deceived spirits of unsanctified religionists.

From this beginning, as the church made inroads into a pagan empire and people everywhere began experiencing the transformation from their past lives controlled by former lusts and passions of the flesh to lives of purity and grace, like Saul of Tarsus, the unrelenting sin nature of all men violently attacked Christianity. It was less than 50 years from its humble beginning before the Christian experience was making its way across the empire of Rome. The reaction of a pagan, sinful society was that the “imperial majesty of the Roman empire” exerted its wicked power in an effort to destroy Christianity completely.

When Constantine granted “equality” to the Christian religion in 312 A.D., the forces of evil did not stop, they just entered into a new era of sins’ rampage against the lowly Nazarene. In a short time, the old sinful, beguiling, ungodly nature of man insinuated its corrupting influence right within the church, just as had been predicted it would. Paul spoke of the “man of sin”, and described the awful work to be perpetrated by this entity, albeit in the name of Christ. It did not take the power and insidious influence of sin very long to become a major influence throughout the church and the world in a diabolical fashion. The history of the church in this era is replete with information showing that “Christianity dressed itself in a pagan garb”, often called “baptized paganism”, through which means the true, humble followers of Christ became more persecuted than ever. The reason: sin in all of it’s ugly forms.

Thus entered the “dark ages” primarily brought on by the ignorance, superstition and tyranny of sin in a royal religious form. Through a corrupt and corrupting power of religious tyranny, sins of a magnitude seldom recorded in human history, ruled. In the church sanctuary; in the imperial palaces; in the government of every commonwealth; in the systems of education and even the sacred precinct of the homes, an all-pervasive power of the sword and cheap, self centered, godless religion waged a constant war against all sense of decency and good. The serpent of the garden was alive and well.

During the long centuries of dark age superstition and religious ritual, dogma and tyrannical power, there were thousands of martyrs for their faith; inhumane methods of torture; burning at the stake;

outlawing of the word of God and the silencing of any voice that supported the truth of Christianity and opposed the “man of sin” in the temple of God. Common decency and mercy were buried beneath the power of greed and mercenary bigotry. Justice and equity were bound in chains to the whim of human caprice. Freedom was sacrificed at the altar of a religious - imperial sanctuary of power. Gross immoralities were perpetrated in God’s holy name. Religious enlightenment was non-existent. Oppression, slavery, tyranny, corruption, torture and deception was perpetuated by the masters of sin, all the while pontificating in a pagan religious garb.

The fruit of Adam’s sin was in full display for the world to see and the historian pen has filled massive volumes describing in heart - rending detail, the awful consequence of the rejection of God as it lived through this dark time. Thus, thousands of years since the “orgy of Eden”, its indelible stamp shows no signs of abating, but only awaits its next opportunity to crush the creation of God.

### WARS, DICTATORS, GENOCIDE AND TERRORISTS.

It is bone chilling and heart weakening to take a brief walk through history to observe the wars, tyranny, genocide and terrorism that have an unbroken lineage of human chaos following in their wake. Since the beginning of nations, the world has not been free from “wars and rumors of wars”. Today, roughly 6000 years since Adam’s sin, the threat, reality and desperation of war hangs over the world in one dark cloud encircling the entire human family.

The invading armies of the Assyrians captured nations and villages, including the 10 tribes of Israel; disbanded the homes and families, sending its members off in different directions, enslaved, mistreated and separated for life. The Babylonians, Medo-Persians and Grecians advanced their greedy enterprises, conquering, subduing, enslaving, killing and mutilating the earth. Then came the Roman legions, fierce and powerful, intent by all cruelties to rule the world, even making sport of their victims by sewing them in animal skins and throwing them to wild beasts to mercilessly rip apart. At night they lighted some as human fagots to illuminate their carnival of debauchery and insanity.

The history of the nation of Israel was a history of warfare, from the time they first set foot on Palestinian soil until their final overthrow by Rome in 70 A.D. Internally and externally war, killing and cruelties continued. Frequently the refrain was heard: “and there was war again”. Today, over 3000 years later, the mid-east, including especially Palestine, is a seething mass of unsettled, dissatisfied, hate, mistrust, violence, bloodshed and ceaseless war.

About this time our own revolutionary war was raging, following soon after by the Civil war that claimed the lives of more of our own citizens than all of our other wars combined.

Following this were the 2 world wars sparked by the genocide of 6 million Jews by a mad man, to which was coupled the murderous atrocities of the Japanese and the beastly treatment of human beings night and day.

Near the end of the dark ages, France entered a revolutionary period of despotic tyranny. The guillotine had become a weapon of death and the historian for the era declares that it was busy day and night until “the streets of Paris” ran red with blood. This was not the execution of the riffraff of society, but the “nobility” of France was its victims. It was a revolution that spread throughout Europe.

There is so much more battle, bloodshed, and butchery that we do not have time enough to mention, saving one. On 9-11-01, crazed, deluded, religious terrorists ignited a war, the likes of which human history has little to compare to. The brutal, even enjoyable, act of self destruction in order to wreak havoc and terror on human existence is a new level in the sorry history of the unending sinfulness of human nature. The wickedness of the generations of Noah, Sodom, dark ages, etc., coupled with our own, reveals a lineage of hate, greed and warfare that has been the plague of all the posterity of Adam.

## SO THIS IS THE AGE OF KNOWLEDGE.

The last 50 years has been a time of unparalleled increase in knowledge and unprecedented technological advancements in nearly every field of human endeavor. The chasm between the achieved knowledge just 100 years ago compared to today is mind boggling. Knowledge is certainly good and the advancements in technology have surely added many dimensions to our lives. Nevertheless, we should never forget that it was the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that got us into the sin problem to begin with. So, while good knowledge is good, there always seems to be a way for a lustful mind to use it to some detriment. The internet is a case in point. It is a marvelous tool. But it also is a tool of low life. For example 25 % of all internet “hits” is about pornography. The internet is surely a part of our technology advances; but it just as surely is a part of our sin problem. When you compare today’s knowledge with 50 to 100 years before, great strides have been made. When you compare the cultural, civil, relational and spiritual qualities of today, we are in a process of regression. We are eating daily at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and we claim that it as our right.

Have we not produced a society that has come to rely on massive doses of financial injection along with an increasing educational curriculum of social and cultural mores that define us as off-springs of Adams sin rather than pursuers of a greater intellectual and moral dignity? (The depths of our exploration and graphic presentation of sex education in our schools is a case in point). All the while any reliance on spiritual solutions gets very little if any attention. To the contrary, there is a rising crescendo of “elite voices” condemning, mocking and bashing great moral truths and values that have stood the test of time. The daily assault on these values, coupled with the neglect of everything spiritual can never be offset or remedied with money and technology, no matter how important they are.

We know how to go to the moon but cannot communicate spiritually (or diplomatically) with one another. We have schools that operate under armed guard and are assemblies of disorder. We beautify and glorify alcoholic consumption and when someone becomes totally addicted we disassociate from them and conclude that they are victims of a sickness of some sort. We regularly sit in our living rooms and watch as one nation bombs and destroys another, then when the news goes off we decry the useless carnage and straightway tune in to the next episode of gross violence, indecency, vulgarity, murder, mayhem and idiocy. With our credentials from the great institutions of learning, we indulge in pornography, gambling, drugs, illicit sex and scorn purity and holiness of life. Our homes are war zones instead of altars of prayer. Government and great corporations operate too much on graft, power bought by money and sleaze while trying to frame democracy and freedom as a license to deal in every human perversion and corruption known to man. Fifty percent of church members have viewed pornography; one in every 6 preachers have also; gambling, adultery, homosexuality are pampered passions of this sacred institution. Not to mention the contributions to an ungodly society stemming from spiritual neglect, Biblical ignorance, prayerlessness, and a modus operandi that Jesus would run out of the temple. Add to all of this the selfishness, disrespect, slothfulness, indolence, rage, hatred and violence that is so pervasive. I think it was Billy Graham, when reflecting on the absolute evil and depravity of this generation, observed that God would need to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah, if he did not come in judgment upon this age as well.

Solomon said: with all thy getting, get understanding. This is good advice to go along with the technological age in which we live. If we can go to the moon; split the atom and add many years to man’s life but yet are overrun with gross sins, crime, violence, hatred, division, chaos, terror and every other horrible characteristic, what have we gained? Recently, several college students were arrested for burning several churches, essentially just to see them burn. Well did Solomon observe that he had gotten himself knowledge of everything under the sun only to find out that it was vanity and vexation of spirit. Has the age of knowledge taught us more and better ways to commit sin and crimes?

### **THE PLAGUE OF INDIVIDUAL SINS.**

The major examples of sin, war, genocide and terror we have looked at have basically involved large groups or generations of people. The exception is Adam himself. Before we conclude this survey of "The Holocaust of Sin", we will take a closer look at the impact of sin upon individuals and families. It is here, after all, that the greatest misery and the deepest hurt from sin has been inflicted. The pain and the heart break that individuals and families have borne as either a direct or indirect result of the holocaust of sin has caused an ocean of tears with a life time of hopelessness.

Think of the thousands of children who are hungry, unclothed, homeless and left without family or hope because some dictator or civil warfare has left them with such an unfair and painful lot in life. Sin is to blame!

Think of the hurt, depression, economic and emotional pain heaped upon children who are the victims of a mother and father who would not reconcile their differences. Thus children are pulled apart with scarred lives because of it. And they are just innocent victims.

Think of the homes, families and again children that have had to suffer privation, abuse, embarrassment and heart break because of alcoholic parents that squandered all their resources and abused and mistreated them.

Then there is the life of the prominent, successful, popular business person who gets involved in gambling and soon finds himself addicted, broke and with a ruined family, business and future. Reduced to misery and want, the hole is too deep to climb out of and finally he commits suicide and makes matters worse.

So often the story is of a person in whose heart sin has insidiously planted its seeds of passionate lust and in a moment of unfaithfulness, an adulterous affair is born. Very soon the otherwise perfect marriage and family dissolves into bitter fighting and divorce with enough acrimony to destroy all that are involved.

Next is the teen ager who gets away from home, either to college, work, etc., and gets with the wrong company. At first the fun is tremendous, but then she gets pregnant and all the promises and future dreams crumble into an ash pile of disaster. It's the same old, old story of sins sleazy path.

It was all in fun and he was going to try it only once just to see how it really was. Plus it was at a friends' house where they were well respected in the community. He had no idea that taking drugs only once would hook him permanently and ruin his life, his future and destroy his family relationships.

They were a very well respected elderly couple who had often helped and befriended needy individuals. Little did they expect that those they had helped would break in on them; leave him to die and head off to a similar fate for her. Their wickedness, lust, covetousness and contempt for life brought them to the place where murder, kidnapping, brutal beating and theft were just part of their day.

It was so very innocent, it seemed, while visiting the corner grocery store, to spend a little time looking at the magazines there. It satisfied a craving he had inside. After this it was videos which were even more vulgar in their pornographic depictions. Finally this led him to practice the video scenes on a real person. That's when he raped and killed his first victim. Some 28 victims later he was caught and tried and executed. And some say he had a "disease". No, it was a choice he made to satisfy the lusts of his flesh. It was sin!

Ruined lives; broken hearts; bankruptcy; destroyed families; pitiful children; misery, pain, loneliness and all the carnage and sewage of sin has stalked, seduced and ravaged the lives of fallen mankind across the pages of history and the moments of time. Today the human story is dominated by the awful influence that the sin of Adam injected into the blood stream of life. Each and every individual

person has inherited the nature of sin and with it the capacity of any sin or crime known to man. Thus it can be rightly said that every crime, wrong and beastly act ever carried out in all time is the result, directly or indirectly, of the original sin of Adam. You have heard it said that everyone is “basically good at heart”. This is not true. The Bible says that the heart is desperately wicked. Everyone is basically “bad” at heart. The evil propensities of the human soul are always seeking another way of exhibiting their destructive venom upon life. Somewhere, in every crime, wrong, war or terrorist act, there is an individual face stamped in it.

### **A PAINFUL, TROUBLED PAST.**

Is it any wonder we entitled this lesson: “A HOLOCAUST OF SIN”? This brief glimpse across the history of man surely confirms the awful “tsunami” of evil that has descended upon us from Adam and Eve and has been perpetrated by every generation since their fall. Nothing, it seems, has abated man’s insatiable passion for the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Surely, the history of mankind well deserves the description of “holocaust”. Wherever the footsteps of man have trod, we have followed the directions of our depraved, willful bent to an inescapable bondage to sin. Job said: “Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble”. Pain, heart break, disappointment, trials, troubles, suffering, defeat, loss and misery has followed every mile of man’s sojourn; saturated every minute and gripped every life along the way. The world is in trouble, serious trouble. And sin is to blame for it all. The daily news is filled with crime, violence, terror, insurrection, civil strife and war. Nations are experiencing genocide by the multiplied thousands. World -wide armaments are pointed in every direction. Mad men often are in control of the destiny of millions. Shame and disgrace, bondage and merciless hearts, inequity, pain, suffering and international evil are the inheritance of this and coming generations. We often ask was Sodom and Gomorrah any worse than we are?

But for the matchless grace of God available to all men, the story of man would have ended the “Holocaust of Sin” long ago. To all who come to God by faith in the atoning work of Christ at calvary, there is opportunity and hope. The marvelous story of Christ is that he can and will redeem all who come to him with surrendered lives, desiring to be delivered from the tyranny and consequence of sin, and will transform them completely so that they can live a new life in him. After considering the history of sin what a privilege and blessing that hope is. Why would anyone not want it?