

Is the Cross needed today?

Chapter 1.

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Because Satan used Adam and Eve to bring sin and rebellion, which separates us from God, into the perfect world that God made, it was God's requirement that a perfect sacrifice was necessary to make a way back to Almighty God. I have tried to explain the plan of God to redeem mankind '*according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Jesus Christ our Lord*' Eph.3:11. This study is intended to prove the need for the Cross.

You will learn much more by looking up the scriptures here and following them with continued references in your own Bibles.

1 Corinthians 1:17, 18

For Christ sent me not to baptise but to preach the Gospel: not with wisdom of words lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

The preaching of the Cross has been very sparse in recent years, and yet the Cross is the very object of our faith. Paul warns that the Cross must be preached lest it become of no effect. In many churches today, the preaching of the cross has lost its central place, we seem to have forgotten that every demon spirit, every fallen angel, every spiritual wickedness in high places was totally defeated at the Cross and the Christian can live in that victory. Paul is telling us strongly that the Cross must be the centre of the Gospel message. If the Cross takes second place in our lives and in the lives of our churches the Holy Spirit cannot function on our behalf and the blessings of the Cross will not be ours. The Trinity is fully aware of and completely understands the cost of the Cross and how very necessary it is for all mankind.

It's a long story, and it starts with God in the timeless past.

God has always existed from all eternity that is very clear from the Bible.

Psalms 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

Proverbs 8:23.

I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the Earth was.

Psalms 93:2.

Your throne is established of old: You are from everlasting.

Mica 5:2. John 1:1-3. Revelation 1:4.

Job 38:4-7

*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the Earth? Declare if you have understanding. Who has laid the measures thereof, if you know or who has stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened or who laid the corner stone thereof, **when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?***

Morning Stars refer to angels so God created angels before He created the universe, and His creation was so beautiful and perfect the angels responded with joyful singing and shouting. 'The foundations' being fastened and the 'corner stone' being laid is the fact that all the planets moons and sun are held in their place by gravity. If you take one of these planets away it will drastically effect the positions of

all the rest because they are all holding each other in place with the 'pull' of all the others. What a wonderful God, no wonder Heaven shouted for joy!

Job 38:4

This very interesting chapter asks the question 'what has man to do with God's creation'? He was not there when God called the stars into being, he was nowhere to be found when God laid the foundations of the Earth or laid that important corner stone, or formed the mountains and made the oceans.

Psalms 148:2-5

*Praise Him all His angels; Praise Him all His hosts, Praise Him sun and moon; Praise Him all you stars of light, Praise Him you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord for **He commanded and they were created.***

The Gospel of John Chapter 1.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

There needs to be given much more importance to the WORD of GOD. When God gives His Word He means what He says and His Word cannot be broken. Here right at the beginning of history as we know it, long before you or I were even thought of, God gave His Word and stars were born, light started to shine, the sun and moon came into being, angels praised Him, His created hosts praised Him all because He **commanded creation and it obeyed.**

Man was created well after these wonderful workings of Almighty God. But it appears that Lucifer another of God's creation, was also about at that time and became god of this world.

The god of this world.

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world has 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 you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,

John 12:31

...he is the prince of this world.

Pride entered his heart and he conceived an idea that he can obtain the co-operation of other angelic beings to dethrone God and become the exalted supreme ruler of the universe himself. (Isa 14:12-14, Ezek 28:11-17, 1Timothy 3:6)

Lucifer openly opposes God and invades heaven and confronts Him to take His throne and exalts himself to be higher than God. This is in the pre-Adamite period. He is met with Michael, the all-powerful angel and the faithful angels and is defeated in battle and cast out of heaven like lightening onto the Earth. (Isa 14:12-14, Ezek 28:11-17).

Isaiah 14:13.

For you have said in your 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 clouds; I will be like the Most High.

1 John 3: 8.

He who commits sin is of the Devil for the Devil has sinned from the beginning, for this purpose the Son of God was manifest that he might destroy the works of the Devil.

Because of Satan's ambition to be above God he had to be banished from Heaven and cast onto the Earth. In the first chapter of Job we read that when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan came also, he did that at least twice, so at that time he had access to Heaven whenever he wanted or when summoned. It may have been on one of these occasions when He showed his hand to exalt himself above the throne of God that God found it necessary to cast him out of Heaven in shame.

2 Peter 2: 4

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgement. And spared not the old world but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness brining the flood upon the world of the ungodly: and bringing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly.

This Earth was perfectly made by God but now Satan is cast out of Heaven onto Earth he could not stand anything beautiful or perfect or sin free, so he sets about to ruin it again by sin and the help of Adam and Eve and mankind in general.

Isaiah 14:12.

How are you fallen from heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations!

Jeremiah 4:23/24/25/26

I beheld the Earth and lo, it was without form, and void and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains and lo, they trembled and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld and lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld and lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness and all the cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord and by His fierce anger.

Isaiah 45:18

For thus says the Lord who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the Earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord and there is no other.

Bible supports the fact that Satan had huge influence on the earth before Adam came on the scene.

Satan is called the man of sin and consequently ruined that original world causing God to flood the Earth with a flood much more devastating than Noah's flood. (Genesis 2:5-6 Jeremiah 4:23-26).

2 Peter 3:5-7

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men.

Psalms 104: 6-7

You cover it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they fled and at the voice of your thunder they hasted away.

The fact that the flood was rebuked proves that it was caused as a judgement of sin, the sin of Lucifer and his fallen angels and the pre-Adamites who rebelled against God long before Adam. Sin has always been the problem. The result was...

Genesis 1:1

And the Earth was without form and void and darkness was on the face of the deep.

When Satan fell he took about one-third of the angels who threw in their lot with him. (Revelation 12:4). We now know that all pain, suffering, heartache, death, rebellion and deception, in fact all sin is laid at the door of Satan.

There was enmity between the Trinity and the forces of evil. Being cast down to the earth Satan was in God's Garden of Eden, (Ezekiel 28:13) where he forms his own kingdom with those who followed him from the Heavenly rebellion and becomes the prince of this world. If we continue to read the book of Job, he tells us that when God asks Satan where he has been Satan he replied;

Job 1:7

Then Satan answered, from going to and fro in the Earth and from walking up and down in it.

Satan now searches the whole Earth continually, never resting but seeking whom he may devour, or bring down by sin. (1Peter 5:8). Satan's answer to God leads me to think that Satan felt quite cocky and was showing off that he thought he had brought God's world to nothing. But God brought him down with a bang with the words 'have you considered my servant Job? There was one man who had not given in to Satan, a man called Job who was still a witness to God's grace, a man who Satan had obviously missed and had to be pointed out by God. Job was going through all that Satan put on him but in the end he still overcame as a true man of God bringing glory to the Name of God Jehovah. Adam and his offspring were always destined to perfectly represent God on the earth. Lucifer robbed them of that role. Jesus restores us so that we can be carriers of God's authority on the earth once again. It was when the glory that was on Adam and Eve departed as a result of sin that they became aware of their nakedness.

Without going into detail we only have to look at the news on TV and read our newspapers to see and read of the murders and killings every day. Every day there are marriage breakdowns, children being abused, cheating and deception all under the influence of Satan and his evil army of fallen angels. Wherever Satan is there is trouble and chaos and his aim is to snatch mankind from an eternal life with Jesus.

Genesis chapter 1.verse 2

Now we come to a time more familiar to us all, the restoration of Earth, and again it was by God's Word. All that mess that Satan did had to be undone and the Spirit of God moved over the Earth that was without form and void and in total darkness covered by the waters. Light is restored and the Earth is brought back to a second habitable state in 6 literal 24 hour days. New animals, fish, birds, and vegetation are restored and Adam is made the new ruler of the Earth in Lucifer's place.

The Earth being made perfect a second time, all things are in harmony with God as they were before Lucifer's rebellion. All is well except Lucifer and his rebellious army are still at large in the earth being permitted to remain free to test and tempt man. God's plan is to bring about a people of strength, power and faith in the true God of the universe. (Job1:6; 2:1; Eph.2:2-5;)

Lucifer, now called Satan, tempts man and woman and causes their downfall and their fall from grace and separates them from God. Although God retains His authority over the earth at all times, He is now dealing with a people with a rebellious heart inherited from Adam. They were a people who had a free choice to go God's way or to go their own way and follow Satan. Man is judged and the Earth is cursed again (2, Cor. 4:4. Rev.20:1-10).The Earth will remain under this curse until the second

restoration and the third perfect state called the New Heaven and the New Earth (2 Peter 3:3-13. Hebrews 1.10-12).

I know much of the modern world, its books, films, school curriculum, our universities and even some churches do not give God's Word much credence and have rejected the Bible regarding the creation of the world and its inhabitants but their rejection does not make the Bible, which is God's Word wrong. These studies are for the Bible believing born again Christian who have a faith to believe what the Bible says and accept it. To the sceptic it will be unacceptable, but be careful, Jesus tells us He is coming back again, He tells us that one day, *suddenly*, He will take those that have accepted Him as Saviour and Lord, out of the Earth to meet Him in the skies. The problem is that today's man will not accept the power behind God's Word that is until 2 seconds after it has happened and millions of people are missing and you are left behind, then what, too late, its then you will have wished you had believed what the Bible says!

The battle between God and Satan continues Adam and Eve had a chance to live a peaceful life in a beautiful world where sin had not taken hold. But no, he and his wife Eve took the fruit of the tree seduced into total disobedience to God and became separated from the Trinity. Here comes sin again! They were on their own, because they had separated themselves from God because of the shame they now felt, because they had opened the door to Satan who was quick to enter their deceived hearts. You and I now live in this sin cursed Earth which even in my lifetime has become much more wicked and sinful. We read in the Bible that mankind became more and more sinful, greedy, and rebellious; there was no thought of God but only self. Rebellion had on Earth began again in the Garden.

Man is judged by God and the Earth itself is cursed – it is less fruitful than God intended. And Adam's descendants are all born with a sinful nature. We are all susceptible to the lies of the enemy. We need to remember that until Eve encountered the Serpent in the Garden no-one had ever lied to her or to Adam. Everything that God had said to them was absolutely 100% true and reliable. They were totally unprepared in their thinking that anything they were told would be unreliable. That is why Satan is called the Father (the originator) of lies. And if we believe those lies they will lead us into his trap – they will lead us to sin – in the same way they led Adam and Eve to sin.

The Bible says this: *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

Romans 5:12

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world (Adam) and death by sin and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned.

It's sin, that's the trouble!

God is Holy and heaven is holy. God loves mankind but they cannot co-exist with sin. That is why He had to send His Son Jesus to pay the price for our sin.

Satan thought He had messed up God's plan yet again of having a people unto Himself who would obey and follow His laws in a sinless world and would walk and talk with Him each day as Adam and Eve did. Man finds himself on his own, he has lost his innocence he now tries to judge the difference between good and evil from a human perspective, he now knows what sin is and how it displeases his creator. God's purpose now is to guide him in the proper use of his conscience to do the right and refuse the wrong, and to teach fallen man that only through obedience to God could he be restored to his original place in God and be rid of the curse he now finds himself in. Man was given a free will and the ability to choose between good and evil, and right from wrong and to follow after God his creator or after Satan who will lead man to destruction.

Soon mankind was now in a place where he could be influenced and tempted by the innumerable fallen angels and demons whose desire was to lead mankind to reject God and to live a life of sin pleasing to the flesh, a life that gratified self and rejected God. God was allowing man to be brought to helplessness of himself so he would turn to God for help. Man has always had an independent spirit

and today goes his own way and rejects God under the influence of Satan who magnifies the importance of self – the culture of 'I did it my way'.

The age of conscience

There were no written laws to guide men and women, the test was to see if they would obey their own conscience regarding right from wrong, good or evil. (Romans 2:12, 13) The only law was not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and after being driven from the garden they did not even have that law. This was an age of freedom for man to do what he pleased until it became necessary for God to intervene again. God gave man plenty of time to obey his conscience which was God given in fact it was about 1,656 years, from Adam's fall to Noah. (Genesis 5:1-29). Lamech, Noah's father had great faith in his son to bring comfort because of the hard work the curse had made for man.

The age of conscience had to end when the daughters of men married fallen angels who belonged to Satan. (Genesis 6.1 Peter 3:19. 2 Peter 2:4. Jude 6-7). Sin again had become so great and the intermarriage producing Giants in the land God had to bring this wickedness from Satan to a halt. Satan and his fallen angel's purpose were to corrupt the human race and thereby do away with the pure Adamite stock. Right from the beginning when the Trinity had to plan an escape for mankind through the death of Jesus on the Cross there had to be a perfect sacrifice offered, without spot or blemish and Jesus was the only one who could fit that bill. If the Trinity offered up any other sacrifice that was tainted with sin, Satan and his fallen angels would have never let God off the hook as it were, and the redemption of man could not happen. Satan was desperate to do way with that seed of the women and enable Satan and his kingdom to keep control of planet earth and its inhabitants indefinitely. The Bible says that the seed of the woman should defeat Satan and restore man's dominion. (Genesis 3: 15). Satan did not want that so he sent some of his fallen angels to marry the daughters of men (Genesis 6) to produce a rogue giant nation through them, to break that pure line that will make way for the pure sacrifice Jesus Christ and the Cross which was ever coming nearer.

Satan almost succeeded in his plan as the scriptures says all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth: and of all the multitude of people on the earth Noah and his family were the only pure Adamites left and God planned their safety via an ark.

God's judgement brings an end to the dispensation of conscience alone.

Genesis 6:5/6/7

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast and the creeping thing and the fowls of the air; for it repents me that I have made them.

The wickedness of man had become so great that if God had not intervened, man would ultimately destroy himself. Sin has to be judged and will be judged because sin grieves the heart of God. The omnipotent God knew that one day His only Son would have to pay the cost of the sin of the world. The Cross was looming in the distance! There is no doubt Satan's influence on mankind was, and is today, very powerful. How it must have grieved the Lord that His wonderful, intricate creation called man, so different to every other created being He ever made, should allow himself to be reduced to such wickedness that he made the Lord God Almighty repent that He brought man into existence. That is what sin will do.

Genesis 6:8.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

There is something special about the word 'but' it infers that although Satan had mankind in his grip, although sin was now bringing desolation, the Lord had not lost control and had other plans to give

man yet another chance to turn to God. Grace is unmerited favour that empowers us to live for God; it is mentioned 38 times in the Old Testament proving grace is not only a New Testament doctrine. God's grace is available to all. It would appear that Noah, much like Job, had a life that was still led by a conscience knowing the difference between good and evil and while everyone else was choosing their own way. Noah lived a life that was honoured by God because he was just, perfect in his ways and walked with God. As we know God told Noah to build an ark and he and his family were saved from another flood. The main reason for this flood was to do away with all this satanic corruption, destroy the giants and preserve the pure Adamite blood line to guarantee the coming seed of the woman, the birth of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world.

St. Mathew 24:37/38/39

But as the days of Noah were so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark. And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

I cannot go any further with our study without reminding the reader that the account of Noah and the flood he encountered is a type of the Lord's return. Noah's world was deep in sin; our world today is also a very sinful place and we remember God intervened when sin began to get uncontrollable. He repented that He had made man and although it grieved Him greatly He drowned all of them. That's how much God hates sin. And yet He still waited all the years it took Noah to build the Ark for man to repent, the flood was the last resort that He had to bring about.

Can you picture the crowds laughing and jeering as Noah and his family entered the ark? Can you imagine that laughing stop suddenly as it began to rain so much it drenched the scoffers in seconds? Can you see great rivers and lakes form in no time at all and the people are unable to stand, and as they banged and thumped on the side of the ark to be let in, they were washed away in the torrent?(2 Peter 2:5 Mathew 24:37).

2 Peter 2:4/5/ 6/7/8

For if God spared not the Angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement (Rev. 20:10); And spared not the old world but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overflow, making them an example unto those who after should live ungodly. And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked for that righteous man dwelling among them in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.

But can God do that? He is a God of love isn't He? Yes that's right, but He will not be taken for granted, He ultimately has to punish disobedience and sin. We are living in a time period called the 'age of Grace'. It began over 2000 years ago when Jesus died on the Cross for our sin. It will end when Jesus returns. But the fact is that unless we turn to Jesus and invite Him to be our Lord and Saviour, at some point during our lifetime, then God has no option other than to judge our sin. We can have no place with Him in heaven, because remember God is holy, heaven is holy and neither can co-exist with unrepentant uncovered sin. You may say –I will wait until I am older and live for myself until the very end. Well when exactly will that be? You see Jesus did not only provide a way to cover our sin, He died so that we can live totally fulfilled abundant lives here on earth – as soon as we invite Him in. He died for our sin, our wellbeing, our peace and so much more. So why would anyone want to wait. The Bible says 'Today is the day of salvation' and a well-known evangelist used to say this: 'Tomorrow is a date in a fool's calendar'

So returning to Noah, up to as late as 1850 there was no ship in history that was bigger than the ark! It was approximately 625 feet long and more than able to hold all the animals God wanted to save. Seeing something of that size the world wondered what on earth it could be, and all the animals voluntarily going into this giant 'thing' it just could not be believed. But it happened; a national newspaper photographed the Ark when it was discovered on Mt Ararat a few years ago.

Noah warned them of what was about to happen and invited them to be saved from death but they laughed and scoffed at the Noah family. In the UK there is not a lot of scoffing at Christianity, but the powers that be pass laws that gradually squeeze out our Christian rights of free speech, of sharing our faith and beliefs. If we stand up for what we believe when it involves non-Christians they stand behind these new laws they have made for themselves and we are taken to court and prosecuted. Satan will use all means to stop mankind from choosing Christ and securing eternal life.

Genesis 6:17

Behold I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life from under heaven and everything that is in the earth shall die.

Once again we see the tremendous power of the Word of God. He just speaks and the hidden flood-gates open and the heavens give of her water in the form of continual rain, and the earth is flooded.

Genesis 7: 23

And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the ground, both man and cattle and creeping things and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth; and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

The purpose of the flood was to get rid of sinful, wicked man and give man another chance to experience the blessings of Almighty God. Satan knows that God hates sin; he knows that sin can bring man down to the depths of depravity. Satan is the man of sin, if he can devise subtle ways of tempting man to turn from the truth, he knows man will fall and displease God. He also knows that ultimately, God will not excuse sin, sin has to be paid for now or in the future, and there must be a sacrifice for sin. Satan makes sin very attractive to man. You know what I mean, the hallucinations that excite the drug taker but leaves him like a zombie and no use to anyone. The sight of money that will tempt the thief that leads him to prison. And the sight of a pretty woman that leads man to rape or murder. Or just plain murder for no apparent reason at all. Wife beating, child abuse, adultery, fornication, company theft, these things are happening all the time now. Where do you think all this comes from, well I'll tell you, the man of sin Satan, it's his way of getting his own back on Jesus by seeking whom he may devour and prevent a soul from eternal life.

Yet more sin, the Tower of Babel Genesis chapter 11.

During the next 100 years after the flood man had travelled from Mt Ararat in Turkey to the East and the Euphrates in a land called Shinar, where they settled. Once again man rebelled against God, this time they wanted to build a tower reaching up to heaven. This tower represents the pride of man striving to reach heaven and again to reach God, much like Satan's ambition, thereby become gods in their own mind.

Verse 3 shows the intent of their hearts.

And they said one to another. Go to, let us make brick and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone and slime for mortar.

The slime pits found in Babylon were used to cement the bricks together; that slime found even today is so strong it is almost impossible to detach things that are stuck to it. They certainly had a determination to build strong and permanent and as verse 4 tells us wanted to make a name for themselves, much like their sponsor Satan, but pride would be their downfall again just like Satan.

Verse 4

And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Verse 5/6/7

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men had built. And the Lord said Behold the people is one, and they all have one language; and this they begin to do: and

now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down and there confound their language that they may not understand one another's speech.

What amazes me is that Satan has got man so much in his control that he causes his creator to come down from the glories of heaven to see what man is doing and prevent him from totally ruining himself. God will not allow man to strive to be His equal, or to become god even in his own eyes, and that begins with pride, which is where it all started with Lucifer if you remember.

God confused their language and scattered them over the earth so the tower and the city could not be completed. What a waste of time, materials and talent all because of sin.

Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis chapter 19)

Not long after the flood and the building of the Tower of Babel, serious wickedness rears its ugly head again. At the age of 75 years old Abraham obeyed God and moved from Ur of the Chaldees to the land of Canaan with the promise that God would make of Abraham a great nation. He promised Abraham's seed would be as the stars in number (verse 15:5, 22:17). Astronomers tell us there are upwards of 40,000,000,000,000,000,000. (40 sextillion) stars in space and the Bible tells us God made every one of them.

Genesis 12:3

And I will bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you: and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

What a wonderful promise to Abraham and Sarai, what a wonderful new start for a Godly family or was it? Satan was watching and once again planned to make a mess of what God wanted to do and he used Lot, a part of Abraham's family to do it. The families and livestock of Abraham and Lot grew so big it caused trouble between them. So Abraham let Lot choose the land he wanted to live in and he chose what he thought was the best.

Genesis chapter 13:14/15/16

And the Lord said unto Abraham after Lot had separated from him, lift up now your eyes and look from the place where you are northward, southward, eastward and westward. For all the land which you see, to you will I give it and to your seed for ever. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall your seed also be numbered. Arise; walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it for I will give it to you.

Lot thought he had chosen the best of the land but God gave Abraham all of it and so he built an altar of thanksgiving unto God. He also had the promise of God that the seed (or his children the Jews) would cover the earth, which they do. The land and its peoples have belonged to God ever since and will ever remain so whatever man thinks.

Chapter 13 tells us of the ominous choice that Lot made, Abraham dwelt in the land of Canaan, but Lot however pitched his tent toward Sodom. Sodom and Gomorrah were well known for the wickedness of homosexuals and lesbians and other perversions and instead of Lot steering clear of such a place he pitched his tent toward Sodom and that shows us where his heart lies.

Admittedly Lot tried to protect the Angels that came to visit, by coming out to meet the Sodomites in the street and shutting the door of his house behind him when they stormed his house wanting the angels. The men of Sodom pressed him so hard to release the two young men, believed to be angels to them Lot even offered them his two daughters to appease them. Can you imagine what would have happened to those poor girls if they had said yes! What was Lot thinking of?

The peoples of Sodom and Gomorrah were a great disappointment to God, and so was Lot.

Genesis 13:13

But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

Their sin is one that God cannot and will not tolerate. He sent judgement upon these sodomite cities as a lesson to all who follow them in their sin, promising eternal hell as their reward. (18:20. 19:5. Isa.3:9. Romans 1:18-32. 2 Peter 2. Jude 7-19).

God's judgement is beginning to fall

War was being planned by the nine confederate kings against these wicked cities of the plain.

The unfaithful Lot is very much involved

He and his possessions are taken, and we find that whilst he first pitched his tent toward Sodom we now find he is living in Sodom.

The mediation of Abraham.

Abraham's experience with his God has enabled him to withstand the powerful temptations of Satan and is able to help deliver the back slider.

The story of Lot in Sodom is a very sad one; Lot entertained the two angels who came to Sodom, but sin, sponsored by Satan, was rampant in the city.

Genesis 19:4.

But before (the two angels lay down to sleep) the men of the city, the men of Sodom compassed the house around, both young and old, all the people from every quarter:

Eastern cities were segregated by nation, religion and occupation into quarters. In each part of the city dwelt these wicked lustful men who wanted Lot's guests who excited the sinful desires of the Sodomites. What a terrible scene, what a shameful mess.

Romans 1:26/27

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another: men with men working that which is unseemly or indecent, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error.

As I write I note that a Baptist church in America has just hired two 'legally' married women as pastors of their church. The church is called Calvary Baptist but I don't think they represent the Calvary that I know, you know the one where Jesus died to save us from this sort of sin. Colombia boast of legalising its first three man marriage and thousands of Christians and non-Christians alike condemn this as disgusting and sick. Canada's Supreme Court has legalised sex between people and animals but acquitted a man for assaulting his stepdaughter 13 times. Before 1939 1 in 30 couples lived together instead of getting married, today, according to Government figures it is nine out of ten resulting in almost 50% of children are born to unmarried mothers.

If you want more of this stuff buy any newspaper! Our world has lost its way and we are becoming just like the peoples of the Bible we are studying but God will see to it we come to the same end, He has to punish sin.

Whatever laws we make to accommodate and excuse acts like these, God Himself will hand people over to their desires and the consequences of those desires which will not be at all pleasant. Please note I do not wish to offend anyone just remember the people involved do not mind sharing their exploits openly and some with photographs, to the world and they expect our applause. I am only writing what Jesus said, and I have given you the Bible references to prove that God calls it sin and He does not like it, and as my Dad used to say 'if you don't like what the Bible says it take it up with God He wrote it'.

You know the rest of the story; you know that Lot's wife disobeyed the command not to look back at Sodom as it was being destroyed. You know she did and was turned into a pillar of salt. Not only was Lot's heart towards Sodom, so was his wife's, no doubt many of her friends were there in the destruction. You know that these two cities were razed to the ground. You know this was the judgement of the Lord; He gave them plenty of warning, He sent angels whose message was

completely ignored. God will not be taken for granted, He was about to send His only Son to die on the Cross to make a way back to God but man thinks he can make it without God but watch out there will come a day of reckoning.

The sin of disobedience

It would seem that man has great difficulty in obeying God. Deep down we acknowledge He knows best, after all He is the creator of heaven and earth, He created the human race, and as we have seen so far in our study He has the power, and love, to stop man from his own total destruction. And yet man, His wonderful created being, arrogantly ignores the one true God and continues in his sin which as we know displeases God very much.

In Exodus we read of the stubbornness of one man Pharaoh, which affected the lives of thousands of others. Once again pride is the root problem and Pharaoh was a proud man, several times he repented so as to be free of the plagues only to allow his heart to be hardened and stop the Hebrews from going free. All Egypt suffered the effects of the plagues while Pharaoh played fast and loose with God and Moses. Like all other sins the sin of disobedience had to be made accountable to God, He has to deal with sin. After all the plagues, which were stretching Egypt to the limit, God had to bring it to an end and so He tells the Hebrews to kill the Passover lamb and, as the Bible says strike, (just as Jesus was stricken at the Cross), the lintel and door posts with the blood of the slain lamb.

Isaiah 53:4

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Exodus 12:23

For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians and when He sees the blood upon the lintel and on the doorpost, the Lord will pass over the door and will not suffer the destroyer to come unto your houses to smite you.

For me this is one of the most important verses in the Bible. It shows us the importance of the shed blood applied to the header and the sides of the door which formed a perfect Cross of Christ the only perfect scene of sin-bearing. Our Jesus did not bear our sins in His birth, or in the manger, or when He was tempted in the wilderness, nor in the garden but only on the Cross. (2 Peter 2:24). We have the protection from death and hell only through the shed Blood of the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world. Once again the Cross of Christ is looming nearer and nearer.

We fast forward to Exodus 14 and the Children of Israel being trapped by the sea, the situation looked hopeless. The next few chapters are full of complaints and murmurings of the Children of Israel in spite of the fact that God gave Moses seven predictions to prove He would be with them all the time.

1. I will divide the Red Sea (v16)
2. Israel will go over on dry ground (v17)
3. I will harden Pharaoh's heart (v17)
4. They will follow Israel into the sea (v17)
5. Pharaoh will be destroyed (v17)
6. His army will be destroyed (v17)
7. They will know that I am Jehovah (v18)

The Children of Israel had seen the rod of God in Moses hand all the time. They knew God used that rod to show the power of God to Pharaoh at least 12 times, from turning it into a serpent (4:2-3) to parting the Red Sea (14:16). But still they had no faith in God or Moses, and complained all the time, which once again displeased God.

Exodus 14: 11.

And they said unto Moses, because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore have you dealt thus with us to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell you in Egypt saying, let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.

God proved Himself to Israel time and again but they murmured and complained and sinned against God continually, and were a great problem to Moses, God's servant. After many years of being without laws or any form of guidance in chapter 32, while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the commandments that would be of great benefit to Israel, they were busy making a golden calf to worship. Can you imagine how God must have felt?

Chapter 32:7/8/9/10.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Go, get you down for your people which you have brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I have commanded them: they have made them a molten calf and have worshipped it and have sacrificed thereunto and said these be your gods O Israel which have brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people and behold it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone that my wrath may wax hot against them that I may consume them and I will make of thee a great nation.

We see in these few verses the frustration of Almighty God with the people He chose, through Abraham, to make a great nation through whom the Son of God was to be born, and once again Satan is right in the middle of proceedings messing things up. Not only is God wanting to pass the responsibility of the whole people to Moses by telling him they are your people which you have brought out of Egypt, He again wants to consume them and start again. And when Moses got down from the mountain there they were worshiping a handmade golden calf. If you want to read the pathetic excuse that Aaron gave Moses read verses 21 to 24. *'They gave me the gold and I cast it into the fire and out came this calf!!!'*

Sin has to be punished, God cannot look upon sin He knows the cost that will have to be paid because of peoples continual sin. He also knows the Cross is near to all who would turn to Jesus. Verse 25 says that when Moses came down from the mountain he saw the people were naked because of their idolatrous and immoral orgies and worship of their idol. More importantly they were spiritually naked and because of their disobedience and wickedness verse 28 tells us that 3000 souls were killed. I keep saying a price always has to be paid for sin because sin makes us an enemy of God and in the light of future events regarding the end of days God has made it possible for man to accept His Son Jesus as Saviour and escape eternal death.

Matthew 12:30

He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who gathers not with Me scatters abroad.

Moses felt so much love for Israel he offered his eternal life with God in exchange for their forgiveness. He asked God to blot his name out of His book of life which He had written; it is obvious Moses did not understand that, firstly, God could not take another human being's life as a sacrifice for sin. Secondly, as I have said many times, God will blot out any name from His book of life when a person who once asked Jesus to be their Lord and Saviour and now blatantly denies the power of the Cross and lives a life of unrepentant sin, thereby mocking the Saviour's sacrifice. Hebrews 6.

Verse 33

And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of my book.

Make sure your name is written in the Lamb's book of life, do not listen to false teachers who will tell you that you can have eternal security and once you are saved you are always saved, we have proved time and again in our studies that God ultimately has to punish sin. Sin is sin be it from the sinner or

the Saint. It's far too important to take chances, listen to the Word of God. Ps. 69:28. 109:13. Dan. 12:1. Rev. 3:5. Rev.22:18-19.

We have looked at where sin comes from, who the author of sin is, how Satan uses sin to bring man down and away from God. We can go right through the Bible illustrating more stories of where man has failed and given into sin. There was a time when lambs, goats and doves were offered up by the priests as a sacrifice for sin. Noah, for instance when he and his family left the ark the first thing he did was to build an Altar unto the Lord and offered burnt Offerings unto God. Genesis 8 verse 20 says the Lord smelled a sweet savour which pleased Him.

The offerings of a lamb had to be without blemish, the hand of the sinner was laid on the head of the lamb to indicate the sin being past from the owner of the hand to the lamb and it was then sacrificed. The problem with that system was that he had to come again and again thus his life continually was reminded of his sins. The sweet smelling savour from these sacrifices was accepted by God because they were a foretaste of the perfect sacrifice of God's Son on the Cross that was to come, very soon now.

The Blood of Christ

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the Law for Righteousness to everyone who believes.

And again in Romans 5:9:

We are now justified by His Blood...and we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

These verses speak of the coming Redeemer who would save mankind from all this evil and offer mankind eternal life should he want it. God could see the Cross not far ahead now where it would please Him to allow His Son to suffer and die once for all to take away the sin that has been so troublesome to man. The emphasis on the animal sacrifices was the shedding of the blood. Do you remember how the Priests of Israel had to strike the lintel and door posts with blood. Why blood? Why not water or mud? God established the pattern at the beginning when man began to sin, He needed a pure sacrifice for our sin and disobedience. He said He would accept the blood of sheep and goats temporally, but it was the blood, which is life that was most important.

Leviticus 17:11.

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls.

It would be the pure sinless Blood, the very life of Jesus that would save man from the consequences of sin, and He gave His life so freely.

Hebrews 9:22

If God could have satisfied His perfect holiness and still atone for our sins in any other way, it would have been done, but without the shedding of blood there is no remission.

Satan knows just how much the Blood of Jesus prevails mightily before the throne of God for our redemption he also knows that it is the Blood that the sinner and the Christian can use to overcome him.

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him (Satan) by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.

God's greatest gift to man is not to create the stars, the planets, even the sun or moon; it was to extend grace to man in the form of His only Son to die in our place on the Cross. Could you do that, and give your son for a rebellious world? The Law of Moses was, for very many years given by God but it was temporary, God accepted the blood of Lambs, goats and doves because the blood of all man was sinful, and it was just not good enough. The blood of Abraham, the father of God's chosen people was not good enough; the blood of Noah, the man who found grace in God's sight was not good enough,

and not even Mary the mother of Jesus can give absolution for our sins, her blood is not good enough. None of the Old Testament patriarchs were able to save mankind from sin, because they too were all born into original sin making them ineligible.

But the day came, on Golgotha's hill, a man, yes a man, from the very Godhead who took on the form of a servant, came from His glory in heaven to earth with the sole purpose of taking man's place. He endured the way of wicked man having been beaten and whipped beyond all recognition, was cruelly hung on a Roman Cross simply because He was pure, Holy and sinless and therefore worthy to take upon Himself the sins of the world. We are saved from sin simply because of what Jesus did at the Cross. It's the Cross, the Cross, **it's the Cross**.

The Jews, His own people chose a robber in His place and demanded that Jesus be crucified. What was worse was the Jews assumed full responsibility by saying *His blood be upon us, and on our children!* Upwards of 500 a day were crucified by the Romans not long after Christ's death, in the end there were no more crosses available and no space for them anyway. The Jews along with all other people who have not yielded their life to Jesus are yet to suffer the greatest time of tribulation that has ever been on earth (Mat. 24:15-22.Rev. 6:1-19. Dan.11: 40-45. Zech. 13:9; 14:1-5).

The crucifixion of Jesus was clearly visible for all to see and hear in the real world, but what of the hidden world? What about all those fallen angels that teamed up with Satan? What about Satan himself? The Bible hasn't given us detail of where they were or what they were doing at this time. But in view of what we have studied here, where sin has come from, who instigated sin in the first place, Satan's plan to stop the redeeming power of the true blood line of Christ and somehow do away with the Saviour of the world and thereby stop the way of salvation. I cannot help but think he was hiding behind the hill with all his demon friends thinking that Christ's death won't be long now and my original ambition to be higher than God will be mine!

'Keep quite fellers I know you can't wait either but it won't be long now. He's nearly dead and all mankind will be mine and I will have stopped eternal life for man'. 'With Jesus out of the way my original ambition of being higher than God can now be realised I shall...no wait! Stop talking, listen, look at what's happening, just a...ahahahahahah'.

A piercing, blood thirsty cry rings out and echoes right round the world of darkness. In the spirit world Satan and his fallen angels watched expecting the world would be under his control any time soon and he would be victorious over a defeated Christ. He had waited all this time to set his throne above the throne of Christ when mankind would be under his domain, eternal life with Christ they will not have! Satan has seen the shed blood pouring from the side of Christ. Satan knows the miraculous birth of Jesus could not save the sinner, he also knows none of the miracles that Jesus did or could do would save the sinner. He knows the only way back to God is through that shed blood he saw pouring from that wounded side. He knows his end is sealed and he hasn't a chance to be equal with God let alone be higher than Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus has taken back the keys of death and Hades, robbing Satan of any real power or influence over the earth. Satan will try to lie to us that he still has power; he will still try and tempt us to sin. But all the time we submit our thoughts, our emotions and our minds to Christ we will be able to resist the lie and Satan will flee from us.

A defeated enemy retreats into a dark corner somewhere to make new plans to pester, tempt, bully, pull down, destroy, devour the very people Christ died and shed His blood for. Of course these people can now be free from such temptations; the blood of Christ and what He did on that Cross has made that possible and to live a life of victory, but only if they will accept Him.

What has the Blood of Jesus done for you and me?

Well it was at the Cross on Calvary's hill that God, who had given man so many opportunities to obey and follow in the path of righteousness and truth but still he wants his own way. Now God had given His only Son as a sacrifice that He himself instigated to take away sin. So many times, many more than we have illustrated here, God had given man full sway to live Holy and upright lives pleasing to

his maker. So many times man had given in to Satan who had led him into sin. It had to stop! The blood of lambs and goats would not do it anymore! There had to be another way and the death of His Son and the shedding of His Son's Blood was that way.

So what now? Well a way has been opened for mankind to accept what Jesus has done; there is no more need for lambs or goats to be sacrificed so we must accept that Jesus has paid the price for sin once for all in our place. He was the one and only true sacrifice that God ever needed for all time.

This 'way' back to God is open to everyone, man, woman, boy or girl.

We all have to deal with sin, we have proved that it is sin that separates us from the love of God and we have seen that it is Jesus, God's only Son who paid the price of redeeming mankind back to God. We now know that Jesus is the only way to eternal life.

Acts 4:12

...neither is there salvation in any other.

This scripture is true, there is no point looking around for churches that preach a weaker message, you cannot get eternal life by watering down the Gospel to suit your way of life, our redemption cost Jesus His life's blood. The Gospel is not a diplomatic message, it's an ultimatum. It's that blood of Jesus that Satan and his demonic hordes fears and runs from, so we must bring that blood to our defence.

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

This prayer may help you. We give you thanks for shedding your blood for us Jesus; we give you thanks that we can use the power in your blood to defeat Satan and his followers in our own lives. We hold up the blood-stained cross to Satan and tell him he lost the fight to stop that precious blood-line of Christ, and it was Jesus who won the battle. I repent of my sin and ask you Jesus to purify my heart with the washing of your pure sinless blood. I give my life to you and ask you to be my Lord and Saviour all the days of my life.

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Be blessed
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