

The Three Eternal Destinies #91 *Experiencing the First Death, Part 2*

The Everlasting Covenant

Gen 9:6 — *Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man* — is the establishment of human government and laws which are based upon how one perceives their fellow beings as created in the image of God. When this is violated, and one man murders another, the proscribed punishment must follow, and all honest men will agree with this who are worthy of the nations. Beginning with murder, all the way to not washing your hands after going to the bathroom, or spitting on the sidewalk, driving recklessly, speaking without discretion, etc. (Mk 7:20-25), our regard for the image of God in our fellow man is revealed. If a man has no regard for the image of God in his fellow man, he is *fallen, fallen* (Rom 1:29) — fallen into the first death by birth, and now ignoring conscience he is fallen into the second death also.

We've all seen an "oyster" of spit on the sidewalk and may have stepped in it. The one who did this (spit) had no respect for man who was created in the image of God. We may have even turned our friends into dope addicts or into whores. So if we lose our respect for man, as these actions prove, we have already lost it for God who created him in His own image and likeness. This respect is the basis for all human government. There is still a resemblance to God in fallen man and we are responsible for honoring it, for that is the way we honor Him.

Many other examples of disrespect for man through words, gossip, etc., are *directly* related to one's respect for God.

Human government is to serve as the keepers (stewards) and enforcers of this eternal law (Gen 9:6). This serves as a basis for all human government, for even the Ten Commandments are an extension of this principle, and all laws everywhere are only amplifications of the Ten Commandments. Whenever any government violates Gen 9:6, it has become *corrupt*, as well as all who voted for officials of that government, for they are representatives of the people who voted for them.

The Everlasting Covenant — Marriage

Men are to have only one wife (Gen 2:24; Mt 19:3-9), and women one husband (Gen 3:16). That husband is to rule over the wife now, for she was deceived into bringing upon man the fall. This will keep her from coming into the fall a second time, into an unending second death. Her assurance of this is to submit to him, and so her desire is to be only for him and she was to bring forth his children in the pain of childbirth. On his part, he is to earn his living by the sweat of his brow, for the slack worker and the lazy will be excluded from the second life. When the husband and wife are this way, it causes mutual love and respect to grow between one another. Not being this way tears apart the family unit and brings guilt upon them.

This is important to remember, for nowadays the wife also works to make a living and goes to hospital to relieve her pain during childbirth. She argues with her husband and the husband is a con artist at the easiest job he can find. So judgment will be against them (Rev 20:12), and they will be judged worthy of a second death, unless they hear the good news of Salvation — of the ransom of a God who loved the world so much, knowing their plight, and who sent His Son to rescue men from the judgment of the second death — and can repent. So how many think they will pass the judgment in Rev 20:12 and Rom 2:15, with no sweat?

Make no mistake about it: Gen 3:19 is *hard labor* (Job 14:14) or work in a productive manner, making an *honest living* and providing for one's family. It may not have to be farm work today, but there must not be any *greedy pursuit* in it, for it hurts others. Any kind of job one has must be honest, not in any way taking advantage of others. We could go into white-collar crooks, used car dealers, lawyers, dentists, doctors, politicians, traders, salesmen, employers who cheat their workers out of time or hire at slave wages.

Gen 1:27-28 — Man is to rule over the works of His hands (Ps 8; Heb 2:5-8). So, if men can't rule over these little things pertaining to this life, like his wife and children, and does not earn a living by the sweat of his brow, how will He trust him to rule over creation, the planets and the universe? If you have failed in these covenants

in Gen 3 and 9, you are exactly who God is seeking. He came to seek the lost, the sinners. You have hope. If you hear His voice you can be rescued from the second death. You see, we were in Adam's casket, just like you are now. There was no other way we could have gotten out of it in this life and not gone to the judgment in Rev 20:11, except the way that God has provided in His Son (Jn 3:16). So those who believe will demonstrate no less the unity and oneness that the Son of God had with His Father and prayed for in Jn 17:21-23. This is how the world will know Him (Jn 13:34-35; 5:24; 1 Jn 3:14,16; 3:23-24). Verse 24 — We know it by the witness of His Spirit in us. 1 Kng 8:60-61 shows the way.

The Everlasting Covenant — the Family

The family illustrates the unity of God — it is the first human institution God created (even before the fall).

Through the family which God creates and the marriage which God makes is the visible illustration of the relationship which exists in the Godhead, and the relationship which exists between the church and His Messiah:

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything (Eph 5:22-24, and on to verse 33 as well).

Therefore, through the community, the Holy people and nation, My People (*ammi*, Hos 2:23; Eph 2:10), God would give visible demonstration of His oneness. The church is made up of families who are one (Jer 31:1). The family apart from the community of Israel is not capable of bringing about this witness. If the many are faithful to do these things (Mt 21:43), then they will be given the great responsibility over all creation — the heavens and the earth.

The family began in Gen 2:18-25.

To maintain the family and its proper function, Dt 6:4-9 must be obeyed.

The role of the wife must be fulfilled as in 1 Pet 3:1-6.

The role of the husband must be as Col 3:19.

The role of the children must be as Pr 1:8.

The role of the parents must be as Eph 6:4.

The prescription for rearing children must be Pr 22:6.

The origin of human government is Gen 9:5,6.

The function of human government is Rom 13:1-4.

Our responsibility to human government is 1 Pet 2:13.

So we have the family (Gen 2:24) which is now, *because of sin*, unable to procreate as man was created to, and fill the earth and the planets. In this fallen state men need the restraint of human government — which speaks of God's justice and judgment (Gen 9:6; Rom 13:1-2). Good men in the nations will now live by the second covenant established with men in their heart (Rom 2:14-15; Rom 1:18-24; 2:5-11).

Israel

If nations are established, then it is most necessary and essential that there would be next a selection of Israel (Amos 3:2; Num 23:9).

History of Israel — Ps 78:4.

Purpose of Israel — Dt 14:2.

Government of Israel — 1 Chr 28:4.

Worship of Israel — Ps 29:2.

The meaning of the word "church" is as in Acts 7:38.

The origin of the church is in Mt 16:18.

Purpose for the church is Eph 3:21 (Rev 21:3 — God will be in the Church and in Messiah, to rule over all generations to come, forever and ever).

Officers of the church are as 1 Tim 3:1-5.

The relationship of the church to Messiah is as Eph 5:25-29 (Gen 2:18-25).

