

## The Three Eternal Destinies #35 What Degree Has Man Fallen, Part 1 (The First or Second Death)

Lk 9:23 talks about the stipulations for becoming a *disciple*. These are the Holy who deny all that is of their *old life* which was learned and gotten in the world. We are now born anew. We start over again with a *new life*, denying all the flesh has to offer us with its passions and desires, etc. (Gal 5:24). As disciples (Lk 9:23) we walk in a manner *worthy of Messiah* (Col 1:10), having the *same advantage*, the same *source*, the same *Spirit* as He. As He was the new man Adam, so we are the new Adam "in Him."

Adam and Eve had *fellowship* with their Creator. They *had* the *advantage* over the *evil one* by their access to Him, seeking help, strength and confirmation of His Word. If only they had not been *lured away* — enticed and tempted (Jms 1:14-15). Yahshua never sinned and we have the *same advantage* that He had over the evil one (Heb 4:15-16).

When Eve was tempted and fell into transgression, her independent action (from her head) brought the fall of man into the first death (Heb 9:27). But as Rom 5:14 says, not *all* mankind afterwards fell into *great transgression*, but kept themselves as Adam did after the fall (Gen 3:16-19), even as Noah did and Shem (Gen 9:1-7) and the countless Yapheths and Châmites in the category of the *Righteous* of the nations or the world (Rev 22:11). *All of mankind* did not become *filthy* or *unjust*. They did not all fall in the *likeness of Adam* and continue to fall over and over until they *gave themselves* to it and become *depraved* (Rom 1:24,26,28).

No man or woman is ever *born depraved*, debased, having a reprobate mind. This "*condition*" is *progressive*. It is not a "*one time act*" that brings a person into such a depraved state of mind. Even a murderer, if he can be truly sorrowful, could possibly escape the Second Death (Gen 9:1-7), that is, if verse 6 is enacted upon him, if he turns himself into the *proper authorities*. If there was no government in which to *execute* him he could even do this with the victim's family. He can be saved even from the second death. It may be rare, but it is possible; no murderer has eternal life, even as no liar can inherit eternal life. Though all men have lied, not all are *liars*. All men have not murdered. Our Father could have mercy if it is at all possible, especially if he only murdered once and that act was possibly not even a full-fledged deliberate or premeditated murder. But mercy is not reached if a person murders as Cain did in Gen 4. He had *every opportunity* not to do such an abominable thing. God (in his conscience) was a very powerful voice in him, but he went against it to the *maximum* — *sealing his destiny* in the Second Death.

In Israel murder was treated according to Ex 21:12-17. This was the law and standard by which every one could be judged right. But God still judged according to the *intent of the heart* (Num 15:30-31; 35:31-34). Once a *first-degree murder* is allowed in a man's *thoughts* (Rom 2:15) he then loses his stature as a human being in the eyes of the Creator. He is one who would have no place or destiny among the eternal nations since he has destroyed the man who was made in God's image, thereby destroying the image of God in himself as well.

The nations in Rev 21:24 and 22:2 rise from the dead to be judged (Rev 20:12; Jn 5:28-29) to see whether there is enough of the image of God still in them to be healed (Rev 22:2). They are judged (Heb 9:27) to determine whether they are worthy of a second life or whether they deserve a second death (Rev 20:12-15; Rom 2:14-16; Jn 5:28-29), whether they are the Filthy/Unjust of the nations or instead were found with the image of God still recognizable in them (Rom 1:28; Pr 12:10). Even the way man cares for his animals can almost decide what the rest of his life and actions are like (Ecc 12:14). If a man is cruel to his animals, he is also cruel to his neighbors and family.