

The Three Eternal Destinies #137 *Deceiving the Nations, Part 4*

The Everlasting Covenant – New Hope for Mankind

This new addition to the covenant in Gen 3:16-19 gave mankind a new hope to attain to a new life *after death* by keeping his covenant with conscience and coming under the authority of government who would enforce the laws of this new Everlasting Covenant. But just because God gave man a new Everlasting Covenant did not do away with the old one given in the beginning in the garden (Gen 3:16-19). However, the Everlasting Covenant could now be kept all the more in the New Covenant of Gen 9:1-7. So from Noah to Abraham many people kept this newly extended covenant after the flood of both Gen 3:16-19 and 9:1-7.

We see this in the lifetime of Abraham, specifically with Lot and the possibility of the righteous men in Sodom (Gen 18:23,25). Abraham knew there were righteous men still hundreds of years after the flood. 2 Pet 2:6-8 shows that there were both the *filthy* and the *unjust* in her, dogs, but also the righteous and the new kind of holy people who would now form a holy nation from a seed of holy Abraham. So we see all three categories now, with Abraham being chosen to represent the holy people, Lot representing the righteous and the sodomites representing the unjust and filthy, just as Rev 22:11 gives us three categories of men with their Three Eternal Destinies.

These three categories of mankind are the only kinds of people who have ever lived on the face of the earth. In Noah's days we see just two kinds of people and two eternal destinies — the sons of Cain and the Sons of Seth. But now after the flood, just a few hundred years later, Abraham was chosen in Gen 18:19 to be the holy one redeemed from the nations, and to form a holy nation Israel from whom the Redeemer would come (Gen 3:14-15). This Redeemer would come to save (redeem) His people, like Abraham, from their sins even before they die the first time. All of these, who never had the opportunity to hear this good news, would go to the death designated for Adam and his descendants. This first death (Heb 9:27) was for their own sins. For some, that first, temporary death, was all they deserved, but for others, a second death that is eternal was what they merited. The two eternal destinies after Adam to Abraham were the second death or the second life which the judgment of Rev 20:11-15 would determine. The sons of Cain would be unjust and filthy still. The sons of Seth who remained righteous would be the righteous still in Rev 22:11. Then God chose Abraham and changed his eternal destiny to the eternal destiny of the holy still. Abraham was chosen to walk blameless before God – chosen to do what only holy could do by the help of God (Gen 18:19) to keep the way of Yahweh (God).

The righteous of the nations were not expected to keep the way of Yahweh – even as Mt 6:31-33 is the two ways: the ways of the nations and the way of Yahweh. In Mt 6:31-32, both the unjust and the righteous go this way, but they are judged either unjust or righteous according to how they obeyed their conscience (Pr 12:10). But the holy no longer live a self-centered existence among the people of the world – who all will be judged by how they lived their life in the world (Rom 2:6-10,14-16).

Fallen man must now live in the world and must be of it. They must seek for their own food and clothing because they cannot be the Holy of Mt 6:33 unless they give up their self-centered life in the world and receive the Holy Spirit. Then they become a holy one who can obey verse 33 and does so, as Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:32-35 says. Acts 2:38-42 is the only way the Holy can be in the world (Jn 17:15), kept in His Body on earth going through a purification process. Doing so makes them ready for Messiah's kingdom on earth when He comes. And the righteous of the nations will also live in it (Zec 14:16; Rev 2:26-27).

Already Deceived to the Second Death?

If Satan had already achieved *this goal* in the beginning, he would have no *reason* to lead man astray now, if man is already sentenced to the second death in Rev 21:8. What about men who never sinned according to the sins it lists, sins that make a man worthy of Satan's punishment? (Mt 25:41; Rom 2:14-16 as Heb 9:27). A judgment is required before God can *cast man into Satan's punishment* (Rev 20:10; 19:20; 19:23; 14:10-11) as the Beast and the false prophet were judged already, as well as all others who also heard (Mt 24:14; 2 Ths 1:8; Rev 18:4; 19:2-3). All these were judged already and were cast into the Lake of Fire at the very end of this present age. They all died and went to the

second death because there was no need for them to go to the Rev 20:11-15 judgment because of Jn 3:18, 36. They all heard the gospel but rejected it (Acts 13:46). Only those in Rev 20:12-15 who sinned as Rev 21:8 are worthy of the second death.