

Lesson 19

- We studied how God determined for fallen man the way to relate, the way to return to living with Him. The way was through the death of someone innocent, that is, there had to be bloodshed.
- We also said that whenever God presents and reveals His plan, Satan comes and presents another plan that is similar. Satan's plan opposes God's plan and distances man from God.
- We saw Cain and Abel; how Abel believed in the substitute in the form that God established, and how Cain did not believe in God, inaugurating 'the way of Cain'. Cain offered the fruits of the earth, not containing blood in his offering.
- Cain offered sacrifice because he believed in God. His offering had all the religious form, 'it was similar'. That is where Satan's plan comes in, it is always similar, but it violates the basic principle. Satan is very subtle; his plans always closely resemble God's plan.
- However, if Satan is responsible for offering a similar plan, the responsibility for accepting it, for executing it on earth, always lies with man. On earth, only man can act freely, as we have already studied. Man is free and this freedom brings him responsibility before his Creator.

⇒ Genesis 4:7

- Man became knowledgeable of good and evil. We always emphasize '*knowing evil*,' but look man is knowledgeable of 'good and evil.' Satan offered the plan, but man was fully capable of rejecting it. Cain knew the right way, and here God says:
 - 'if you do well'; Cain was fully capable of doing well; God is not unjust.
 - '*and if you do not do well, sin lies at the door*'; that is, if you do badly, '*and its desire is for you, but you should rule over it*', sin will be around you and your desire will prevail; the desire to sin or not. God said even more: you must control your desire; you are capable of doing so, Cain; you know the well.
 - Satan offers us his plan, but man is not exempt from responsibility; the fault in accepting it lies with man. It was like this with Adam and Eve, and we saw the consequences, now we see it here with Cain. Satan never changes his tactics. Today, God reveals His plan to us through Jesus Christ, and Satan offers us several other 'paths' that are similar, so we have to be very careful.
 - '*Deep calls unto deep*', one sin calls to another sin. Cain did not believe in God; he sinned and became angry with God. Instead of repenting and returning to God, Cain murdered his brother out of envy. Today we say that violence is the result of the massification of violence, but in the beginning, there was no widespread violence. So, what caused that murder? Sin is what causes evil, and even more so when influenced by Satan.
- We also studied how God demonstrated that He accepted Abel's offering, 'setting on fire'; we said that fire fell from heaven. It was clear to Cain and Abel that God accepted Abel's offering, it was consumed by fire and disappeared, while Cain's offering remained there in the same place. How could they know which offering God accepted if it were not that way?

If you offer something to God and He accepts it, He takes it for Himself, of course! And for Him to accept your offer there has to be bloodshed. It was like that with Abel, other examples at the time of the law of Moses:

- ⇒ **Leviticus 9:18~24**; Moses and Aaron.
- ⇒ **I Kings 18:17~39**; Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
- ⇒ **I Chronicles 21~26**, David.
- ⇒ **II Chronicles 7:1~3**; Solomon.

- From the beginning, the way for man to reach God through blood sacrifices was established, already pointing to the 'seed of the woman,' the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. At the time of the law of Moses, it was no different; the offering of blood sacrifices was the law. For the nation, God established that sacrifices should be offered to atone for sins. The offering should be repeated every year, because the blood of animals did not take away the sin committed by men; it was propitiation, it was atonement for sins, it was like a temporary covering to appease God's wrath against sin. With this, God could relate to man again.
- However, when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he declared: '*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*' that is, Jesus' sacrifice takes away sin, eliminates it, annihilates it; it is the perfect sacrifice, carried out only once. When we accept Jesus' sacrifice, we are justified before God and nothing prevents Him from relating to us, so much so that the Holy Spirit comes to live within our new spirit, and we become the temple of the Holy Spirit of God.

⇒ **Hebrews 8, 9, 10:1~18**; The animal sacrifices from year to year X the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, only once.

5.3 The beginning of civilization

⇒ **Genesis 4:17~24**; The beginning of our civilization.

- **V.17**: '*Cain knew his wife*'; she was his blood sister. As we have seen, in the beginning brothers cohabited, the race was being formed, later this was prohibited.
- **V.23 and V.24**; this is the result of man being led by his conscience. He murdered and injured, then called his wives and sang in 'verse and prose' his acts. And he even mocked God: 'I am here God, you can come with vengeance 70 x 7 and not 7 times as the You said to Cain', it was mockery!
- We see in the development of the race a very great contrast with the theory of evolution. The fantastic story of prehistory, the caveman, billions of years of evolution, etc. Here, in the 3rd generation, grandchildren of Adam, what do we see?

V.20: ⇒ '*father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock*'.

V.21: ⇒ '*father of all those who play the harp and flute*'; the harp is a very sophisticated instrument.

V.22; ⇒ '*an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron*'. human history, right at the beginning of the Bible, begins in the metal age.

- There was indeed 'involution'! The action of sin and death in man was deteriorating the human race. The material development in that 3rd generation was incredible. If we study history, we will see how impressive this is. However, the spiritual development was zero.

⇒ **Genesis 4:25~26**

We conclude from **V.26** that for many years man did not call on the name of the Lord. Adam and Eve certainly did, but the people as a people did not. It was only when Enosh, the son of Seth, was born those men, the people as a people, began to call upon the name of the Lord.

- And Jesus gives us a warning about that time. Science was in full swing, but spiritual development was nil.

⇒ **Matthew 24:37~39**; Jesus speaking of His 2nd coming, after the tribulation that will occur on earth.

- '**... as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be**'. In the days before the flood, this is where the time is clearly defined. Jesus is making a comparison and that is why we must pay close attention to this time, the time immediately before the flood. Jesus is saying that when He returns, the world will be similar to that time.
- At that time, the spiritual deterioration was so great that of the existing population (estimated at +/- 1 billion people), after the flood, only 8 people remained. It is frightening, because Jesus says that it will be similar when He returns. And when you look around, you see that very few people accept Jesus and are saved.
- **V. 20 to 22** shows that material development, science, was very great. **V. 26**, however, shows that spiritual development was null, because it was only after Enos that men began to invoke God. Today we see science in frightening development, we lack imagination to think of what man will invent.
⇒ **Daniel 12:4**; in the last times '*the knowledge shall increase*'.
- At the same speed that science grows, the spiritual part of man will decrease. As Paul said to Timothy: in the last days, teachings of demons will invade the planet.

⇒ **I Timothy 4:1~5**

- That is why Jesus compares the period before the flood, the situation in which man found himself, with the time of the last days before His return at the end of the tribulation. This will happen after the rapture, when the Church is no longer here on earth. What we are seeing today is the embryo; we see only the beginning; we see only the preparation of the planet.
- When the Church leaves the earth, in the rapture, the way will be clear for Satan to put into action, to manifest in concrete terms, the last thing that is in his heart (remember? ⇒ **Isaiah 14:13~14**): I will be like the Most High. Then the earth will see, we have no idea, what this period of tribulation will be like.

- We see the preparation of the generation, without a doubt. The generation is being prepared, and the attack is especially against children. Children are being prepared through literature, through TV, through schools, through the customs that are entering families. We have to be very attentive to what our children are being taught. The teachings of demons are growing in a frightening way and Jesus is warning us. Let's go into the next study, in $\Rightarrow$ **Genesis 6**, which will give a good measure of what Satan is capable of doing and is doing, to disrupt God's plan to save man.