

Chapter 11

The First Human Death



LIKE A CLEAR STREAM OF COMMON SENSE, this realisation courses through our minds in ever deepening volumes.

Now from our seats of wooden logs we rise from our resting place. We follow This Man to yet another intersection of life which branches off into a very narrow path on one side, and a broader, easier path on the other. Once again This Man speaks words of wisdom to our minds. Pointing to the narrow way he explains:

“We have taken a narrow path before. See how this way before us is narrower. This narrow way is God’s spiritual path which winds through this world’s conflict of good and evil. Be wise and vigilant for in this narrow way Satan and demon spirits wait to ensnare those who might stray in mind, body and spirit. Oh yes, this narrow way passes through enemy territory. So walk directly in the footsteps of the King’s only begotten Son. Believe in Him. Have faith in Him. Entrust your life to Him. Cast all worldly baggage from your lives, and empty your soul of unbelief, fear and mistrust. Be watchful to avoid Satan’s stumbling stones of false teachings cast in the way, and avoid his false signs that lead away from God’s heavenly kingdom. Oh yes there are many false paths that dazzle with promise but lead down into the abyss of Satan’s domain. Even on this narrow path you can be tricked and become lost.”

Now This Man turns his gaze toward the broad way and once again lays before our lives freedom of choice. As if displayed on a panorama screen we view the broad way of easygoing life, echoing sounds of worldly pleasures. Drinking, gambling, immorality, dishonesties, corruptions, murders, theft and fraudulent dealings. Sins of every kind grip the people like jaws of clinching steal. Oh yes, there are many who feel they are free, and living the good life, but in reality they are caught in a snare of indifference, willfully blind to the spiritual realm of God.

Now, thankfully, and not too soon, the broad way dissolves before our eyes into empty illusions.

Without any hesitation I choose the narrow way. Which way do you choose?

And so This Man leads us forward in the narrow way leading to God’s heavenly kingdom.

Soon we arrive on the banks of a deep chasm. It appears we have come to a dead end. Are we being tested? So with faith we kneel in prayer to our heavenly Father and miraculously He opens before our eyes a suspension bridge spanning the chasm to the opposite bank.

One by one we enter the bridge, walking with concentration. Reaching the centre, we look down into the jagged chasm far below. In the same instant our faith latches onto the Son’s saving life which spans the chasm of sin and eternal death. And so believing in God’s saving

grace we cross over the chasm reaching His solid path of safety.

With a thankful prayer in our hearts we venture on with This Man until we enter a mysterious glade. Grey fog swirls around us almost banishing the path. This Man stops and in the swirling fog we glimpse the outline of an altar of worship. This Man explains how religions of strange beliefs worship false gods here. Even the symbol of the Christian cross is inscribed upon the altar. This Man bids us not to enter upon this unholy ground. He tells us that this pagan altar and many like it have their origin in earth's beginnings when Satan began to corrupt true worship even in the midst of earth's first family. We continue to stand on the solid path of God's righteousness while This Man's voice carries us back to the land of Eden where we find Adam and Eve are proud parents of a growing family.

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said 'I have acquired a man from the LORD. Then she bore again, this time to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. Genesis 4:1-2

Through the routine of daily life, Adam teaches his sons the subtle difference between good and evil and how God's plan of salvation can permeate their lives in a saving relationship with Him.

As the boys gather with their parents at the family altar they learn the significance of the sacrifice. And eventually they take responsibility for their own souls, to offer sacrifice for sin.

And so ...in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his stock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but he did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. Genesis 4:3-5

With repentance for sin and love for the great King and His Son, Abel looks over his flock and selects a perfect lamb. Having no defects, this lamb is a fitting representation of the heavenly Son.

Laying his hand upon the lamb's head Abel confesses his wrongdoings then performs the sorrowful ritual of slaughter. The lamb's death foreshadows the tremendous cost of salvation - the Son's life for his.

Abel does the right thing; he brings a lamb for an offering of sacrifice as God commanded. His obedience demonstrates his faith in the sacrificial system.

And what about Abel's older brother, Cain? As a sure display that the fallen nature is passed on from generation to generation, Cain chooses rebellion and veers from God's plan of salvation. For a sin offering Cain presents to God fruit from the earth.

No doubt Cain diligently cultivated the soil producing some very fine fruit indeed, even without blemish. But human works can never take the place of the blood sacrifice.

The fruit offering cannot be accepted by God because the fruit has no blood to shed as atonement for sin.

...without shedding of blood there is no remission. Hebrews 9:22

For ‘...the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.’ *Leviticus 17:11*

Thus Cain’s sin offering of fruit is rejected by God. Yet Cain understands the importance of God’s Son as the sacrificial lamb ...*slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8.*
...*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29*

Cain’s problem is his rebellious attitude toward God. This festering sore infects his entire life. Cain wants a spiritual relationship with God on his own terms, not in obedience to God’s commandments. What is missing in Cain’s life is genuine love for God.

So the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’ Genesis 4:6-7

*He who despises the word will be destroyed,
But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.
The law of the wise is a fountain of life,
To turn one away from the snares of death. Proverbs 13:13-14*

But alas Cain does not turn away from the snare of death and so inevitably sin rules over him. Through sin, Satan rules over Cain and uses him as his ally against God. Beginning with Cain’s false offering, Satan begins to pollute God’s holy plan with counterfeits, and debase true worship of God.

From Cain’s altar of disobedience to the pagan altars of latter times, down to the altars of modern times, Satan has cut God’s law from its true moorings and run innocent souls aground.”

This Man’s face shows rising concern, and as he continues, warning bells ring in his voice.

“Satan uses many methods and ploys to achieve his goal of evil. Those people he cannot overcome by force, persecution and death, he tries to overcome with cunning and deceit. To lure the multitudes away from God’s saving truth, Satan and his army of demon spirits have raised up a network of false religions with false leaders - throughout history and throughout the world.

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.** And no wonder! **For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.** Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness,** whose end will be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*
*‘Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.**

You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

*A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.
Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
Therefore by their fruits you will know them.’ Matthew 7:15-20*

*To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to
this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isaiah 8:20*

*The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants,
Because they have transgressed the laws,
Changed the ordinance,
Broken the everlasting covenant. Isaiah 24:5*

*It is time for You to act, O LORD,
For they have regarded Your law as void. Psalm 119:126
He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments,
is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 1 John 2:4
‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites,
as it is written:*

*“This people honors Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.
And in vain they worship Me,*

*Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” Mark 7:6-7
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith (the
truth), giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons... 1 Timothy 4:1
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of
God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1*

*For they are spirits of devils, working miracles... Revelation 16:14 kjv
And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.
For many will come in My name, saying, “I am Christ,”
and will deceive many.’ Matthew 24:4-5*

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of
money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, un-
loving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors,
headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of
godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away! 2 Timothy 3:1-5
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but
according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will
heap up for themselves teachers; and **they will turn their ears away
from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.** 2 Timothy 4:3-4*

'You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.' John 8:44

Yes indeed! Through their word of a lie, Satan and his demons have tried to attack God's word on every front. They are forever scheming to pull down Biblical signposts for true direction and raise up false signs pointing away from God's heavenly kingdom.

In this way, Satan sets before the people a feast of false teachings, false salvation, and false worship inviting people to pick and choose whatever they desire. Parading himself before the universe he exalts himself as **the god of this world**, and through a false gospel, Satan receives worship as though he is God!

*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world** hath 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. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV*

Yes, Satan the god of this world seeks to rise above the great King and His Son and establish his own throne in the midst of the universe.

*'For you have said in your heart:
"I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High."*

Isaiah 14:13-14

Alas, there comes a time when the deceived shall stand before God to give an account of their lives. Sadly they shall realise they have given their allegiance to a different power.

'Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?"

And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" Matthew 7:21-23

*There is a way that seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12"*

Now to each of us This Man speaks with emphasis.

"You too must test the content of this story to see if you are receiving God's truth and not being misled.

Like the Jews of Berea you need to search the Bible, and examine the scriptures for yourself to see if the words I speak are truth.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11

...not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 1 Corinthians 2:13

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little. Isaiah 28:10

By gathering Bible texts on a chosen subject and piecing them together, just as you would a jigsaw puzzle, very soon a clear picture of truth appears with the great King and his Son always at the centre.”

For a fleeting moment our minds recall the simple pleasure of a jigsaw - jumbled pieces fitting into a perfect picture. Can living God's way be this simple?

With a promise, This Man reassures us that both time and patience will help our minds tune into spiritual realities.

“As you continue to open your minds and hearts to God's true knowledge, His Holy Spirit will piece together your jumbled lives and form an impression of God's holy character upon your souls.

In this way the beauty of the great King and His Son is openly displayed in saved human lives. This is a work of spiritual art, and that which heavenly angels love to behold.

But alas, in the lives of the proud a different picture forms. As we return to Eden we see the ugly side of Satan's character gouged upon the life of Cain.

To our dismay we find the two brothers Abel and Cain caught up in a struggle over good and evil.

You see, over time, slowly but surely Satan has turned Cain's heart against all that is holy and true. And thus Abel's obedience to God becomes a festering thorn in Cain's thoughts.

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him. Genesis 4:8

Evil wrestles against good until finally by Cain's murderous hands Abel falls dead upon the ground. With one foul blow both Cain and Abel make history on Planet Earth. Cain the first human murderer and, sadly, Abel the first human victim of death.

In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that you should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 1 John 3:10-12

Alas, from this very first murder, the seeds of violence have blown across the world,

germinating over 6000 years into acts of hatred and shedding of blood between families, neighborhoods, communities, cultures and nations.

And so in the field, near the altar of sacrifice, Satan claims the first human life on his own altar of death.

'He was a murderer from the beginning...' John 8:44

Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?'

And He said, 'What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.'

And Cain said to the LORD, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear!

Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone that finds me will kill me.'

And the LORD said to him, 'Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.' And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him. Genesis 4:9-15

Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. Genesis 4:16"

A WHITE CRYSTALLINE POWDER HAS COLLAPSED WORLD EMPIRES, caused millions of car accidents and silently triggered billions of cases of mental and physical illness.

Can you guess the substance? Cocaine? Heroin?

Afraid not. Sugar is the substance we are talking about, and the news is more sick than sweet. Some historians and a growing number of doctors, scientists and researchers have discovered some very sour secrets about sugar. Below are just a few of the nasty truths health professionals have uncovered about sugar:

- Sugar feeds cancer cells and has been connected with the development of cancer of the breast, ovaries, prostate, rectum, pancreas, biliary tract, lung, gallbladder and stomach.
- Sugar can suppress your immune system and impair your defenses against infectious disease.
- Sugar causes food allergies.
- Sugar causes weight gain.
- Sugar is an addictive substance
- Sugar can be intoxicating, similar to alcohol.
- Sugar changes healthy foods into substances the body cannot use.
- Sugar can make you go blind.

For another hundred or so reasons how sugar can ruin the health of humans (and other mammals) look up this internet link:

<http://nancyappleton.com/141-reasons-sugar-ruins-your-health/>¹

The list goes on and on and on. After a day or two of reading all the evidence and abstracts of scientific studies, we were frightened.

Here is a “food” which most people believe to be good for energy. Almost 100 years ago the sugar industry started a marketing campaign promoting sugar as a good provider of energy. Is this true? Judge for yourself. This marketing strategy started because scientists employed by the very same sugar industry could find **NO nutritional benefit** to eating sugar. Thus millions of people think sugar does

no harm, it is just one of life's natural pleasures.

Sorry. There is nothing natural about white, raw or brown sugar extracted from sugar cane or sugar beet. Most experts agree sugar cane originated in Papua New Guinea and perhaps ancient China. Sugar cane looks like a lot like big bamboo! The cane is stringy and fibrous, and the juice can be extracted if you have the right kind of machine. The freshly squeezed juice is sickly sweet, a pale gold colour, laced with unusual plant flavours. From this sweet cane juice are many processing stages to reach sugar crystals.

In fact, about 30 metres of sugar cane makes just a half a cup of sugar. Wow! Sugar really is a concentrated substance.

“But I don't add sugar to my tea or coffee and I don't eat sweets,” I hear you say. Believe me when I tell you this is the most common remark I have heard over more than 20 years of promoting a low-sugar lifestyle!

How much sugar is too much? The recommended intake for children and adults is no more than 6 teaspoons or 30 grams (1.05 ounces) of added sugars per day. That works out to 10.9 kg of sugar per person per year or 24 pounds and 2 ounces. Surely though, people wouldn't eat that much sugar would they?

In Australia, in 2012 the average daily consumption of added sugars was not 6 teaspoons, not 12 teaspoons, not 18 teaspoons but a massive 27 teaspoons a day. Teenagers clocked in at nearly 40 teaspoons of sugar a day in 2012. ²

How much sugar would 27 teaspoons be over a year? A massive 49.3 kg of sugar per person over a year. Just close your eyes for a minute, and picture 49 bags of sugar sitting on the floor of your room!

In the United States, you can see how sugar consumption increased over the massive increase in sweetened foods and drinks over 300 years:

- In 1700, the average person consumed about 4 pounds or 1.8kg of sugar per year.
- In 1800, the average person consumed about 18 pounds or 8.2kg of sugar per year.
- In 1900, individual consumption had risen to 90 pounds or 40.8kg of sugar per year. ³

In 2009, more than 50 percent of all Americans consume one-half pound of sugar PER DAY—translating to a whopping 180 pounds or 81.6kg of sugar per year per person!

The truth is, most of the sugars people eat are hidden. Thousands and thousands of processed products, many marketed as “healthy” contain sugar of one type or another. Here are a few: tinned fruits AND vegetables, baked beans, tinned spaghetti, packet soups and sauces, potato crisps, tomato sauce, jams, fruit drinks, breakfast cereals, drinking chocolate and other drink mixes, cakes, biscuits, rice crackers, frozen chicken pieces, stock powders, soy sauce, flavoured milk, yoghurt, ice cream, muesli bars, bread, dried cranberries, dried mango, dried pineapple, many low fat products... the list goes on and on.

Clearly the manufacturers here well aware that sugary foods and drinks are winners as far as profits go. But do they care about our health?

Also clearly, eating and drinking sweet foods is something most people enjoy, but do they know the dangers to their bodies and minds?

References:

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