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From the book “The Ministry of Salvation” (18)

Learning from falling in sin

How should have man benefited from fall and its consequences?

How did man behave after he was expelled from paradise, and after the flood?

As Man experienced the joyful life with God, and then later he experienced the bitterness of the fall and sin, he was supposed to learn to live with God and to obey his commandments. Even though he was judged with death, God manifested His love towards him, and offered him the promise of salvation. Therefore, man should have adhered to God and kept his commandments, and held on to the promise of salvation which he obtained. Unfortunately, man didn't do that, but to the contrary, he increased in his iniquity, persisted in his sin, as it was mentioned in the book of Genesis: *“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*” (Genesis 6:1-6).

“The sons of God” mean Seth's sons. Seth is Adam's son who was born after the killing of Abel, and he and his descendents were considered to be the holy offspring, and that about his birth it was said: *“Then men began to call on the name of the LORD”* (Genesis 4:26).

So Seth's sons *“the sons of God”* married *“the daughters of men”*, which means Cain's daughters. Cain represents the evil offspring who inherited evil and sin, until Lamech came, who was from Cain's offspring, and who represented pride and reliance on man's arm, so it was said: *“If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”* (Genesis 4:24). God promised Cain, Lamech's grandfather, to take revenge sevenfold from the person who kills him. So Lamech with his own arm, without God, would be able to take revenge for himself seventy-sevenfold. Thus the holy offspring, Seth's offspring, mixed with the evil offspring, Cain's offspring, because of lust and physical beauty *“that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose”*. As a result evil spread among mankind, which brought so much sadness to God's heart. *“The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart”*.

Then, God decided to end mankind's life, except eight souls, who were: Noah, his wife, and his three children Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their three wives. So God ordered Noah to build the ark: *“And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.”* (Genesis 6:13-14).

Noah continued building the ark for nearly one hundred years. This period of time was supposed to warn mankind and make them repent. However, this didn't happen until the flood came. Thus evil was wiped out, and God offered mankind a start of a new life, represented by Noah and his children.

After the flood, man was supposed to recognize that sin is very wrong, and that there is no peace or rest except when man lives with God. Regretfully, man didn't learn the lesson even after the flood, to the contrary, he built the tower of Babel.

“Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the LORD said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.” So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.” (Genesis 11:1-9).

Thus after the flood, instead of mankind becoming humble, and recognize that their salvation lies in staying away from sin and drawing near to God, they sought refuge in building a huge tower to protect them, in case God brought another flood. *“Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”* The result was that God confused their languages and scattered them throughout the face of the whole earth, and without bringing another flood, as He promised. They didn't benefit from the tower which they built.

That is to say, man increased in his evil and persists in sin instead of obeying God and living with him in a holy life. Therefore, man didn't benefit from the fall and its bitter consequences. Additionally he didn't learn from the flood.

Fr. Marcos Daoud

frmorcosdaoud@yahoo.com

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL