

God's word of grace for us

The word of grace is His word of life and truth to us, individually, and to our households. And we can lay hold of His grace by receiving this word. The word of grace, in all its truth, is the gospel of sonship. The apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians saying, 'All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing just as it has been among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth'. We receive an understanding of this gospel of God's grace, in all its truth from those who preach and teach the message, by the Holy Spirit who is sent from heaven. God gives us the word of His grace so that we can be holy and set apart to do His will. This is His purpose in coming to us. And God's grace of life empowers us to live our life as sons of God, as those who are led by the Holy Spirit. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

The covenant will and purpose of God is to bring many sons to glory. God's purpose for us is to be heirs together of the grace of life. This is the overarching covenant that God has sought with mankind. It is only *by faith* that we can *endure* and seek God's purpose and will for our lives. When we receive a word, and the enabling for the word to come to pass, then we can *proceed* in that word. This word of grace comes to us from the messengers who are sent to us. And we must have *faith* to believe that this word is going to produce righteousness and sanctification. It is going to produce what God wants to do in our lives.

References:

Act 20:32 Php 2:16
Col 1:6 1Pe 1:12
Rom 8:14 Heb 2:10
1Pe 3:7 Jas 1:3

Further Study

Joh 6

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 4

First the natural then the spiritual

Adam and Eve were created as a 'natural' man and woman. We are reminded that Paul said, 'First the natural and then the spiritual'. Adam and Eve had *psuche* (soul) life and identity, but they did not yet possess the *zoe* life of God. God gave them the right to choose or reject His *zoe* life. In this way, their journey is similar to ours. We too, begin in the natural, and must make our journey all the way to the spiritual.

It is only by God's enabling that we can endure along the pathway from the natural to the spiritual. God's word will always come to pass in the fullness of time. The word of Satan is a lie, for Satan is the father of all lies, and is devoid of the truth. He will always preempt the word of the Lord and cause the impatience of our carnality to rise up, tempting us to 'run ahead'. The trial, testing, perseverance and patient endurance of our faith, all occur between hearing the purpose of God's will toward us and receiving the word by which that purpose shall come to pass.

Eve was willing to hear Satan's point of view when God's word seemed to be slow in 'coming to pass'. She presumed that she could bring the word of the Lord to pass in her own time, by another way. Eve did not wait for the 'fullness of time' for God's mandate for her life to be realised. We could say that she had set her mind on what was 'natural' or 'logical' to her own flesh. Like Eve, women can be vulnerable to the desires of the flesh and seek to rule their households according to their carnal nature and the culture of this world. The Lord wants to equip and strengthen every woman for their part in establishing their households with their husbands, and in raising their children.

References:

1Co 15:46 Gal 4:4
Joh 8:44 Rom 8:5-6
Col 3:18-19 Gen 3:16

Further Study

2Ti 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 5

The mandate given to Adam

God had given Adam a command to live out his life in the garden, and he was commanded to do certain things. One of those things was to name all the living creatures that God brought to him. The Lord looked with interest to see what he named these creatures, and the Scriptures say that everything that he named, that's what its 'name' was. And that's also what its 'nature' was.

Thinking of *marriage*, it is interesting that Adam was asked by the Lord to name everything that was given to him. When we consider the order of headship in a family, we realise that the *word of grace of the Lord* comes to a family from a *husband* as he names the mandate for his house, and commands his children after him. This is how we *connect* to the *Covenant of the Lord* as households. And this is a husband's role. He is to bring that *proceeding word of the Father* to his wife and family.

We know that husbands, in headship from Christ, hold the accountability and mandate from God to establish their homes and command their children in the ways of the Lord. The role of mothers is to be true to that mandate and encourage their husbands to stand firm and establish their homes. When Eve was presented to Adam, he called her 'woman' because she was *taken out of man*, and he *named* her. But Eve became increasingly unhappy in the garden and we wonder why that was so. She lived in paradise! God used to come in the cool of the day and meet with them in the evenings. What more would anyone want in a place such as the garden of Eden? However, something happened that made Eve vulnerable to listening to the word of Satan when he came into the garden.

References:

1Co 11:3 Gen 18:19
1Ti 3:5-6 Isa 38:19
Gen 2:8-9, 19-23

Further Study

Psa 78

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 6

The need for patience

In the book of Genesis, before the first woman had conceived, she was named Eve, the mother of all living. As the woman, she was to be the comparable helper to Adam. She was created to be comparable and accountable to the mandate that Adam had received from the Lord. She knew that, in the fullness of time, she would participate with him in the fullness of this mandate. The Lord had spoken to Adam about his mandate and she had a part in it. She was with him to fulfil her part in this mandate to be fruitful and multiply.

However, as a *natural* woman, she heard the word of the Lord and proceeded to bring it about in her *own strength* and in her *own time*. Timing is important, and God wants us to *wait* for the right time. For Eve, it was to be in the fullness of time that the Lord would come to her with His word. His word was proclaiming the *word of motherhood* to her. But Eve did not wait for the fullness of time for God's mandate to be realised. She wanted another way and because of this, the serpent came into the garden with many alternative ideas and thoughts; and Eve was prepared to *listen*. There was something in her heart by which Satan was able to draw her away.

Like us, Adam and Eve were given a *choice*. They could choose to walk God's way, or they could choose the way of the serpent. Eve chose to listen to the serpent, and so brought judgement on the whole house. Eve set her mind on the logical things common to her *own* natural mind and womanhood. Likewise, we can be impatient in this same way. We stretch out our hands and seek to do things in the most logical, efficient way in the least amount of time.

References:

Gen 1:28 Gen 2:18
Rth 1:16 IKi 18:21
Joh 6:67-68 Gal 4:4
Eph 1:10 Gen 49:10

Further Study

Jos 24

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 7

Drawn away from the life of God

Think of all the things that draw us away from the life of God. As Eve looked at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, another way was already working in her life as she was turning away from the word that had come to her. Eve had an open relationship with the Lord, and yet her lust, her cravings and her desire for something more, made her very vulnerable to the serpent and the proposition he had for her. It is our natural propensity to 'run ahead' when we hear the word of the Lord, and then, by our own strength, seek to bring it to pass. Eve had all these same desires and natural propensities as we do, and she took hold of this instead of taking hold of the proceeding word.

When Jesus went into the wilderness, He was tempted by the devil who said, 'You can make cakes out of these stones'. But Jesus said, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word that proceeds* from the mouth of God'. This is the very thing that Eve turned away from. She turned away from the very source that would give her the things that she was craving for. Eve had become very unsettled and restless. Perhaps it was because Adam wasn't naming her in the way that she thought he should. The Lord has set His word in our hearts and in our homes. Yet, every day, we have a visit from the whisperer; from the one who would turn us from the way that the Lord would have us go.

References:

Deu 4:19

Act 20:30

Pro 4:5

2Jn 1:9

Mat 4:4

Deu 32:46

Further Study

Joh 15

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 8

Our own desires draw us away

When Satan came into the garden, Eve was 'ripe' for his presentation. He didn't cause her to sin; it was her own lusts that drew her away and caused her to sin. When she looked at that tree, all her fleshly desires came to the surface. Eve did not understand true offering as she turned aside to look at the tree of knowledge and the proposition that Satan was tempting her with. She was looking at something that was 'good for *provision*' from her *own resources*. She looked at what would make her *wise*. And she saw the wisdom of God in the garden, and that she could get it for herself.

Putting her scenario into our situations, we can see the reasons why we do things. When we look at all those things, they activate the lustful desires that draw us away from the proceeding word. And when we have our ear open for the whisperer, he's right there to say, 'Has God said this? Is this really true?' So we listen and think that the Lord is a long time in coming to answer our prayers. He's a long time in coming to give me a name. Eve needed a word to quicken her to motherhood so that she could conceive and bring forth a godly seed. At this crucial time, she was turning right away from the word from the mouth of the Father. And she was turning away from the mandate of her husband.

References:

Jas 1:13-15

Job 31:1

1Jn 2:16

Gen 3:1, 6

1Pe 1:23

Further Study

Dan 10

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 11

Trial, testing and endurance

Trial, testing, perseverance, and the endurance of our faith occur between hearing the word and *receiving* the word of the Lord by which His purpose comes to pass. Trial and testing come before we receive the ability to do His will, just as it was for Eve in the garden. We need to learn from her impatience and propensity to 'run ahead' of the timing of God. She had to have faith, even in paradise. She had to accept God's word and have faith to believe that He knew what He was doing, and that it was going to come to pass. However, she lost faith and started to look for *another way*.

When we do this, Satan is there, and he has plenty of reasons why we should not wait for a word from the Lord. Do we have a listening ear when Satan comes into our paradise? We live in God's chosen paradise for us, in God's chosen place for us. No matter what our situation, this is where God has us at this present time. Satan comes to exploit our unhappiness with another word, another way, and we can be willing listeners. We need to watch and pray that we do not enter into temptation. The reason why Eve entered into temptation was that she was looking for another way. She did not watch and pray, and temptation was at the door. She could have mastered it but she fell from the grace of God. Because she had lost faith and did not pray, she was tempted and fell into sin. Eve found the journey from the natural to the spiritual full of grief and heartbreak. However, God had to take her this way to bring her back to Himself.

References:

Jer 35:13 Mat 13:20
Gen 4:7 Rom 7:8-9
Jas 1:14-15 Rom 2:7-10

Further Study

Exo 14

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 12

A change of culture

Eve heard the word that the Lord spoke to the serpent in the garden. He said, 'I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. Her seed will bruise or crush your head and you shall bruise him on the heel.' Eve had to find faith for godly seed. It is very clear that she made a huge shift of culture when she was confronted with the situation between her two sons. Eve saw the destruction that Cain was bringing in his family. After he killed his brother, the seven generations of Cain were destructive, hateful murderers. Eve knew that something had to change, because the word of the Lord was not going to come through the line of Cain. Eve changed her culture and went again to her husband and Seth was born. This was another time, another way, in a different culture. And when Seth had a son, the Scripture says that men started to call themselves by the name of the Lord.

The evidence of Eve's change was that she stood up and declared that *offering* was now the mode of her culture. She had changed and she knew that, through another seed, in another mode, that culture would connect to the 'seventy times seven'. This is the prophetic word concerning the coming of Jesus Christ to make an end to sin and bring in everlasting righteousness. So the new culture in her home was based in and directed towards God. And in her house, children were then taught to call upon the name of the Lord. We need to teach that in our families, in our homes, so that our children will be part of that godly line.

References:

Gen 1:15 Dan 9:24
Heb 9:12-14 Col 2:8
Gen 4:23-26

Further Study

Mar 7

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 13

What have you done?

When Satan came and questioned Eve, saying, 'Has God said?' she was drawn away by her own lusts. She took of the fruit and ate it, and at that point she was shut off from the life of God. And she turned to her husband and gave it to him, and he ate with her. Many times in our homes, a wife demands that her husband follow the things that are born in her fleshly desires. And many times the men as husbands bend and give way, against what they know to be the will of God for them and their house. This is something that we need to consider as husbands and as wives. We must be sure that we are not drawn away from the life of God by the ungodly cultures that we are harbouring in our homes.

When God said to the man, 'What have you done?' He blamed the 'woman You gave me.' When He said to the woman, 'What have you done?', she blamed the devil for her fleshly desires and her sin in turning away from the Lord. So the devil received his punishment and the Lord said, 'I will put enmity between you and the woman, her seed and your seed. Her seed will crush your head, your seed with bite her heel.' The enmity between the devil and the woman began there. The punishment was dealt out and the ground was cursed. Eve would have children in much pain. Her desire would be towards her husband, and he would rule. As a consequence of the fall, all the activities of law that we have in our marriages are active so that we cannot be joined together in one spirit. The mind set on the flesh becomes the source of many quarrels and conflicts. However, the Lord wants to deliver us from that.

References:

Jas 1:14 Gen 31:19
Rom 5:12 Jas 4:1
Gen 3:11-16 Php 1:27

Further Study

Jas 4

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 14

Restored to the Lord's will

After the Lord had clothed them, Adam did the very thing that Eve was looking for. He *named* her. He named her 'Eve', which means 'the mother of all living'. At last, the word of *motherhood* had come to her. Yet, she had fallen between hearing God's *word* for them to be fruitful and multiply, and receiving the word and the power for her to proceed with her husband in bringing forth godly seed. She was tempted. She could not wait. She could not watch. It reminds us of the garden in Gethsemane, where the disciples could not wait and watch for one hour. They were overcome with grief, just as Eve was overcome by the flesh that was drawing her away in lust to sin.

Nevertheless, we know that Eve was redeemed and restored to the Lord's will and purpose. They were able to repent, and the Lord stepped in and revived them again. Eve 'went to her husband' and that order of headship was re-established and they were again together as one, and in one spirit. After Eve had changed her culture, Seth was born. She called him 'Seth', and said, 'The Lord has given me *provision* of a man in place of Abel,' whom Cain killed. Eve was then able to stand up and call the *name* of their home, call the *culture* of their home and the mode by which they were going to live. She committed her house to a culture of *offering*, where offering is the mode of life and multiplication. When we live in a mode of offering, then *faith* is working by *love*. We can love and *serve* one another.

References:

Gen 3:20 Act 1:4
Php 3:20 Gen 4:25
Gal 5:1
Mat 26:40-41

Further Study

Act 15

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 15

Dealing with the flesh

When we look at Abraham and Sarah, we notice that many of their experiences are similar to the lives of Adam and Eve. We know that Sarah brought Hagar into the home. Abraham and Hagar had a son called Ishmael. Abraham cried out to the Lord, asking 'that Ishmael might live'. He loved this boy; this child of the flesh. God said, 'No', and reiterated that the promised son would come through Sarah in due time. However, because Abraham and Sarah hadn't waited, they had brought forth this son of the flesh. When God met Sarah, He quickened her and gave her strength to conceive and have Isaac.

When Sarah saw the son of the bondwoman scoffing, she realised that the *culture* of the flesh held them in *bondage*, and the promised child could not be free. She said to Abraham that the bondwoman and her son must be cast out of their home. Now, Abraham loved his son and he was comfortable with the lifestyle. So Sarah went to the Lord and the Lord worked in their lives. Eventually, He spoke to Abraham and said that he should listen to his wife.

When Adam listened to *his* wife, it was a completely different scenario. This was because the *temptation* was there. Eve was feeding him the wrong *source of life*. Eve was feeding him what *she* had received from the tree of knowledge and what her flesh had desired. Because this wasn't what the Lord was giving him, he died in sin with his wife. And so the Lord said, 'Because you have listened to her voice, this is your punishment'. Eve was under the bondage of Cain for seven generations. Then, at the seventh generation, she stood up and said, 'Offering is my mode'. And she put to death the way of sinful, disobedient children.

References:

Gen 21:9-12

Gal 4:29

Rom 8:13

Gen 4:23-26

Gen 17:18-19

Gal 5:17

Gen 3:17

Further Study

Gen 16

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 18

In bondage for ‘seven times’

Eve found the journey from the natural to the spiritual to be full of grief. However, she made a huge cultural shift, which brought her to the point of believing for the hope of sonship. It was in the seventh generation of the human race before Eve finally made that cultural shift. Eve’s bondage to the seed of Cain had filled a fullness of seven times. She saw the destructiveness of their behaviour, their killing and hating of one another, and she refused to have any further part in it. It was at this point that she was delivered from her bondage to the seed of Cain and her punishment came to an end. Seven times had passed by her, and she now acknowledged that ‘the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men’.

The seven generations that had been born, from Cain to Lamech, were ‘sons of disobedience’. We can see the very point where Eve was illumined and delivered by God’s provision for her. Her ‘seven times’ process was at an end. Her deliverance and cultural shift to godly motherhood had come. It was when she heard Lamech boast to his wives, ‘Listen to my voice, you wives of Lamech, give heed to my speech, for I have killed a man for wounding me; and a boy for striking me; if Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold’. Eve knew that her bondage to the seed of Cain was over at the end of seven times. She also knew that the prophecy of the ‘seventy times seven’ did not belong to the seed of Cain through Lamech. Her faith rejected the presumption of the generations of Cain to Lamech, and the seven times had passed over her. Eve could now embrace the ‘seventy times seven’ prophecy that encompasses Christ, the true Seed of the woman, who would ‘crush the serpent’s head’.

References:

Gen 4:23-26 Dan 4:17
Eph 5:1-6 Gen 3:15
1Jn 3:8 Heb 10:14
Col 2:13-14

Further Study

Dan 9

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 19

Restoring the godly seed

We read the prophecy in the book of Daniel, ‘Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place’. In this prophecy, God re-established the seed of sonship and proclaimed the seventy times seven prophecy that belongs to Christ. He determined to bring in everlasting life and righteousness in the new heavens and earth.

Eve had to wait until the fullness of her failure was resolved by the word of prophecy, and then enter by faith into her hope in the fullness of time. When it ended, she stood up and declared that offering was the mode of her culture; one that would cause men to call on the name of the Lord. Eve went to her husband and she knew him again; this time in a different way – a way of offering. They could now participate in the mandate God had given them. The Lord rejuvenated them, and Eve conceived and bore Seth.

Eve said, ‘God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel; for Cain killed him’. As a mother with her children, Eve sanctified her household by the word of God, as the helper comparable to her husband. The apostle Paul speaks, in 1Timothy 2, of the women who shall be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness with self-control. He says that such a woman is obedient and in silence. ‘Silence’ is a feminine word meaning ‘desisting from bustle or loud chatter’; ‘quietly receives instruction’; ‘undisturbed’; ‘quiet’; ‘still – in silence’.

References:

Dan 9:24 Php 3:9
Gen 4:25-26 1Ti 2:8-15
Gal 4:4-5 1Co 11:3
Mal 2:14-15

Further Study

Act 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 20

A spiritual mother

A woman, as a spiritual mother, is firstly a daughter of God, and then she is a sister, a wife to her husband, and a godly mother. Her identity and capacity for fellowship is found in her sisterhood. And it is activated in the fellowship of Christ and His offering. The capacity to be a godly mother or, indeed, a godly father, is only operative and effective in the fellowship of Christ. This fellowship is the *koinonia* of Christ and it is sourced in the covenant from which our name and identity is recorded in the Lamb's book of life. The New Covenant has been given to us for our participation in Christ's body and blood (*zoe* life).

The exercise of fatherhood and motherhood must be according to our identity, our name and predestination from the heavenly Father. Our identity is being securely established in Christ and growing in the process of perfection by true offering in the *koinonia* of Christ. Without this fellowship of offering, any aspiration to 'spiritual fatherhood and motherhood' becomes an empowered projection, based in position, education or personal skill and appearance of authority. It becomes an identity-verifying exercise because it is not founded in fellowship and offering. It is in danger of becoming a 'power over' mechanism, based on personal performance.

When anxiety drives this whole manner of functioning, then our genuine relational connection in the fellowship is taken over by forceful assessment-driven advice. It cannot bring life to those who are seeking counsel. Rather, it will only bring others into conformity with our religious instruction. This scenario is not the *koinonia* of Christ. This mode of ministry and use of Scripture as a directive is misleading. A person can only find the will of God for his or her life through offering in fellowship.

References:

1Co 10:16 1Co 1:9
1Jn 1:6-7 1Pe 2:5
Rom 12:1-2 Php 4:18

Further Study

Pro 31

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 21

The free woman

We need to seek the Lord to receive the capacity to live in the culture of godly motherhood. Is this your desire? As mothers, we train our children in the ways of the Lord to see them set free from the bondage of sin to serve the Lord. We need to teach them to call upon the name of the Lord for themselves. As mothers, we ourselves need to be delivered from the yoke of bondage and be set free with the freedom of the free woman from above.

Motherhood that is free is joined to the fellowship of Christ and His sufferings and, in this way, joins herself to the Jerusalem from above who is the mother of us all. As we participate in the fellowship of the body of Christ, we are enabled by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and enter the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. The ability of a godly mother comes from her life of offering and accountability towards her family. A natural mother, in her own strength, cannot teach her children to participate in the fellowship of Christ.

The Bible says, 'So then brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman. It was for the freedom of the free woman which Christ has made us free. Therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery [bondage].' Are we like the bondwoman, in bondage with our children, or are we of the Jerusalem from above? The difference lies in the culture of our homes. We are in bondage with our children when we try to protect them, when we try to compensate for them, when we allow them to be in the house living in sinful situations. This is called 'living with your children in bondage'. That was what Hagar did. She corresponds to the Jerusalem which was beneath and is in bondage with her children.

References:

Pro 22:6
Deu 4:9
Gal 5:1

Gen 18:19
2Ti 3:15
Php 3:10

Further Study

Gal 4

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 22

In bondage with our children

Often mothers in their homes defend the children against their father bringing a discipline to them. When we defend the children at these times, we cut across the mandate of the proceeding word coming into the home. God has given this mandate to husbands. What God said about Abraham is also true of godly husbands and fathers. God said that He knew Abraham and that, 'he would command his children and his household after him'. However, it didn't appear to be working out that way. Abraham was harbouring the very thing that was going to seek to discourage and even kill the promised son, Isaac. Sarah could see the disastrous effect of this in the home. Paul said that flesh and spirit can't live together. With Isaac and Ishmael, there was continual conflict in the home. And this is often the way in *our* homes.

Where parents bring unsaved adult children back into the home to look after them and compensate for them, they are actually reinforcing their rebellion. They believe that this is the love of God, and that they are sharing the love of God with them by bringing them in. When we are raising our little children, we are bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. However, there are situations that come into our houses which hinder the grace of God coming through the order of headship to our homes. If we cannot be together in 'one spirit' as husbands and wives in bringing forth godly seed, then there's something radically wrong in our marriages. The Lord wants to restore us so that we are *one spirit together*. Then we can properly send away the rebellion and sin so that our homes can be a culture of godliness.

References:

Gen 18:19 Gal 5:17
Gen 21:9 Gal 4:29
Job 1:5 1Co 10:7

Further Study

Gen 35

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 25

The mode of offering and love

When we embrace the mode of *offering* and *love*, *servicing* one another, we will not serve the disobedience and judgements of our rebellious children. It is the love of God to maintain discipline and bring them back into order. If they will not come, then that is their own prerogative. However, their rebellion cannot be named and accommodated in a godly household that is following the Lord. A godly house is hearing a proceeding word and establishing a culture from above and not from beneath.

As sons of God, we have *one* Father. We know our Father who is in heaven. But let's ask a very interesting question. Who is our mother? Are we children of the freewoman or the bondwoman? Is our home controlled by the culture of the woman from beneath, Hagar, who was in bondage with her children? Are we in bondage with our children? The only way that unsaved children will come back to the Lord is by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, by the culture of offering, and by loving and serving one another. It will not happen by serving the culture of *disobedience*.

We must check the cultures of our homes and make sure that we are together as husbands and wives. Are we together in one spirit, husband and wife, calling on the name of the Lord? Are we offering in the right place, bringing our offering to the Lord amongst the brethren? Then, we will be able to proceed in the hope of sonship and attain all the things that God is bringing to us. And we will have enlightenment to understand the word that He is bringing to us. It is quite a shock to realise that we can be actively keeping our children in bondage because we are not hearing the word or obeying it ourselves.

References:

Gal 5:13
Rom 7:6
Luk 12:37
Mat 19:5

Further Study

Joh 13:14-15
Mat 20:28
Gal 4:26

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 26

A culture that calls on the name of the Lord

In the beginning, Eve turned from the proceeding word of God the Father that was coming to her through her husband. This was the very source of life that would equip her in godly motherhood. However, she did not accept that the way of obedience to God's word, coming from her husband, would accomplish the best outcome for her life. She determined in herself to accomplish her mandate as a woman and mother in her own way, by her own skill. This caused her to be in bondage with her children until she changed her culture and was restored to the faith of godly motherhood.

Our houses must have a culture that calls on the name of the Lord. When we are called by the name of the Lord, then He is bringing a culture of godliness and righteousness to us. We can unhelpfully sympathise with our children. We can condone our adult children and their sinful ways. However, when we connect to them and condone those things that they are standing for against Christ, we are actually keeping them outside. We pray that they will return to the Lord, but we aid and assist them in another culture.

Jesus said to the women who were mourning and crying, 'Don't weep for Me. Weep for yourselves and your children.' He was calling the mothers to reorder their cultures, to call on the name of the Lord and weep for their children. Do not compensate and do not sympathise with their rebellion. Weep for your children and teach them the culture of mourning and the culture of offering. This will make a way for them to again call upon the name of the Lord. We must have this culture in our homes with our little children. We need to start training our children so that they can be set free from the bondage of sin and call upon the name of the Lord.

References:

Luk 23:28 Rom 10:13
1Co 1:2 Psa 116:4
Lam 3:55 Zep 3:9

Further Study

Psa 105

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 27

The seven times

Eve brought forth Cain, who was *like God* but not *of God*. He was a natural man; and there was nothing wrong with being natural until he refused to take an obedient step forward toward the spiritual and be redefined towards sonship. He became a carnal man when he reverted back to the natural and refused his calling. Cain wasn't in sin while he was a gardener, but when he refused to fulfil the mandate of the firstborn son as king/priest, then sin was crouching at his door. The moment he killed his brother, he re-established another way. He cried out that his punishment was too great; 'everyone who meets me will kill me'. So God put a mark on Cain that extended to the limit of seven times.

In the first account, 'seven times' belongs to the children of Cain and it is the chastening of Eve. It belongs to the children of Cain because of the word of the Lord to him and his failure to obey. 'Seven times' belongs to the children of Cain, the son of Eve. And that seven times was the extension of mercy to them. It is a type of the extension of mercy to the natural man, to the Gentile nations. Seven times were given to Cain as a time for repentance. However, he didn't find any place of repentance. So, for that whole period of seven times, Eve was in bondage with her children, the sons of men, the sons of disobedience. The 'seven times seven' prophecy belongs to the *zoe* sons of God. Eve had to be converted and travail in the sufferings of Christ to bring forth Seth, the seed from whom Christ would come to crush the serpent's head.

References:

Gen 4:1, 7, 14-15, 23-24
Dan 9:24 Php 3:10
Gal 4:3, 31 Eph 2:2

Further Study

Col 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 28

The motherhood of the natural, carnal and spiritual man

The covenant of motherhood is to bring forth sons. It's to bring forth sons to express their sanctified name in the fellowship of the New Covenant in Christ. The motherhood of *psyche* life (that is, the life of the natural man) is from the woman. Eve is the mother of everything that is natural. We know that Eve went into bondage with her children because of her carnality. However, Paul tells us that the motherhood of the religious carnal man is Hagar, the Jerusalem from beneath, the Jerusalem that 'now is'. She has a covenant and she is in bondage with her children. This means that she is in bondage to the aspirations that belong to the carnality of her children.

In contrast to this, the spiritual man is brought forth from the motherhood of the New Jerusalem. This is represented by the church on earth. The church is those who are being brought from the motherhood of the Jerusalem that is from above. The ministry of the Jerusalem from above and its administration is through the *angelos* who travail until Christ is formed in the church. We are reminded of the way the apostle Paul addressed the Galatians as, 'My children, with whom I am again in labour until Christ is formed in you'. We need to understand that Paul's view of 'travail' is not just bringing forth the child, but it is the period from conception to birth. This is the travail of the *angelos* who travail as Paul did, until Christ is formed in His disciples. It is this travail that deals with the carnal man, so that we genuinely proceed from the natural to the spiritual as sons of God.

References:

Gen 3:20 1Co 11:11-12
Rom 8:29 Rom 13:14
Gal 4:19, 23, 25-26

Further Study

1Th 2

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 1