

“THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD”

INTRODUCTION

- I. The word “world” appears many many times throughout the Bible with 3 basic meanings.
- A. 1st, it is used with reference to the **universe** as God’s creation, including the earth, the heavens, the sun, planet, and stars. Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3
- B. 2nd, it is used with reference to the people or **inhabitants** of the world, which is numbered into the billions.
- C. 3rd, it is used with reference to the **ways** of the world, whether right or wrong, but usually with emphasis upon the ways of man, that are contrary to God’s ways. Isa. 55:8-9; Prov. 14:12; Matt. 7:13-14
- II. The term, “the world” is also found several times in scripture, and is found 21 times in the first general epistle of the apostle John. In one of these passages, John speaks of “The Sins of the Whole World,” which we are using as the title for our lesson at this time. Now let’s explore the passages using the term, “the whole world.”.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s consider “THE WICKEDNESS OF THE WHOLE WORLD.”

TEXT: “And we know that we are of God, and **the whole world lieth in wickedness.**” (1 John 5:19)

- A. Sin began in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve violated the command of God not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:16-17
1. Sin continued when Cain’s worship did not please God, so he killed his brother Abel.
 2. Then wickedness continued in the world to prompt God to destroy all of mankind with the exception of righteous Noah. Gen. 6:1-8
 3. God poured out His wrath on Sodom and Gomorrah for the practice of homosexuality. Gen. 18:20 (Summarize Gen. 18-21 thru 19:29)
 4. Joseph refused to engage in fornication with Potiphar’s wife, and would have been a wicked act before God. Gen. 39:7-9
 5. God chose a people of Abraham’s seed through whom He would bless the world, and as He led them out of bondage and their sojourn in the wilderness, God was displeased with them because of their wickedness.
 6. The Jews eventually turned against God, and killed His son Jesus who would become the Savior of the world.
 7. Finally, God allowed the Roman army to come in and destroy the city of Jerusalem, which was the center of rebellion and sin against God.
- B. The whole world, Jews and Gentiles, became corrupted and was in need of salvation. Rom. 3:9-12; 2 Tim. 3:13

II. 2nd, let’s consider that “SATAN DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD.”

TEXT: “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Rev. 12:9)

- A. This is **not** referring to the origin of the Devil, but to his curtailing of power in the context of the book of Revelation.
1. Here he is said that he “deceiveth the whole world”, and has done so since he deceived Eve in the garden of Eden, and his influence has continued throughout all the world, as he functions as the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4), or the “prince of this world” (John 12:31).
 2. His sphere of influence is on people on “earth.” Job 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:8
 3. Satan is the cause of all sin in the world through his temptation. John 8:44
- B. Jesus overcame his temptation in the wilderness, and we must resist him as long as we are upon the earth. Matt. 26:41; Jas. 4:7

III. 3rd, let's consider "THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS."

TEXT: "And he is the **the propitiation for our sins:** and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2)

A. The word "propitiation" simply means "atoning sacrifice", referring to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, to atone for sins that they might be forgiven. Matt. 26:28

1. First, John refers to "our" sins, meaning the sins of those already forgiven, and that may be committed after becoming Christians, as we walk in the light, and confess those sins that may be committed after obedience. 1 John 1:7-9
- 2, Second, the word "propitiation" includes those "**of the whole world**" who are not yet forgiven, as He is the potential savior of "the whole world", and the actual Savior of those who obey Him. 1 Tim. 2:3-6
3. We are not to succumb to the 3 avenues of temptation, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. 1 John 2:15-17

B. The gospel is God's power to save "the whole world". Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16

CONCLUSION

I. John gives 2 major reasons for not being deceived by Satan.

A. First, if we love the things of the world, we do NOT love God. 1 John 2:15

B. Second, if we love the things of the world that are mentioned here, we are practicing a way of life that is only temporarily enjoyable, and the fruits of such living is eternal ruin. 1 John 2:17; Heb. 11:25; Rom. 6:21-23

II. We are now going to sing a song of encouragement for anyone present who needs to become a Christian, or to be restored from having drifted into a life of sin.

Don Tarbet