

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## *Bible Discussion Group*

### **Topic: Humanity's Rebellion & God's Covenant with Israel**

#### **Garden of Eden**

- Rebellion in the garden – at the forbidden fruit. *Genesis 3:6*
- Commanded not to eat of the tree in the garden. *Genesis 3:11*
- Result? Removed from garden and would no longer dwell with God in the same way. *"He drove out man." Genesis 3:24*

#### **Cain**

- Killed his brother. *Genesis 4:8*
- Cain went away from the presence of the Lord. *Genesis 4:16*

#### **Humanity**

- All flesh became corrupt. Thoughts of the heart are only evil. *Genesis 5*
- Earth was corrupt in God's sight and full of violence. *Genesis 6:11*
- *"I will destroy them with the earth." Genesis 6:13*
- *"I will bring a flood... to destroy all flesh." Genesis 6:17*
- Tower of Babel – they wanted to build a city in the heavens, to make a name for themselves. *Genesis 11*

#### **REBELLION**

Resulted in separation from God. Rebellion is described "*as the sin of witchcraft*" in 1 Samuel 15:23 and is therefore satanic. In their rebellion, they submitted to the kingdom of darkness, resulting in a separation from God.

The Hebrew word for rebellion is ***marah***, meaning;

1. To be contentious, defiant, refractory, to be disobedient towards, to be resistant of.
2. Towards father
3. Towards God.

#### **Discussion point: How would God have felt by humanity's rebellion against Him?**

- Carly shared how it would have pained the Father, as He would've felt a sense of rejection from His creation. We are to step into God's calling in obedience.
- Shirley shared that pride and rebellion often go hand-in-hand. In a sense, you cannot find rebellion without the presence of pride in one's heart, and likewise where there is pride there is often rebellion.
- Steve shared how examples of rebellion in our own lives, such as being in the challenging position of living with *wayward* children, God can allow us to experience His heart. It hurts to have children turn away and resist us, which is what God may feel as a result of His creations' rebellion.

### Genesis 12 – The Call of Abram

*“Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And **I will make of you a great nation**, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

**Discussion Point: Why is God now wanting to make a ‘great nation’? What is God’s purpose and intent?**

- Chris shared that God took people who, in the eyes of the world, were insignificant, that God would show His character, mercy, and greatness to them despite their rebellion. He called them to be Holy as He is Holy, which is God’s ultimate desire.
- Shirley shared how God created the nation of Israel with the expectation that they would grow to be like Him through obedience – which brings Him glory – and displays His ways and holiness to the world.

### Exodus 19:5-6

*‘Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my **treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a **holy nation**.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”*