

Who Pays for Your Sin?

"And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed: 'The LORD, the LORD, God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy unto the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin; and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and unto the fourth generation.'" Exodus 34:5-7

After the golden calf incident, Moses returned to Sinai with two new tablets of stone, and God met him with these words. All who flirt with disobedience should remember this message; whether the rebel likes it or not, God promises to "...visit the iniquity of the parents upon the children..." Although this is a promise God made to the nation of Israel, we often see its application in today's society.

We mostly see in the Old Testament that the second and third generations suffer for the sins of the parents; rarely does the generation that sinned suffer the consequences. You know this to be true by observing those around you. Children and grandchildren suffer from parents addicted to drugs or alcohol. When they are promiscuous, they pass to their progeny diseases and a poor environment.

The sinner wants to think that the consequences for his behavior fall upon him alone. But such is not the case. The Law of the Harvest may only apply to the individual in the eternal, but in the temporal, it applies to the "third and fourth generation."