

dise, and placed at the entrance thereof an angel with a flaming sword, in order to prevent their return thither.

Q. Did God leave our first parents altogether without hope?

A. No; he promised them that of the woman should be born a Saviour, who was to crush the head of the infernal serpent, which means, to destroy the power of the Evil One, and deliver mankind from the bondage of sin.

Q. How long before Christ was that promise made?

A. It was made four thousand and four years before Christ.

Q. What children had Adam and Eve?

A. Adam and Eve had several children, but the Sacred Scripture mentions particularly only three, Cain, Abel, and Seth.

Q. What great crime was committed by Cain, the elder brother?

A. Cain, being jealous of his brother Abel, whose sacrifices he saw were more acceptable to God than his own, conceived a deadly hatred towards him, and killed him, in the year three thousand eight hundred and seventy-six before Christ.

Q. How did God punish him for this heinous crime?

A. By making him a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and the father of a race as wicked as himself. Despairing of forgiveness for his crime, he refused to repent, or have recourse to the Divine mercy, and died impenitent.