

ADAM & EVE - Entrance of sin

CHRIST-THE LAST ADAM



- **The notes that I am sharing today are modified from Chapter 2 of my DMin thesis, entitled**
- ***PROMISES & ISSUES IN GENESIS AS FULFILLED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT*-December 2001.**
- **Chapter 2 is entitled**
- **PROMISES IN THE PREPATRIARCHAL ERA - Part 2 - CONSCIENCE(Genesis 3).**

- Genesis chapters 1-2 presents a picture of perfection and bliss. Man is in innocence and in fellowship with God.
- Chapters 4-11, however, are characterized by sins of all sorts such as jealousy, anger, murder, lying, corruption, wickedness of all sorts and rebellion, all of which occasioned the judgment of God at the flood. These chapters describe the fruit of sin.
- Since sin was not part of God's original creation we must seek its source.
- **This information is provided in Genesis chapter 3- the pivotal chapter of the Bible. Genesis 3:1-8 provides the answer to the question with respect to the origin or root of sin and evil into the world.**
- **This passage summarizes the occasion when the first human couple whom God had created with the power of choice freely chose to rebel against God at the suggestion of a powerful alien evil spirit who was then, and remains in conflict with God.**

- The length of the period described in Genesis 3, though unknown was probably short. **Mankind was under the Adamic covenant, and the dispensation of Innocence which ended with the fall (Genesis 3:6), was followed by that of Conscience.**
- The main characters are Adam, Eve and the Serpent; and the main events the temptation by Satan, the fall of Adam and Eve, man's attempt to cover his guilt by making fig-leaf aprons, the promise and curse of Genesis 3:15 and man's expulsion from the garden.
- These events are of major importance in understanding the entire Bible. The reason for this is the fact that the Bible may reasonably be divided into two sections: the pre-fall era and the post fall era, for everything changed after man sinned.
- The rest of the Bible is the story of God's remedy for our sin. This remedy was first announced in the very important promise of Genesis 3:15 in the seed of the woman.
- Fulfillment of this promise can be traced throughout the New Testament
- We must also "dissect" the main events of this very short but important period of Bible History if we will get a proper grasp of the Bible.

THE SERPENT VS ADAM & EVE

HIS IDENTITY & HIS MODUS OPERANDI

- Whereas we are unsure as to the exact time Satan's rebellion against God as recorded in Genesis 3 occurred, we know that at the fall, **Satan's first attack on God's first institution to man -the Christian family unit- occurred.**
- **It is note worthy that in his rebellion to God, by tempting Eve to sin, Satan sought to disrupt the family, and to cause division and dissension therein.**
- **It is quite clear that this is still one of Satan's ploys.**

- **Genesis 3:1** reveals that Satan used the serpent, who was more crafty and subtle than any of the beasts in the field as his instrument in the temptation of Eve.
- **Several New Testament passages** such as Romans 16:20; Revelation 12:9; 20:2; 2 Corinthians 11:3,14 inter alia **identify the serpent as no other than Satan, the Devil.**
- **Apparently he approached Eve first because of some inherent weakness, which he perceived in the woman such as curiosity, or because he knew that she had gotten the prohibition second hand from Adam.**
- **Whereas Adam had received the command directly from God and knew the precise details, Eve had received the instruction afterwards, Satan probably sought to question whether she had heard correctly and thus caused her to concentrate on the prohibition rather than the privileges which she was currently enjoying in the garden.**

- In his role of deceiver, Satan subtly succeeded in inducing Eve to sin by causing her to doubt the word and promise of God with respect to the consumption of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve then encouraged Adam to join her in her error (1 Timothy 2:14).
- Satan first created doubt in Eve's mind by first exciting her curiosity, so that she questioned God's love, goodness, righteousness, and holiness.
- He got her to question whether God had permitted her to eat of every tree of the garden .By thus raising doubt in her mind, he was able to get her when repeating God's command to add to it "Neither shall ye touch it," in 3:3, and to omit "all" or "every" in 3:2.
- From there, Satan next lied blatantly as he categorically denied God's word and suggested that God was wrong to suggest that death would result from eating the fruit. He finally asserted that in fact, if she were to partake of the fruit she would become as God. He then posited that God was really withholding a benefit from her in his declaration.
- In this way he was truly "a liar from the beginning as stated by Jesus in John 8:44.

- **Satan's practice is still to get us to doubt, rather than to stand on the promises of God, and his agents and cohorts would similarly have us to be confused about the truth of God's word by subtly contradicting God's word or substituting his word for God's dictates.**
- Some add law and other man made requirements to the specifications of God's salvation plan, whereas others delete the salient features of faith in the shed blood of Christ from the package that they deliver.
- Some in purporting to change the wording to make it clearer, make it corrupt.
- Peter teaches in 1 Peter 2:2 that we are to desire the undiluted, genuine, pure and preserved word of God. It needs neither pasteurization or fortification by man.

- **As we analyze the act of sin which resulted in the fall of man we must note the Bible's classification of the methodology of sin.**
- **We consider first James' insightful input which warns that sinners are tempted when drawn and enticed by their natural desires becoming lusts. Such inordinate desires once conceived lead both to acts of sin and its eventual punishment- death (James 1:14-15).**
- **This nugget of truth is corroborated by both the Genesis record and John's expansion of this same principle in 1 John 2: 16 It is noteworthy also that in Genesis 3, the serpent used some of the same methods employed in Colossians 2- that of perverting the truth and thereby causing doubt by enticing words, philosophy and vain deceit.**
- **Satan began by sowing the seed of suspicion about God, for his question is, in effect, "Are you sure?" To this he added the lie promulgated since, that man can exist apart from God. It is important to see that Satan's temptation involved both psychological and religious appeals.**

- **1 John 2:16** points out clearly that all sins have at the root of their conception either (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eye, or (c) the pride of life.
- The ploy of Satan's temptation of Eve (representing the old Adam) can thus clearly be seen to have involved the threefold classification of sin described by John in **1 John 2:16**.
- Note that “the flesh” in **1 John 2:16** does not mean “the body” but refers to the nature we receive at our physical birth – the basic old sin nature of unregenerate man that makes him blind to spiritual truth as taught in 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- We read in **Genesis 3:6** that “when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (the lust of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (the lust of the eyes), and a tree to make one wise (the pride of life), she took of the fruit”. In fact, study of sin in the Bible and in our lives will demonstrate that all sin can really be classified into one of these categories.
- God made us with certain desires such as hunger, thirst, weariness etc. These are all quite normal. However, when the nature of the flesh takes control, they become sinful lusts.
- By appealing to these normal appetites, Satan tempts us to satisfy them in forbidden ways. When he did this to Eve, he succeeded.
- A study of Satan's temptation of Jesus-the new Adam, as recorded in **Matthew 4** and **Luke 4** reveals that Satan used the same modus operandi as he did with Eve.
- However, when he attempted the same ploy with Christ by inviting Him to satisfy his hunger by turning stones into bread, he failed (**Matthew 4:3-4**).

- **The second device that Satan used in his attempt to trap both Eve and Jesus, and the device he still employs on everyone today is that of “the lust of the eyes.” He invites us to “Feast your eyes on this!”**
- **Whereas the lust of the flesh appeals to the lower appetites of the old sin nature, and tempts us to indulge them in sinful ways like gluttony, drunkenness, laziness or sexual immorality, the lust of the eyes operates in a more refined way, by alerting us of sophisticated and intellectual pleasures that gratify both the sight and the mind.**
- **Since the eyes is a most important gateway to the mind, the lust of the eyes include all pursuits that are contrary to, and that cause us to doubt God’s Word, or to think like the devil and the world system he has designed, or cause us to crowd God into the background of, or completely out of our thinking.**
- **When the devil used this ruse on Eve she first doubted God, and eventually sinned as she rationalized about what she heard from the tempter, and looked to see that the trees fruit was indeed pleasant to the eyes.**
- **However, when the tempter invited Jesus to view from the pinnacle of the temple and to see the kingdoms of the world from a high mountain, he sought to thus lure Jesus into committing a sin of the lust of the eyes. However, Christ foiled the tempter by referring to, and sticking to the Word of God. Jesus quoted the Word of God in each of His three temptations by the devil (Deuteronomy 6:13,16; 10:20).**
- **Bad example vs good example**

- **The third method of entrapment into sin is the “boastful pride of life” (NAS). The Greek word for “pride” was used to describe a braggart who was trying to impress others with his importance.**
- **Such pride motivates much of what many people do, and so it did in Eve’s case. She reasoned that the tree could make her wise and so she sinned.**
- **Again we see that when thus tempted, Jesus triumphed. This enabled the author of Hebrews to truthfully testify that Jesus suffered temptation, and “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin ”(Hebrews 2:18; 4:15). (17) He also passed the test of James 2:10.**
- **1 Timothy 2:14 makes it very clear that Eve was deceived , but that Adam sinned knowingly. He deliberately ate the fruit to please Eve. Later we will see that Abraham was led into sin by his wife (Genesis 16:2), that Jacob obeyed his mother and engaged in an act of deception against his father (Genesis 27).**
- **Man’s propensity to sin to please their female companions has continued unabated ever since. A complete understanding of this event is obtained by reading the very ardently debated and disobeyed scripture in the contemporary church-2 Timothy 2:11-15.**
- **The Spirit warns us today in 2 Corinthians 11:3 that we must not let our minds be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ as happened to Eve, when she was beguiled by the serpent through his subtlety in the Garden of Eden.**

- **Some folk like to quibble and opine that the fall of man should not hang on such an insignificant issue as eating a little fruit. However it is imperative to grasp that the sin was not in the eating but in the disobedience and rebelling resulting from doubting the promises of God that preceded the act.**
- **Doubting God's promises then led to our fore parents believing Satan rather than God, and in elevating man's will above God's.**
- **Essentially Satan was able to incite man to break the bounds of limitation that God had imposed upon them in seeking to become like God, just as he had induced his angelic followers to leave their habitation as described in Jude 6 with a similar result.**
- **All those who have thus disobeyed and do not avail themselves of God's reconciliatory provisions are reserved for judgment at the end time.**

- Eve's major errors were that she gave Satan an audience, and consented to linger and look at that which was forbidden.
- She, like we too often are, was ignorant of his devices and was therefore beguiled by his craftiness, so that her mind was corrupted by the simplicity that is in Christ (2Corinthians 2:11).
- She apparently did not know that we must never give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27), and that the devil must be resisted, if he is to flee from us (James 4:7), and that only by the use of faith can we quench all his fiery darts (Ephesians 6:16).
- Consequently she was unable to recover herself from his snare, and was taken captive by him at his will as taught in 2 Timothy 2:26.
- Eve failed to be vigilant as taught in 1 Peter 5:8.
- Eve did not have all the information that we have today, yet we ourselves often fall into the traps he lays for us, as he attempts to spoil the benefits of salvation which Christ has won for us by His death.

- Adam and Eve distrusted God, trusted Satan, and decided to depend upon themselves. Man thus walked away from self-giving love, to self-indulgent love; man walked away from worshipping God, to worshipping himself, man walked away from Life Himself. Man chose not only mere physical death, but spiritual death. This is being cut-off from relations with God Himself who is Love and Life. Since then, though our bodies may be physically alive, within, there is spiritual separation from God.
- Death here is not physical extinction, but separation; Adam was dead while he lived.
- The eyes of both of our fore parents were opened, just as Satan had promised. However, the world at which they now looked was completely different. It was spoiled, and nothing like they had anticipated.
- They were no longer comfortable in each other's presence as they recognized that they were naked. Their new experiential knowledge of guilt, sorrow, shame, and misery, signaled that the age of innocence was over, and they sought to cover this nakedness on their own by fashioning loin cloths made from fig leaves to hide their shame.

GOD'S GRACE EXHIBITED

garments of skin

- **The Edenic Covenant had been broken by mankind, and sin had entered the world. The consequences could not be disregarded, for the penalty for the transgression was announced by God Himself in **Genesis 2:17**, "for when you eat of it you will surely die."**
- **God's response to man's fall was to seek out Adam and Eve in love and grace (Genesis 3:8-13; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-11).**
- The race of mankind lost intimate contact with, and have been cut off from, God, since He cannot condone sin or consort with sin.
- **In grace God made another covenant with Adam, and continued to have a relationship with the man and the woman. However since the penalty declared in Genesis 2:17 could not be disregarded by a perfect and holy God, and had to be invoked someone or something had to die. It was innocent lambs.**
- **Nothing has changed to revoke this principle.**
- Later in time at the institution of the Passover feast in Exodus 12 God systematically taught Israel, and us, that **an innocent lamb** was needed for every man (12:3). Once chosen this lamb became **the lamb** (12:4), and then **your lamb** (12:5).
- **In other words for anyone to escape the judgment of God he must have his own personal, individual lamb! This lamb was identified for us by John the Baptist in John 1:29,36 as Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

- When Adam and Eve heard the sound of God's accustomed approach into the garden in the cool of the day, they realized that the fellowship which had previously been a joy was broken, and the prospect of meeting God was now one of terror so they hid themselves.
- **In effect God asked Adam, "Why are you where you are hiding?" The estranged Adam answered that he was afraid, was naked, and had therefore hid himself from God because he sought to avoid contact with God. This was the natural result of spiritual death.**
- **Rather than confess his sin, Adam blamed his wife and God for his predicament, by stating that it was the woman whom God had given him that was the cause of his plight.**
- **Eve then quickly learned the trick of fallen nature—"passing the buck" and blamed the serpent for their sordid state.and the poor snake literally did not have a leg to stand on!**

- **Genesis 3:21** reads, "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them." Just subsequent to their Fall, Adam and Eve made coverings for themselves of fig leaves, because they were ashamed, and realized that they were naked. As they began to experience spiritual death they found that this state was associated with the shame of what they had done before God, and the shame in the presence of another human being.
- Their "nakedness" refers to the loss of their glory, which was a type or form of clothing; an emanating light or effulgence, as it were. Mankind thus lost his glory and stood naked. Adam and Eve then tried to cover themselves up, acting as if the effulgence had not been lost.
- Adam's apron of fig leaves covered only a portion of the body and certainly could not cover his sin.
- Similarly, self-righteousness and the works of the flesh , i.e salvation by works cannot cover sin. They are insufficient. It requires the sacrifice of blood and life.
- And so, at this point, God arrived with the covenant to Adam and provided them with new clothing composed of animal skins. Genesis 3:21 says, "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them." God Himself killed animals in order to provide an adequate covering for our foreparents. These animals had to die to satisfy the demands of the broken Edenic Covenant.
- The skins of the dead animal announced that blood had been shed as a shadow-type of, an expectation of, Christ on the Cross. Thus the principle was early established in history that to be restored to fellowship with God, blood must be shed. This is the essential aspect of all covenants-the shedding of blood, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. (Hebrews 9:22)

- **Man's attempt to cover his guilt by making fig-leaf aprons, is seen everywhere in the behavior of men who rely on any other means of salvation than the process of the shedding of blood as prescribed by God.**
- **What is very clear today, is that the majority of men as their response to their sin, choose their own methods of covering, and reject totally the covering provided by God. Certainly since we have offended God, the RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, He should have the final and only say in how restitution for our sins should be made.**

- When God breathed the breath of life into Adam **he was given the ability to commune and interact with God.** However, **when man fell as a result of sin this relationship was marred. God then had to institute a way whereby He could give man back the life God intended-the qualitative existence of life in a right relationship with The Giver of Life which he had initially.**
- **It is noteworthy that, as usual, God takes the initiative in this covenant. For the glory of God has been assaulted. Satan has, as it were, declared war on God. Therefore, God not only will vindicate His glory through this promise but also redeem mankind. (Revelation 5:9). It cannot be at all denied that all of the promises made in this covenant continue to be kept by God.**
- **And when Christ comes, He will rectify the fall, and bring man back to where he was supposed to be**

Institution of Adamic Covenant

- The tragedy of the failure of Adam's disobedience and subsequent fall occasioned the immediate institution of the Adamic Covenant. In this atmosphere of gloom, defeat and rebuke, God in his mercy, tempered punishment with hope, and in His **grace** he pronounced the divine blessing of the first promise of a universal Savior in Genesis 3:15.
- God spoke first to the serpent, then to the woman, then to the man, as this was the order of disloyalty.
- He simultaneously imposed and pronounced the following sentences (or promises) upon
 - (a) the serpent (Genesis 3:14-15),
 - (b) Woman (Genesis 3:16),
 - (c) Adam (Genesis 3:17-19), and
 - (d) the ground (Genesis 3:14-19).
- God also promised him a solution in the Savior, and clothed him (symbolically with Christ's righteousness), before removing him from the garden for his protection.

- **The Adamic Covenant was a prophetic word of judgment and deliverance. This answer to man's sin "conditions the life of fallen man, conditions which must remain till, in the kingdom age, "the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21).**
- **The elements of the covenant are:**
- **(1) The serpent, Satan's tool is cursed** (v 14; Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 11:3,14; Revelation 12:9) and becomes God's graphic warning in nature of the effects of sin- from the most beautiful and subtle of creatures to a loathsome reptile. **The deepest mystery of the cross of Christ is strikingly pictured by the serpent of bronze, a type of Christ "made sin for us" in bearing the judgment we deserved (Numbers 21:5-9; John 3:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:21).**
- **(2) The first promise of a Redeemer (v.15)**
- **(3) The changed state of the woman (v.16), in three particulars:** (a) multiplied conception; (b) sorrow (pain) in motherhood; (c) the headship of the man (cp. Genesis 1:26-27). Sin's disorder makes necessary a headship; it is vested in man (Ephesians 5:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:7-9; 1 Timothy 2:11-14).
- **(4) The light occupation of Eden (Genesis 2:15) changed to burdensome labor (3:18-19), because of the earth's being cursed (3:17).**
- **(5) The inevitable sorrow of life (v.17).**
- **(6) The brevity of life and the tragic certainty of physical death to Adam and all his descendants (v.19; Romans 5:12-21). (20)**

- As we discuss the stipulations of this important covenant in greater detail, we find in Genesis 3:1-14 the three-fold reason that occasioned its inception. **According to Kaiser “Satan beguiled the woman, the woman listened to the serpent, and the man listened to the woman-but no one listened to God.” (21)**
- **All of the promises made in this covenant continue to be kept by God.**
- **These include**
- **the brevity of life and the certainty of death,**
- **the sorrows of life,**
- **the curse of the earth with its attendant burdensome labor,**
- **pain in childbearing for women,**
- **the cursing of the serpent and his transformation from being a beautiful to a loathsome creature, and**
- **most of all the promise of a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15).**

Curse on the serpent

- **The curse on the serpent (Genesis 3:14-15) who was possessed by Satan, was that the serpent was cursed above all animals, was to travel by slithering on his belly and he would eat dust all his days. The serpent thus went from the most beautiful and subtle of creatures to become a loathsome reptile.**
- **A divinely instigated hostility between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed would ensue. This will climax with the triumph of a male representative of the woman's seed delivering a lethal blow to the head of the serpent Satan, while the best the serpent would be able to do would be to nip the heel of this male descendant.**
- Thus, Satan will always be humiliated no matter what he does, and will one day as we say "Bite the dust!" The serpent faces the disgrace of certain defeat.

Curse on the woman

- **The curse on the woman (Genesis 3:16) included multiplied conception, the fact that childbearing would be accompanied by intense pain and sorrow, and the headship of the man. The woman's turning to her husband would result in the fact that he would rule over her.**
- **What is most interesting in Genesis 3:16 is that God, acting in grace even while announcing the punishment for Eve gave her the blessing of having children, and the special privilege as the mother of all living, and of being the one through whom the Savior would come.**

- **She will produce the Christ-child. No physical father is mentioned in this statement for this is the first intimation of the Virgin birth—a promise ultimately fulfilled as described in Matthew 1:18,21; Luke 1: 27ff .**
- **Although the identity of the male descendant was not clearly immediately revealed, that the message was clear to Eve** is seen in her remark of Genesis 4:1 at the birth of her first son when she cried “I have gotten a man, the Lord,” or “I have gotten a man, even the Lord.” The Hebrew permits both of these renderings. Eve was essentially saying, "I have given birth to the Man," i.e., the One that was promised, the Deliverer. Eve, then, understands that the Deliverer would be the God-Man, true humanity and true deity in One Person.
- **Eve believed the promise. We don't give her credit for this.**
- **Although she was mistaken with respect to the time of the advent of this Seed-Savior, her longings as presented in the text suggests that her understanding of the promise of Genesis 3:15 was crystal clear.**
- Adam and Eve had as their gospel, and their hope the promise that the seed of the woman would crush the head of Satan. They understood that the Deliverer would come through the woman.

- It is noteworthy that the word "seed" does not mean the whole human race or Eve's children *per se*, because Cain, Eves first child, is defined, in I John 3:12, as "of the evil one."
- This is because by natural birth mankind is on the devil's side (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8a; 10). **But God places a supernatural "enmity" against Satan through regeneration or salvation, so that now, the seed are those that have faith in Christ, faith in the promise of Christ as given in the precious promise of this verse. We will learn later that the seed are those that have faith in Christ, and in the promise of Christ, first enunciated in Genesis 3:15.**
- **The phrase "he will crush (bruise) your head" narrows down to One who will destroy Satan- the "seed of the woman".**
- **This is revealed to be Jesus in Hebrews 2:14 which states, "Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death he might destroy him who holds the power of death- that is, the devil."**
- **"Crushing the head" signifies total defeat (Cp. Joshua 10:24). The "striking of the heel" refers to the Cross, as the nail was pounded through the overlapped feet of our Lord.**

- **The enmity between Satan and mankind is fascinating, because God is here stating that Satan's ally in the Garden (Eve) will, in the future, become his adversary. Satan's defeat will come from Eve, the one Satan deceived. We must recognize that the enmity is specifically related to Eve, rather than Adam, because she was beguiled and deceived. She was guilty, even though she was beguiled. Adam knew exactly what he was doing. (1Timothy 2:14)**
- **One aspect of the fulfillment of the promise about the enmity between the serpent's seed and that of the woman's seed is the general conflict of the ages, in which all those who are of the devil hate and seek to destroy those who have the spiritual genotype or seed of Christ. (1 John 3:9,12-13).**
- **We can trace this conflict throughout the OT and see its fulfillment in New Testament times in the hostility which Jesus endured from his countrymen, which culminated on his death on the cross.**

Promise of a Saviour

- Contained in the sentence on the serpent woman was the "PROTO EVANGELIUM", or first gospel of Genesis 3:15. It is the first Biblical promise concerning the coming and victory of the Redeemer. It is the hope of a Savior and redeemer from the curse inflicted by sin and the fall of man.
- When God promised in Genesis 3:15, to put enmity between the serpent and the woman, between his seed or offspring and her seed or offspring, He specifically promised that among her progeny, that there would come a male representative who would one day be the Deliverer from sin by delivering a lethal blow to the head of Satan, thereby effecting a complete reversal of the serpent's temporary coup in the garden.
- This promise anticipated the time when Satan would be completely crushed beneath the feet of the woman's triumphant Seed at Calvary, where, Jesus triumphed over Satan by paying sin's wages incurred by Adam's sin (and subsequently every one's sins in full- I John 2:1-2).
- The serpent, however, would never be able or permitted to do more in retaliation, than nip the heel of this male descendant of Eve.
- One day at the close of the millennium Satan will eventually be cast into the lake of fire prepared for he and his angels. The beauty of the verse, as is discussed later, is the fact that God was already prepared from the foundation of the world to deal with such a crisis by offering this hope.

**The curse on Adam was the curse
on the ground - thorns and thistles**

- The curse on Adam was the curse on the ground resulting in his light occupation in the garden being changed to burdensome labor. Although man would have adequate food, he would have to fight the ground for it. The inevitable sorrow of life, the brevity of life and the tragic certainty of death to Adam and his descendants was also added. The ground would now bring forth thorns and thistles and as man tilled it, he would have to sweat when he works. From that time onwards, work became debilitating.
- All who garden know about this curse very well. The curse of toil was also for man's sake, primarily in terms of maintaining his respiratory and cardiovascular systems in top shape. Life for most people is nothing more than work, getting enough to eat, having and raising children, bearing pain, and facing death. **But, more than just this is available. Because God has kept His promise of Genesis 3:15, mankind has hope!**
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- The phrase "to dust shall you return" means separation from God as well as physical death. Man's spiritual separation from God results in physical death, and probably explains mankind's fear of death, and perhaps clarifies the pious rage that rises up inside mankind when he views the death of his kind. Man's fear of death is not an unreasonable fear since it seems that man, as originally created, was not designed to die physically, but to pass from time to eternity without physical death in the same manner as Enoch and Elijah did. This is very evident to those who have attended or performed post mortems on several elderly persons. It is very common to find perfect structures at such examinations of several organs of the body, with no degenerative signs in the major organs to explain death by so called "natural causes". **This is implied too, in my view, by the phrase "pass from death unto life" as used by John in John 5:24, and 1 John 3:14. That physical death only entered because of sin after the fall is very clear to me.**

- **Thorns and thistles are associated with the curse of mankind and nature resulting from man's failure at the time of the fall.**
- **Since the fall man has to contend with thorns in his work and in his spiritual life.**
- **Throughout the Bible we see that thorns has been a symbol of man's negative will toward God, and used to designate divine chastisement (Numbers 33:55; Judges 2:3).**
- **The thorn is a sign of Satan's power; but even Satan's evil designs result in good when God's power is employed.**
- In 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, Paul's thorn in the flesh was something aggravating enough to bother him, although it was suffering designed for blessing.
- **Thorns are used to designate the administration of discipline to a nation.** Thorns are related to economic depression and recession under an agricultural economy. Depression is brought on by man's bad decisions or sins in the field of economy (Jeremiah 12:13).
- **The unconquered Canaanites in the promised Land were thorns to the nation of Israel. (Numbers. 33:55 Joshua 23:13 Judges 2:2,3).** God had ordered Israel to destroy all the Canaanites. But the Jews did not obey that mandate, so God permitted certain Canaanite groups to live as thorns to the nation Israel.

- **Thorns are also used to describe the results of not accepting Bible truth.** (Proverbs 22:5; 26:9), and **to describe the distractions to positive volition toward Bible truth.**
- For example, in Matthew, "thorns" refer to the man who hears the Word, but the worries of this life (e.g. peer pressure) and the deceitfulness of riches choke out the Word. (Matthew. 13:7,22). **Thorns are also used to describe the results of being involved in Satan's domain cosmic and negative volition toward the plan of God. (Hebrews. 6:8)**

- **It is interesting to note that not only was the emblem of the curse pronounced upon sin in Genesis 3:18, but that when Jesus Christ wore the crown of thorns on the cross, this signified the fact that He was made a curse for us (Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2; Galatians. 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24).**
- **It is most significant that Jesus bore this same emblem on his brow when in keeping the promise of Genesis 3:15, he was made a curse for us. In the millennial reign of Christ, nature will be delivered from the curse of the fall.**
- **This is expressed by the removal of thorns in Isaiah 55:13 and Ezekiel 28:24.**

- Scofield summarizes the first dispensation of Innocence thus; “Man was created in innocence, placed in a perfect environment, subjected to a simple test, and warned of the consequence of disobedience. He was not compelled to sin, but tempted by Satan, he chose to disobey God. The woman was deceived; but the man transgressed deliberately (2 Timothy 2:14). The stewardship of Innocence ended in the judgment of the expulsion from Eden (Genesis 3:24),” (22) and ushered in the second Dispensation of Conscience or Moral Responsibility which began with the edict of the Adamic covenant (Genesis 3:14-21), and man’s expulsion from the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24).
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- “Man’s sin was a rebellion against a specific command of God (2:16-17), and marked a transition from theoretical to experiential knowledge of God and evil (3:5-7,22). Man sinned by entering the realm of moral experience by the wrong door, when he could have entered by doing right. So man became as God through a personal experience of the difference between good and evil, but also unlike God in gaining this experiencing by choosing the wrong instead of the right. Thus he was placed by God under the stewardship of moral responsibility whereby he was accountable to do all known good and abstain from evil and approach God through blood sacrifice here instituted in prospect of the finished work of Christ.” (23)

CONCLUSION

- In my study I attempted to prove from the New Testament how the major Old Testament promises of Genesis 3:15-19 (in particular those of verse 15) are fulfilled in the New Testament, by chronologically listing and briefly explaining all of the relevant texts.
- We only have time for a few examples of this proof today.

- The dire consequence of the fall is explained by Paul in Romans 5:12-19, where we get in Paul's discussion **an important New Testament analysis of Adam's act of sin, and a simultaneous important contrast between Adam and Christ with respect to their actions.**
- **The nature of the act:** Adam brought sin and death into the world, but Christ brought righteousness and life (Romans 3: 22, 24-25).
- **The place of the act:** Adam's act occurred in the garden (Genesis 3); Christ's occurred on the cross (John 19).

- **The reason of the act:** Adam acted in disobedience (Genesis 3:6); Christ acted in obedience (Luke 22:42). Romans 5:19 teaches that “As by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
- **The results of the act:** In the case of Adam, there was condemnation; in the case of Christ it was justification. For Adam there was immediate judgment upon himself, imputed judgment on his posterity and eternal judgment upon all the unsaved. In the case of Christ there was immediate justification, imputed righteousness and eternal life available to all who would come to God by Him.
- **The relationship of the act to law and grace:** In the case of Adam, the law served to demonstrate the seriousness of his act; in the case of Christ, grace served to demonstrate the much more of his act (Romans 5: 9,10,15,17,20.)
- **The scope of the act:** In the case of Adam sin abounded, in the case of Christ grace abounded much more.

- With respect to the summary of condemnation we read in **Romans 5:12** “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”
- In verse 14 we read that “**death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.**”
- **In verse 15 we understand that in the same way that all men were punished by the sentence of death because of the sin or offence of one person, Adam; in like manner, the free gift of the grace of God has been bestowed in abundance unto many by grace through Christ.**
- Verse 16 continues by pointing out that in the same way that sentence of condemnation was passed because one person sinned, similarly **the gift is bestowed because one person, Christ, obeyed.**
- Although the judgment of condemnation was the result of one man's error, **the free gift of justification will atone for the many offences of its recipients.**
- In the same way that death reigned because of one man's (Adam's) offence, **much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one (Jesus Christ.)**
- Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; **even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**
- For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, **so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.**
- The conclusion is that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Romans 5:20 is thus a very short summary of the import of Genesis 3:15. With this strong conclusion, and on the terms cited, we have been released from the penalty of sin, to live a life free from sin as taught in Romans chapter six.

- To complete this contrast and analysis, we must note that 1 Corinthians 15:22 teaches that as a consequence of Adam's sin, all men are appointed to die. But the consequence of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross has now given all men the potential to benefit from everlasting life.
- Also in 1 Corinthians 15:45 Paul writes quoting Genesis 2:7, "The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam (that is Christ) was made a life giving spirit."
- In commenting on these contrasts Scofield asserts that "Adam is a contrasting type of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45-47; cp. Romans 5:14-19).
 (1) The first man Adam was made a living soul (Genesis 2:7), i.e. he derived life from another, God. "The last Adam was a life giving spirit." Far above deriving life, He was Himself the fountain of life, and he gave that life to others (John 1:4; 5:21; 10:10; 12:24; 1 John 5:12).
- (2) In origin "the first man [was] of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from Heaven" (1 Corinthians 15:47). And
- (3) each is the head of a creation and these also are in contrast; "in Adam all die....in Christ shall all be made alive"; the Adamic creation is "flesh," whereas the creation is "spirit" (John 3:6). (19)

- **Romans 8** returns to the subject of the benefits of salvation by grace through Christ begun in chapter five and **elevates it to a higher plane**, because it really addresses the fact that man is restored to fellowship with God in a way that even Adam did not know.
- **We are taught that those who are in Christ walking by the Spirit's power are not condemned, but are exempt from the principle that death is the consequence of sin (Ezekiel 18:4b; 20a).** This is because, rather than sparing His Son, God sent Him in the likeness of sinful flesh, and delivered Him up freely to be condemned and to die for all of our sins (Romans 8:1-3,32).
- **Now there is, as a result, no condemnation and no separation! This a reversal of the two major results of Adam's sin (Romans 8:35,39; Genesis 3:14,23).**
- **Verse 11 teaches that the sentence of physical death incurred at the fall will be reversed at the resurrection (1Thessalonians 4: 17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-56; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2).**
- **In verse 16-18 we are taught that we are elevated to the position of children of God, and joint heirs with Christ and destined for future glory.**
- **Finally we are promised that not only we, but the entire creation will be released from the curse imposed upon it in Genesis 3:17-19. It is clear that God has made adequate provision for the fulfillment of all of his promises made as a result of the fall.**

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