

Lighthouse Baptist Church

Pastor/Teacher: Jerry W. Arnold

The Results of Adam's Sin – Study Five

If you recall our previous studies, you will remember that in Genesis 3:1 Satan raised doubt about the Word of God in the mind of Eve. This doubt raised a question whether God was dealing fairly with Adam and Eve. Eve succumbed to this doubt when in Genesis 3:3 she said to Satan:

“But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” Eve in this verse exaggerated God's prohibition by her response to Satan. God had said nothing about touching the fruit!

Therefore, in verse 4, Satan said, “... Ye shall not surely die.” Then he followed by saying, “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (3:5).

As you know, both Adam and Eve succumbed to the words of Satan – they did not become gods as Satan promised, but they did have a knowledge of good and evil, and what a knowledge it was as they experienced the heavy hand of their Creator! The results of their sin would be judgment.

(1) Judgment on the serpent (Genesis 3:14). The serpent had earlier been a noble creature of beauty; but as a result of the judgment the serpent was altered in form and shape. No longer would the serpent be known for nobility and beauty, but would now be forced to crawl on its belly and eat the dust of the earth as it crawled along.

(2) Judgment on Satan (Genesis 3:15). Genesis 3:15 must be understood as addressed not to the serpent, but to Satan. There would be enmity between Satan's seed (unbelievers and possibly demons) and the woman's seed (believers, but specifically Christ).

The woman's seed (Christ) would deliver a death blow to Satan at the cross (Colossians 2:14-15; Hebrews 2:14). Satan, who would only “... bruise his [Christ's] heel, would have a minor victory in the fact that Christ died. What Satan did not know was that Christ death became Satan's defeat.

(3) Judgment on the woman (Genesis 3:16). First, the woman would “... in sorrow [pain] ... bring forth children” – the woman would experience pain in childbirth. Second, her “... desire shall be to thy husband”

The word “desire” is a difficult word to explain in this phrase. It could mean sexual desire, desire for security under her husband's authority, or desire to rule over her husband. However, God makes it clear that her husband “... shall rule over thee” (cf. Ephesians 5:21-29).

(4) Judgment on the man (Genesis 3:17-19). There were two judgments on the man: First, the judgment was against the ground. No longer would the earth spontaneously produce its fruit but only through hard toil by the man. Second, the judgment on man would be death.

Adam had been made from the elements of the ground. The death process would return the man to the dust from which his body had been taken.

(5) Judgment on the human race (Romans 5:12). The results of Adam's sin was passed on to the entire human race. All humanity now became subject to death.

(6) Judgment on creation (Genesis 3:17-18). All animal and plant life would be affected by the sin of Adam. Animal life and nature would now resist the man. One writer said,

Animals would become wild and ferocious; plant life would produce weeds to hinder productivity. All creation would groan with the effects of the fall and anxiously long for the day of restoration (Romans 8:19-21)."

Jerry W. Arnold