

Searching the Scriptures / 16 / Original Sin / Part 1

Our topic today concerns original sin. It is the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden and our chief problem – by inheritance, as well as by nature. With God’s mercy, this study can perhaps give us a glimpse of why man is “*born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward*”, as we read in Job 5:7. Mankind has always been quick to blame others – even God – for his failures, problems, sorrows, and frustrations. However, this blame is altogether misplaced, since the Bible clearly explains that our problems stem from us – from our own pride, greed and lust – as we shall presently see.

Let’s go to Genesis, where God says that He created Man in His image and likeness. There we read in Gen 1:26-27, “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*” In the book of Genesis alone there are four verses that state the fact that man was created in the image and likeness of God.

God tells us in Gen 1:31 that Man was created “good”, “*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*”

Next, we find that Man was given a job, with some very important guidelines. Gen 2:15-17 tells us, “*And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*”

In the events that follow, we find that the serpent lied, the woman lied, and the woman was deceived by “*the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*” (1 John 2:16) – and Adam went along with it. In the end, mankind became a slave to his own sin and to his new spiritual master, Satan.

Gen 3:1-6 details this most tragic of all human events: “*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 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. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods [God], knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*”

In 2 Cor 11:3 we find this statement, “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*” We also learn from 1 Tim 2:14, “*Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*” Eve and all the rest of us are deceived by three factors, as 1 John 2:16 tells us: “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is*

not of the Father, but is of the world.”

God told Adam in Gen 3:17, *“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.”* Since man was created in the image of God, he is responsible for his sin and is accountable to God. Thus, man’s sin resulted in spiritual death immediately, and ultimately in eternal death, or Hell – the second death (Rev 2:11; 20:6).

Because of the original sin of Adam and Eve, not only was all mankind cursed with this “*second death*” they also became subject to illness and physical death; and the entire creation was also cursed as we read in Gen 3:16-19 and throughout the Bible. They immediately began to die physically in the same manner as all mankind ever since. In Gen 9:6 we read, *“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”* We also understand from Heb 9:27, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* Rom. 5:12 continues, *“Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*

Sin also caused man to lose his spiritual “*free will*” –so that all of our first parents’ progeny, the whole human race, are born spiritually dead and continue in that state unless God intervenes in their lives to give them eternal life. This fact is emphasized by 1 Cor 15:22 *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”* The first “*all*” refers to all mankind, and the second “*all*” comprises all of God’s elect.

Yes, man does have the capacity to decide what color socks to put on in the morning, or whether to have oatmeal or eggs; however, in the spiritual arena, he is completely helpless. This spiritual deadness renders man incapable of seeking God in any way. Eph 2:1-2 explains, *“And you hath he quickened [made spiritually alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”*

Unless God directly intercedes in an individuals’ life, he can never become saved. God uses the words of the Bible to give people spiritual life in their souls. As one reads the Bible, the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment, as we find in John 16:8; and we also are aware that faith (which is a synonym for salvation) comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, as Rom. 10:17 tells us.

The work of salvation was accomplished entirely by the Lord Jesus Christ, the “*second man*” (or “*last Adam*”), Who came to redeem and recreate man in the image of God (1 Cor 15:45-47). 2 Cor 4:4 states, *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

Could it be that God would enable us to see this Truth more and more clearly?