

ADAM, THEN AND MAN, NOW

In the beginning, man was doing just fine. With his focus only upon God and the plan, Adam had plenty to do with tending the creation.

In his horticultural duties; as well as, applying agricultural labels to the animals, Adam was given but one, all important rule: **stay away from the fruit of a particular tree.**

After forming Adam from the earth, God said, you may enjoy the fruit of any tree, **except "...the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you shall eat from it you shall surely die"** (Genesis 2:16,17).

The Genesis account, like all Biblical accounts, informs us that God is holy, demanding obedience from His creation. Man can't handle information that God forbids because a separation occurs. We are cut off from His holiness. If we just follow God's word, alone; then, His name will be honored.

We have to remember (or, learn) that it's not what we eat in a physical manner. It's never been food; not in Eden, Israel or now. The lesson in Genesis is a spiritual matter of doing what God commands. Wrong information; those lies from the devil, will divide God and man. The Genesis lesson is a spiritual matter.

But, by studying Adam's life, we gain much. **First**, he only **heard** God; which is no different than mankind, today. Thus, when Jesus instructs: **"Blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear,"** (Mt 13:16), He is making a declaration to all mankind everywhere; but, in particular, He speaks to those who heed His voice and follow what He said.

Secondly, because Adam never saw God ought to speak to His holiness. Until we get a body that will withstand His glory, man cannot look upon God. But, Jesus promised that a full and glorious view of His Father is coming. **"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God"** (Mt. 5:9).

Like Adam was, so are men today. We fail to heed God's word; even, when we have so much more of it declared to us. There're the historical lessons and prophecies of Israel's regathering; yea, the complete Word of God are at our fingertips, written for all the Adams of today.

The question is: are our fingertips touching what God told us not to even look at? Do we do as Adam did! We do! And, we fall from God's grace.

Adams action cost him spiritual life. Here, on death, the Bible declares that at anytime, if anyone ingests into their mind and spirit that which God commands against, he has compromised God's holiness - death occurs.

We can't blame Adam, either. We all sin. That's the lesson for us in Genesis (along with the historical value). Man has sinned by disobedience. Adam is cast out from God's presence and Satan takes charge of the earth and those on it.

God wasn't surprised, of course. He knew that natural man could not handle the truth. Adam could not stay clear of the tree of knowledge of good & evil; he was a created man. His soul mate knew this very well, too. Eve's response to Satan's offer of eating forbidden fruit were the exact words that God Adam, **"you shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die"** (Ge. 3:3).

Eve should have fled, at this point. Adam should have denied the offer. But, they both partook. The meaning is that created man will make the wrong choice. Once he does, God is automatically eliminated.

If our first parents failed, what can we say of those who are born into a fallen world? Exactly, the same result. **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God,"** Rom. 3:23.

When the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened wide, it was far more than they could handle. Adam and Eve saw things that never entered their minds or spirits, heretofore. They found themselves naked, open before God and, accountable. This time, they flee.

Here, our lesson of Adam and man makes an interesting point. What if Adam had obeyed the commandment and stayed clear of the forbidden fruit? We think that he would have lived in his same fleshly body, forever.

However, as a created man, Adam was not a glorified being. He was not as man will be in the resurrection. And, as created being, his perfection lies in the Creator. He was dependent upon God alone, just as we are on Jesus.

And, there's one more point of interest; which, I think is really interesting! If God were to speak a billion creations into existence, it would be the same result. Satan would enter and offer created man a choice and, there you are; man goes for the option every time.

Satan desires to divide and destroy. His tactic is to move in and take control. That's what he did to this creation, becoming the **"god of this world"** (2Cor. 4:4).

Again, no surprise to the Lord. He is omniscient and knows the end from the beginning. Thus, the creation will continue; not because God changes His mind. In fact, it's the opposite. It's because God doesn't change! His plan remains.

God will use man - even fallen man - to bring about the plan by calling Abraham to produce a nation. The Lord will use Israel to continue the plan.

But, God is still indivisible; so, man must have faith in what the Lord says; even, at all costs. Look at what it cost Abraham (Gen. 12 & Heb 11).

What the Lord said, however, "**Abraham believed**" (Rom. 4:3). Paul told us not to listen to others. "**Let God be true and every man a liar**" (Rom. 3:4).

Since, the first Adam, all this time, man remained separated from God; kicked out of His presence. That is, until the glorious appearance of Jesus changed it all. He entered the creation to redeem it.

And, the difference between Adam/man in *Genesis* and Adam/man since Jesus came is that man is changed. He goes from a created being to a born one from God. The Scripture of "**Whosoever believed that Jesus is the Christ is born of God;**" (I John 5:1), could not come until God, Himself enters His creation and redeems it. He is the only begotten of God; and, now man can be, as well. God Bless!