

CPB - 4/25/65
am.

ADAM

Intro: After the Apostle Paul had traced the experiences of the Israelites in the wilderness, he said, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation . . ." (1 Cor. 10:11-13).

An "admonition" (Gk) is something that is put in your mind, something which can either be an encouragement or a warning.

Therefore, a vital part of the OT (and the NT also) is to provide the child of God with practical help. If we can imitate the ~~the~~ ^{of Bible characters} goodness and avoid their sins, then blessing will be ours.

The big question is: How much are we making use of what has been written? It means little that the OT was written if we are failing to take advantage of what has been written.

To illustrate how we can profit from the life of an Old Testament person, let us look this morning at Adam.

Most of us are familiar with the details. We know that Adam had a beginning which none of us had. And we know also that the effect of his sin had a far greater ~~effect~~ influence than anything that we had done. But

Have we read the story of Adam thinking of what lessons we might find there to help us live for God's glory.

Let us look at it (the life of Adam) from four points of view:

I. His amazing origin (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7).

Adam was made in the image and likeness of God. This statement is not made about any other creature, what does it mean?

(1) Image and likeness are practically synonyms. If anything, likeness amplifies image. As Luther used to say, "an image which is like us" (K+D, ~~II~~, 63).

(2) It does not have to do with the physical, because God has no body. Instead, it has to do with man's spiritual make-up, for God is a spirit. Cf. K+D, I, 63. Man became a living soul when God breathed into him the breath of life. So he not only had his life from God, but it is God's life. Cf. Acts 17:28, 29.

(3) It is not a full likeness, but a shadow, a sketch, an outline of God, which is capable of development. It needed maturity.

What could be more amazing than these statements describing man's origin and nature.

II. A solitary restriction (Gen. 2:16,17).

They were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

This and the tree of life were the two most important trees (2:4). Nothing is said about not eating of the tree of life.

It was this restriction that Satan attacked with all his fury saying that by it: (Gen. 3:4,5)

- (1) God had lied - they would not die.
- (2) God was withholding something good from them.
- (3) God was trying to keep them from being like Him.

All three were lies of Satan. What was the real significance?

God certainly was not seeking to keep from them the knowledge of good and evil. If they were ^{eventually} to become like God, they would have to know this. GOD WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THIS KNOWLEDGE CAME TO THEM.

Our own experience will help us here. How have we learned about sin?

- (1) By ^{personal} experience.
- (2) By the experience of others - what we have heard, or seen, or read.
- (3) By the Word of God.

Now, where do we see it as it actually is? In only one place: THE WORD OF GOD.

Adam was a man who was physically mature. He ~~was~~^{was} capable of having children.

BUT - spiritually he was immature, only a shadow of what God wanted him to be, just starting toward full righteousness, AND GOD WAS SEEKING TO INSTILL IN HIS HEART THE CONVICTION THAT ALL THAT GOD FORBIDS IS SIN, AND THAT WE ARE MOVING TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS PURPOSE FOR US WHEN WE REJECT WHAT HE FORBIDS - IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, BECAUSE HE FORBIDS IT.

How often we fall ~~out~~ are missing ~~out~~ - and go fall into sin!

Here is one of the biggest lessons to be observed in Adam's life. Do you take the Word of God as it is? It will spare you sin and headache. How did Adam fare?

III. A deliberate violation (Gen. 3: 6).

notice what Paul says about Adam and Eve at this point.

- (1) Re: Eve - "The serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty" (2 Cor. 11:3)
- (2) But, re: Adam - "Adam was not deceived" (1 Tim 2:14).

Does this mean that Adam deliberately did what God told him not to do? This is exactly what it means).

What a commentary on human nature!

What an excellent opportunity to find out whether God or Satan is telling the truth. They both can't be right because they said opposing things. "Let God be true."
Note:

IV. The ominous consequences. They begin with Gen. 3:7 and are literally strewn through the Word of God and throughout human history.

- A. Concerning God - separation and fear.
- B. Concerning themselves - trouble and death.
- C. Concerning their sons - murder.
- D. Concerning posterity - "and he died" (Gen. 5).

Adam's sin brought physical death
Adam's sin brought spiritual death
It is doubtful if we live experientially without affecting posterity.

Cf. Rom. 5:12, wherefore as by one man sin entered...

Cf. 1 Cor. 15:21a, "For since by man came death..."

Cf. 1 Cor. 15:22a, "For as in Adam all die..."

What a way to be remembered!

Concl: Paul ~~says~~ brings us back to creation by means of redemption in Eph. 4:22-24 and Col. 3:9-11.

Oh yes, God speaks to us in Adam.