

Excerpt: Everlasting Love, God's Greatest Gift
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Chapter 1 ~ Beginning in the Garden of Eden

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
Genesis 1:27

There is nothing in existence that God did not create and before the heavens and earth, before Adam and before we were in the womb yet born of flesh, we were with God. *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love; having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.* Ephesians 1:4-5 Because we come from God and He is Spirit, we are spirit of His Spirit.

When Adam was given a body, it was to give a physical presence for his spirit. He was breathed a soul which is the human consciousness of man. Adam was made from earth, the place he would soon occupy. *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* Genesis 2:7 The first man has been born of God. *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him. Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, In the day when they were created.* Genesis 5:1-2 This is the trinity of man: spirit, soul, and body.

God created the heavens and earth for man. Earth was given to Adam to be his heaven, a kingdom, whereby he had dominion over this world. God took a section of the earth and designed a special home, paradise, and called it the Garden of Eden. *And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.* Genesis 2:8 God gave Adam authority to name the animals,

for he was the ruler. *And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.* Genesis 2:19-20

Adam realized that all the animals had a mate but he did not, so God made Adam a mate from one of his ribs. *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.* Genesis 2:23 Adam was pleased to have a companion and named his bride. *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.* Genesis 3:20 We have the first man and woman of God.

Adam and Eve were God's children, and He was pleased with them. *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.* Genesis 1:28 They lived in the spirit and life was perfect. In the cool of the afternoon, God would visit with them. In paradise, there were no misfortunes, nor hardships until the day Satan appeared.

When we hear the telling of the serpent tempting Eve with an apple, it is almost depicted as a fairytale to the reality of the significance of what transpired between God and Adam. Satan's objective was to steal Adam's position of authority over the earth and become the ruler, and to destroy the relationship Adam had with God. Lucifer was thrown out of the Kingdom of Heaven with one-third of the angels following because he wanted to be the king of the Almighty Kingdom. Satan compromises Adam's spouse with a lie, and she succumbs to his trickery and persuades her husband to be unfaithful to God.

It was a catastrophic and cataclysmic event that affected every person born thereafter from the seed of Adam. Throughout the following generations, man is born with a sinful nature into a sin world under Satan's rule. This was not a surprise to God who already had a provision, His Son. *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; 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.* Romans 5:17-19 Through the disobedience of Adam, man's spiritual relationship with God was severed, but Christ reconciled man back to the Father by

taking the sins of the world upon Himself.

Their act of disobedience cost them their home, and they were evicted and locked out of the garden having to labor for a living for the first time. It was a humiliating calamity for Adam to be dethroned from his position of authority to working in the fields, and laboring off the land for a living. God remained in communication with him daily, but their relationship had changed. It seems such a harsh action for God to remove them from paradise because of one indiscretion, their first and only offense towards Him. However, God could not allow sin where there is purity and holiness. God knew what would transpire with Satan.

God could have established the garden whereby Adam and Eve would not be subjected to the fruit of the forbidden trees, and yet, He didn't. We know God has a reason. In the garden, there was no scale to measure the balance of good and evil because only perfection existed as long as two trees, the Tree of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life, were undisturbed. However, that changed when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Good and Evil and became aware of their physical self. Seeing they were naked they covered their bodies and hid from God. Why have such a reaction, if it weren't that they were unaware of their human characteristics? Though they saw each other as being different, it wasn't thought conscious until carnality came upon them. With the knowledge of good and evil, their humanism became predominant and they were governed by the carnal rather than the spirit.

This act opened their eyes to right and wrong, something they were to never have knowledge of. But, why not? If there were trees that God specifically did not want Adam or Eve to have dominion over, why put the trees in the garden? If they must be planted in the garden, why not put an invisible shield around them prohibiting Adam and Eve's ability to have access? Why didn't God forgive this first transgression and allow Adam and Eve to remain in the home He designed for them? It would seem that without this act of disobedience, Adam and Eve would not have transitioned from a spirit person to carnality, and if not, could they have procreated? As they had no natural cognitive reasoning to see themselves other than spirit, perhaps there never would have been children born of them, and therefore, no future generations.

With their knowledge of good and evil, they could make decisions in their sinful nature which gave them a measurement of likes, dislikes, wants, desires, and so forth; things that were never a consideration in the spirit. With this newfound awareness, they could choose to eat of another tree in the garden, the Tree of Life, and in doing so, they would live forever with a sinful nature. *And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.* Genesis 3:22 Living in

sin would bring corruption, destruction, illness, and disease. They would live under these conditions eternally if they ate the fruit of this forbidden tree.

Can you imagine being stricken with a horrible, painfully degenerative disease and have to live that way forever without any hope of healing? This is what was in store for Adam and Eve, and for man if God had not removed them from the garden. God even placed angels at the four corners to prevent them from reentering and eating of this tree. He was not punishing them, but protecting them from consuming another forbidden fruit. Had Adam eaten the fruit from the Tree of Life, man would live forever in sin and sickness with no hope of returning to God, spiritually and eternally.

While in the Garden of Eden and before their transgression, there was no consideration to procreate and bring forth life. In their spirit person, they were not thought conscious to know each other intimately. It wasn't until they were in carnality and removed from the garden, that God speaks to Eve and tells her she will bear children and to Adam that he will labor for a living. *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 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.* Genesis 3:16-17 Outside the perimeters of the garden and in their human persona, Adam was intimate with his wife and she conceived. *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.* Genesis. 4:1

If they had eaten of the fruit of the Tree of Life, after the transgression and transformation from spirit to carnal, the first generation of children, Cain, Abel, and Seth would have been born to live eternally with a sinful nature. The difference is that outside paradise, man is not subjected to a life of sin without hope and redemption. In the flesh, civilization is created. Adam is the first father, physically, of generations to come and Jesus is the second Adam, spiritually, reconciling man to our spirit self and returning us to our heavenly Father. *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.* 1 Corinthians 15:22 The fate of man rested on Adam; however, Christ saved man from Adam's fall from the Kingdom.

It would appear these were the options. First, Adam and Eve would live in the Garden of Eden forever as spirit persons communing with God daily and life would be perfect with the exception there would be no descendants. Second, Adam and Eve would be allowed to remain in the garden after committing an act of disobedience; however, it can be presumed they would eat of the Tree of Life, conceive

in their human persona and their children, and all generations thereafter would live in sin, forever. There would be no reconciliation to a spirit person with God. Last would be to remove them from their heavenly home, so there would be a way through Christ to redeem man from sin and give him a rebirth in spirit. *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* 2 Corinthians 5:21

It was necessary for our sakes that Adam and Eve be displaced from the garden. It was required that they leave paradise, so that future generations could have a means of returning to God and His Kingdom. This could not be accomplished in the Garden of Eden. What Satan stole from the first Adam, Christ, the second Adam, paid the price with His blood and purchased our freedom from sin and the curse whereby reconciling man spiritually to the Father. Before Adam, it was established within the Kingdom of Heaven that the Living Word would be made flesh, and Christ would come down to earth to save man. In God's sovereignty, He had a plan.