

February 18, 2015

God's plan for His creation and for man as outlined in Genesis was to be implemented through Adam. Adam was "created in the image and likeness of the God" (Elohim) so he could have fellowship with Him and rule the earth as God's representative. The rest is "history" as they say with Eve being seduced by the serpent and Adam following her lead in eating from the tree of the "Knowledge of Good and Evil." Adam was disobedient to God's instructions.

Banished from the real goal, to eat of the Tree of Life meant that God's plan had been frustrated before it even got off the ground. Adam and Eve's failure has been reproduced in every human being since that experience, with the exception of God's intervening by sending the Holy Spirit to impregnate a young Virgin Mary with the Son of God. The failure of the first Adam required a qualified second Adam to not only fulfill God's intent of man's original destiny, but also to clean up the mess left by the original Adam's sin.

The main thrust of the Incarnation plan was to cut the "sin gene" which had infected the human race, pay for the consequences of that sin, and impregnate the Adamic race with the same Holy Spirit who enabled The Second Adam to live a sinless life. The second Adam was to face the same testing and challenges as the first. Mankind was trapped by the failure of the original Adam, and if the second was to author the plan of redemption for the human race, He had to succeed where the first Adam failed.

The playing field had to be level for justice to work, therefore it was necessary for The Second Adam (Jesus) to face the same type of temptations as the first one (Matt 4:1-11; Heb 2:5-18). To achieve this goal, He had to not only divest Himself of all the privileges as Son of God He also had to become the "Son of Man" (Phil. 2:6-7) and subject Himself to all the temptations and challenges faced by mankind. Even though Jesus was sinless, He identified with fallen humanity by persuading John the Baptist to baptise him for the "repentance of sins." This pleased God (Matt. 3:17) and God then equipped Him with same Holy Spirit who was given to all who believed in the rescue operation. Furthermore, He was required to depend on walking by faith in relationship with his Father, just as we are, "for without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6). If He was to accomplish the rescue mission for mankind, He needed to face all the challenges of life as a human being (John 1:14; Heb. 2:5-18) including our human learning process from a baby, to a child, (Luke 2:46) to an adult. The Holy Spirit gifted Him with the same gifts available to redeemed mankind. He stated that He only said what the Father told Him to say (word of knowledge, word of prophecy) and only did what He saw the Father doing (gifts of healing and miracles). He therefore became the perfect sacrifice to atone (pay for) for all the sins of Adam's children.

Whereas Adam had failed by disobeying God's instructions, Jesus was obedient to the Father in everything, even having to die a criminal's death (Phil. 2:5-11). In the Garden of Gethsemane His humanity (Son of Man) cried out to God appealing for an alternative way for this part of the rescue operation. Nevertheless, He completed His obedience by stating, "not my will but yours be done." His obedience to His Father not only "wiped the slate clean" for the human race, but it also defeated the devil who had seduced the first Adam.

Jesus, as The Second Adam succeeded in everything, bringing salvation to all mankind, (Heb. 5:7) whereas the first Adam only succeeded in bringing death and disaster to everyone and everything.

Because Jesus is our role model, mentor, Saviour and Lord, we can be encouraged to live, walk and talk as He did. When He stated "greater things than these shall you do" we can be assured that He wasn't giving us a task too high to reach or too far to go. As the people of God, we have exactly the same promises and equipping to do the Father's work... but even this is not the end.

The original plan was dominion over creation (Earth) and Fellowship with God, but now it becomes reigning with Him in the New Heavens and New Earth and BECOMING ONE WITH HIM...

Shalom.

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