



6 the woman...took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked...Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden...24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life." (Genesis 3:22-24)

I. The Catastrophe of the Fall of Man

In this catastrophic event, which theologians call *the fall of man*, we have Satan's deception and temptation, the entrance of shame, humanity's expulsion from the garden, and the curse of sin and death.

This is the prologue to the story of Abraham and Israel. In Genesis 4-11, we see what happens without God's intervention. (Genesis 6:1-8)

The emergence of a demonic race leads to the flood, but God preserves a righteous remnant, Noah and his family. Noah is part of a righteous lineage through which God safeguards his promised seed. The lineage goes from Adam to Seth, Seth to Noah, and Noah to Abraham.

Stephen begins his proclamation of the gospel in Acts 7 with Abraham's call. Paul says about Genesis 12 that God, "preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.'" (Galatians 3:8).

II. What happened in the Fall?

- ◆ Mankind was separated from God's presence. (Genesis 3:8, Genesis 4:16)

God's justice and mercy cannot allow human beings to continue partaking of the tree of life while in a state of sin. (Romans 8:20; 5:20-21)

- ◆ The reign of death began. (Romans 5:12-14)

The fall resulted in spiritual and physical death (Ephesians 2:1-2a)

The creation of man as a moral agent, in God's very image, warrants an eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:2; Daniel 12:1-2; Matthew 25:41-46)

- ◆ Adam's sin affected "even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam."

Adam was the "federal head" of the human race.

The doctrine of "original sin" posits that Adam's sin affected all, so that all sinned and are born into sin. (Psalm 51:4-6; Romans 3:9-11)

- ◆ Human beings came under the power and influence of the evil one. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
Satan gained access to the world through human agreement. That is why he was able, with some legitimacy, to offer Jesus the kingdoms of the world in Matthew chapter four. It was the fall of Adam that ceded to Satan such authority on earth.
- ◆ God revealed himself as Judge. (1 Peter 1:14-19; Genesis 18:25)
The expulsion and guarding of the tree of life ensured that humanity could not bypass the penalty of death by accessing eternal life in a sinful state.
God upholds his glory and the standard of moral righteousness that was imparted into the nature of man. He preserves the garden, the place of worship, sabbath, dependence, and intimacy, with a sword of war. His fierce anger is against that which diminishes his glory and defiles his people.

III. It was for this reason that Jesus fulfilled his mission in Israel (1 John 2:1-2; John 6:47-51; John 3:16-21)

IV. The need for the Great Commission (Romans 5:12-21, 1 Corinthians 5:11-15)

- ◆ "Therefore all have died" means that all are under death and are represented in Christ's death...If all died in Adam, him being the federal head of humanity (1 Cor. 15:21), then all also die in the last Adam. God has made a substitution, a free gift, for the whole of humanity.
*"In saying that 'all died,' then, Paul views humanity as incorporated into its new representative. Consequently, when the representative died, humanity died in the representative, thereby dying to the powers of sin, death, and law that the representative overcame."*¹
- ◆ "Those who live..." While the substitution is universal in its scope, its application is particular to those who believe.
- ◆ This is why we need to take the gospel to every tribe and people. Today, about 3,200 frontier people groups (2 billion people) need missionaries to tell them about God's free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

Take a moment and pray for frontier people groups to receive the gospel. Write down anything God is putting on your heart.

¹ Frank J. Matera, *II Corinthians*, [The New Testament Library](#). Accordance electronic ed. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003), 134.