

What did Adam and Eve lose?

Dr Michael Jarvis

In my last articles we concluded that the Garden of Eden was a real place [The Garden of Eden](#) and that Adam and Eve were real people [Adam and Eve](#)

I outlined why the Garden of Eden events were so important in 'fast tracking' humanity into knowledge that was essential, in order for them to fulfil their God given tasks of, *fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground* (Genesis 1:28).

Mankind were expected to rule wisely. Unfortunately all too often we have not ruled wisely. Wise rule implies using the abundant resources in a sustainable and renewable manner, not exploiting things into extinction and not upsetting the delicate 'balance of nature'.

In addition, the Garden of Eden events had enormous spiritual significance. **The garden was designed by God for a special test and demonstration.** It would show whether mankind, when placed in ideal circumstances, were able and willing to obey instructions from their Creator.

COSMIC

This was a vital test because creation was already involved in the same contest, a 'Cosmic conflict'. The Bible has passages that suggest this contest resulted from Satan and some other angels rebelling against the authority of God.

CONFLICT

The sentence pronounced by God on the rebellious angels was exclusion from his intimate presence. They lost their place in God's heaven and were confined to planet earth. God could not destroy them because he had limited himself by creating angels to be immortal (Luke 20:36).

As soon as God started his Garden of Eden interaction with Adam and Eve, it exposed them to the same fundamental choice, whether or not to obey instructions from their Creator.

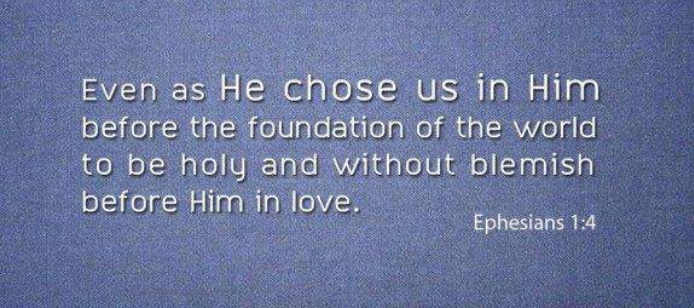
The Bible defines sin as breaking a specific command from God or rejecting what we know is right or falling short of God's standard. Adam and Eve failed the test in spite of being in ideal surroundings and in spite of having a close and intimate relationship with their Creator.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve demonstrated that mankind were not, of themselves, able to live in fellowship with God. **By their disobedience they entered the cosmic 'rebellion camp'**. Adam and Eve were representatives for all of humanity because just as they failed the test so would we all have failed if given the same test.

As soon as humanity, represented by Adam and Eve, chose to enter the 'rebellion camp', Satan could claim a legal right over the human race. This is because the Bible says God does not change. He pronounced the sentence on Satan's rebellion as exclusion from the

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intimate presence of God, so now to be consistent and unchanging, God had to pronounce the same sentence on rebellious humanity. **Satan could claim humanity as his because they had joined him in his rebellion against God.**



Even as He chose us in Him
before the foundation of the world
to be holy and without blemish
before Him in love.
Ephesians 1:4

Amazingly, the Bible says that **God knew this would happen and he had a rescue plan worked out.** He (Christ Jesus) *was chosen before the foundation of the world* (1 Peter 20, Ephesians 1:4 and others).

In spite of knowing that humanity would join the rebellion, God went ahead with Creation because he had a greater long-term plan for humanity, both in time and in eternity. That greater plan would only be revealed in greater detail 4000 years later, through the life, teachings, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What did Adam and Eve lose in the Garden of Eden?

In the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve enjoyed a close and intimate relationship with God. This relationship could be characterised as:

1. A **state of sinlessness**, since they had not yet disobeyed instructions given to them, not to eat fruit of one particular tree.
2. They were called a **son and a daughter of God**, part of his intimate family.
3. This close relationship is described elsewhere in the Bible as an **Eternal Life relationship**.
4. They were a **New Creation** because they had received a spiritual relationship with God that was new to mankind.

When they sinned they 'died' on that same day. They did not die physically but **they did die spiritually**. They lost their close and intimate relationship with God. They no longer felt as if they were his children. They lost the 'eternal life' relationship.

What did the Second Adam Jesus restore to humanity

The Bible tells us that Jesus, the Second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45) **made a way to reverse what was lost to humanity in the Garden of Eden.**

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We can all be restored to this Garden of Eden relationship with God through what Jesus Christ achieved for mankind when his blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins.

We are restored to a state of 'sinlessness' through the merit of Jesus. We are not sinless but the Gospel message makes it clear that the Holy God now accepts us as sinless because we are 'clothed' with the sinlessness of Jesus Christ

The Second Adam **restores us to the status of sons and daughters.** We read, *Behold what manner of love the Father has showered upon us that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are! Dear friends, now we are the children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is* (1 John 3:1-2).

We are **restored to an 'Eternal Life' reality** that lasts into eternity. The New Testament tells us that *'Eternal life is knowing God'* (John 17:3 and other scriptures).

We become **New Creations.** Paul put it this way, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation, the old has gone, the new has come* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In Jesus, *God was reconciling the world to himself* (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). At Calvary God 'redeemed' us from the legal right that Satan had over humanity, because humanity had joined his 'rebellion camp'. **The death of Jesus opened the way for humanity to be bought back (redeemed) when the Creator took upon himself the sin and guilt of all humanity.** He, the innocent Judge, identified with humanity by becoming a man and then took the place of guilty humanity.

On the cross Jesus experienced what it meant to be separated from the intimate presence of Father God, as he bore the sin of the whole world upon himself. Through his death **he gained the 'legal right' to redeem any of humanity that he chooses to redeem from Satan's rebellion camp.**

Why did the Second Adam not restore us to physical immortality?

We should ask why the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ did not restore us to 'physical immortality'? I believe the reason is that immortality was not one of the things lost to humanity when Adam and Eve sinned! As discussed in my last article on 'Adam and Eve', **they were created mortal!** Everything else that was lost in the Garden of Eden was restored through Jesus Christ.

4.

Scientists do not need convincing that physical death has been part of life on earth right from the beginning. We see this evidence in the fossil record and the whole of the amazing and intricate 'balance of nature' depends on food chains. We learn about this in our study of ecology. Every plant and creature has an important function to provide within nature and the balance is only maintained by the interactions between predators and prey and between food producers and food eaters.

Christians need to face the evidence that birth, growth, reproduction and death have always been fundamental characteristics of all life forms that the Creator has brought into existence. Adam and Eve were not exceptions to this feature of all life in our world?

Irrespective of the origin of death, we all know that we are mortal today. The amazing Good News is that through the merit of Jesus Christ we can again enter into a personal Eternal Life relationship with our Creator. This relationship survives physical death and lasts for eternity!

The important questions relating to what the Bible says about 'death' **will be discussed in my next article.**

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This article is the sixth in a series:

[The age of our world](#)

[The DAYS of Genesis creation account](#)

[Reconciling the Genesis creation account with science](#)

[The Garden of Eden](#)

[Adam and Eve](#)

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