

No.10, Further Results of Man's Fall

Last week we noted three main results of the Fall of man: *man became guilty, he became morally corrupt, and the image of God in him was distorted*. It must be kept in mind that these and other consequences of the Fall were immediate. As soon as our first parents disobeyed the divine command the tragic results became manifest. Note some further results of the fall of man.

1. **Fellowship between God & man was broken.**

Gen 2 contains evidence of the intimate fellowship that had existed between God & Adam prior to the Fall. God talked with Adam, giving him command & direction in his different roles. The details would indicate that there would have been the closest & sweetest harmony between the Creator & the one who was chief of His creation. But once sin entered the fellowship was broken and alienation between the two appeared.

(a) God was alienated from man, but justly & rightly so. God's alienation from man is holy; it is fully justified in that He had been blatantly disobeyed, insulted, betrayed & offended. This alienation on the Godward side is demonstrated by the judicial sentence that came into force in that Adam & Eve immediately became subject to death and were driven out of the Garden – and especially away from the Lord. Unregenerate man lives in a state of alienation or separation from God, Eph 2: 12 – “alienated...without God;” Eph 4: 18 – “alienated from the life of God...” signifying the state of spiritual death under which man is found, resulting from the original sin & fall.

Moreover, this expulsion from God & His presence is really the essence of the judicial sentence of death. Separation from God is what is in view, and this is of the very essence of the suffering that the lost will endure forever in hell. Note in v.24 the reference to the *flaming sword* – this is the symbol of God's justice. See 1 Chr 21: 16 where David sees the angel of death with the drawn sword, inflicting justice for sin. Cf Rom 13: 4 – where the “sword” is obviously the symbol of justice. The scene where the sword of justice is seen so vividly is at Calvary where Christ came under the stroke of divine justice, see Zech 13: 7.

Then in Gen 3: 24 mention is made also of the “cherubim” – the guardians of God's holiness. See Ex 25: 18-22 – note the positioning of the cherubim over the mercy seat and ark, one at either end, signifying the protection of divine holiness. See also Ex 26: 1, 31 – note the reference to the cherubim on the curtains & veil of the tabernacle. They were woven into the fabric to signify that the tabernacle was the dwelling place of God in His holiness and that no mere sinner could approach Him.

(b) Man's alienation from God was inexcusable & unholy. Man's alienation from God was brought about by his own wicked disobedience. Moreover, in nature man's state of alienation from God is characterised by all the foul rebellion of his own fallen nature. Hence, man is constantly in a state of bitter enmity against God. His very mind is enmity toward God. His heart is full of cursing, blasphemy & bitterness toward the Lord – it is an unholy alienation that gives vent to the hatred that is in his heart for the Lord.

2. **Adam and Eve came under personal adverse consequences of what they had done.**

Eve – see v.16. The terms of this verse indicate that Eve was adversely affected by the Fall in that a form of punishment came upon her in her role as a woman and a wife. We may sum it up this way – Eve's position of womanhood was made exceedingly difficult because of sin. She was to endure painful child-bearing. It is not that child-bearing *per se* is cursed for before man fell procreation was part of the original intention of God for the human race, ch. 1: 28. However, due to sin child-bearing became painful, implying that had there been no sin it would not have been a sorrowful experience. Her subjection to her husband was intensified, again v.16. The point being made is that because the woman usurped the man's place at the time of the temptation by Satan, her place of subjection to her husband was increased. But it must be remembered that in the fallen state this subordinate role is for the woman's good, protection & well-being; a point clearly proved by much Scripture that deals with the role of the woman, Eph 5: 22-24; 1 Tim 2: 11-15; & Titus 2: 4-6. In this fallen world, it is when women rebel against the position of being in submission that tragedy comes.

Adam – see v.v.17-19. In view is *painful* labour; again, not labour *per se*, see ch.2: 15 – labour was instituted by God and is therefore marked by dignity & glory. Incidentally, therefore, laziness is the result of sin and must be curbed & resisted. But, Adam's position in this world became a struggle for subsistence in that the ground that he was commanded to cultivate came under the curse.

3. **Another result of the Fall was the curse that came on the physical creation.**

See v.17 – “*cursed is the ground for thy sake.*” And again see v.18. In microcosm there is presented here the explanation for all of the ills that exist within the natural realm. God placed a curse on natural creation because of the sin of man, Rom 8: 19-22. Paul's language indicates that creation groans & travails under the curse and looks forward to that day when Christ will come and creation will be delivered.

In the light of Gen 3: 17 it is true to say that the physical & natural calamities that come on this world constantly are reminders to man of his own sin and the great judgment that is to come. See Jonah 1: 4 and note that it was God who sent this great storm because of Jonah's disobedience. See also Psalms 29 and note that in the physical realm the voice of the Lord is heard constantly. Physical phenomena of catastrophic proportions are God speaking to man, reminding Him of his responsibility.