

Adam

EXPRESSING GOD

Adam was created according to God's inward image and outward likeness (Gen. 1:26). God's image refers to the characteristics in His intrinsic nature. The most prominent of the characteristics that are manifested in man are love, light, holiness, and righteousness. God created Adam according to His image, according to these virtues in His nature, that Adam might declare and express God through these virtues. God's likeness is the outward form in which He expressed Himself and was seen by men. Even before God became flesh, He appeared to Abraham and to many others with such an outward form (Gen.18:1-5). God created Adam's inward nature and outward body according to His own image and likeness, that Adam might have God's image and likeness. God did this in order that Adam might declare and express Him. However, what Adam had was only God's image and likeness; it was not God's intrinsic being. Adam did not have God's life and nature within him. Adam needed to receive God as his life and content so that his virtues could be filled with the very substance of God's love, light, holiness, and righteousness. In this way he would be able to reach the goal for which God created man; that is, he would be able to declare and express God.

Genesis 1:26a *And God said, Let Us make man in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.*

Genesis 18:1-5 *And **Jehovah appeared** to him by the oaks of Mamre... And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and **there were three men** standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them...And said, My Lord, if I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass on from Your servant. Please let a little water be fetched, and do **wash your feet**, and rest yourselves under the tree...And let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may sustain yourselves. After that you may pass on, since you have come to your servant. So they said, Do as you have said. (See also **Gen.32:24, 28-30; Josh. 5:13-15; Judg.6:12, 14, 16-24; 13:9-10, 17-20**)*

REPRESENTING GOD

After God created Adam, He authorized Adam to have dominion over all creatures in the seas, in the air, and on the earth (Gen. 1:26, 28). That is, He established Adam as His deputy, one who would exercise His authority to rule on the earth for Him, especially to have dominion over the earth in order to deal with His enemy, Satan, typified by the serpent, the chief among the creeping things (Gen. 1:26; 3:1), and to restrict Satan's movement on earth. Because the earth was seized and usurped by Satan and became the place of his activities (Luke 4:5-6:), it became a strategic place. If God would have His kingdom come on earth, have His will done on earth, and have His glory manifested on earth (Matt. 6:10, 13), His authority must be brought in through man that His enemy might be dealt with and that man might represent Him in ruling on the earth, thus fulfilling God's economy.

Genesis 1:26,28 *(26) And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. (28) And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.*

Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more crafty than every other animal of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden? (See also **Rev. 12:9**)*

Luke 4:5-6 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, To You I will give all this authority and their glory, because to me it has been delivered, and to whomever I want I give it. **(See also 1 John 5:19)**

Matthew 6:10, 13 (10) Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. (13) And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

TIPIFYING CHRIST AS THE HEAD OF MANKIND AND ALL THINGS

Created as the head of mankind, Adam was also the head of all creatures. Adam, as the head of mankind and all things, is a type of Christ as the Head over all things (Eph. 1:22; 1 Cor.11:3; Rom. 5:14b). Adam was the first man; Christ is the second Man. Adam was the first Adam; Christ is the last Adam (1Cor.15:47, 45). Adam was the head of the old collective man (mankind); whatever he did and whatever happened to him is participated in by all mankind. Christ is the Head of the new corporate man (the church—Eph. 2:15-16); whatever He did and whatever happened to Him is participated in by all the members of His Body, the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

Ephesians 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all **(See also 1Cor.11:3, Rom.5:14b)**

1 Corinthians 15:47,45 (47) The first man is out of the earth, earthy; the second man is out of heaven. (45) So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

Ephesians 2:15-16 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace, And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

BEING CREATED AS GOD'S VESSEL

When Adam, the father of all mankind, was created by God, all his descendants were included in him. God did not create Adam as only a single person; He created mankind collectively in Adam. In Gen. 1:26, *man* is singular, but the pronoun used is *them*. This proves that this man is a corporate man, a collective man. When Adam was created, all mankind, being included in him, was created as God's vessel (Rom.9:21, 23) to contain God and to express God's glory. Therefore, Adam and all his descendants should receive God as their life and content that they may be God's expression. Otherwise, man is but an empty shell, and with him everything is vain and limited. Man's mind, emotion, and will are empty, and so are man's wisdom, prudence, good works, and virtues. Only when God enters into this man, this vessel, can all these items have reality and content and thus become God's expression and manifestation.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let Us make **man** in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let **them** have ...

Romans 9:21, 23 (21)Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor? (23) In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

COMMITTING SIN AND BECOMING FALLEN

Adam listened to his wife and ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which signifies Satan as the source of sin and death. Thus, he entered into an illegal union with Satan and received the evil nature of Satan, the nature that rebelled against God. Satan's evil nature became the sinful nature within Adam, and Adam was thus constituted a sinner condemned by God. Since he was a corporate man who included all mankind, in his one act of disobedience he included all his descendants, all who would later be born of him, in his sinning and becoming fallen. Thus, Satan and

the sinful nature entered all mankind, and all men were constituted sinners (Rom. 5:12, 19) and were subjected under God's condemnation.

Romans 5:12,19 *(12) Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned -- (19) For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were constituted sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be righteous.*

RECEIVING THE PROMISE OF GOD'S REDEMPTION

After Adam sinned and fell, he was in fear and trembling, and he hid from the face of God and awaited death. However, God came to seek him and to call him. God did not put him to death; rather, He gave him the promise of redemption. He promised that Christ would be the seed of the woman, who would bruise the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15) and thus cause the serpent's death; that is, that Christ would destroy Satan, who deceived man and poisoned man with sin (Heb. 2:14). Furthermore, according to this promise, Christ would become the sacrifice for redemption and would shed His blood to accomplish propitiation (Gen. 3:21) in order to save and bring back fallen man that he might receive God's life and become God's expression. Adam believed and received this promise and gave his wife the name Eve, which means "living" or "life" (Gen. 3:20). God then used skins from the sacrifice to make coats for the man and his wife that they might be clothed. The skins from the sacrifice typify Christ as righteousness to those who believe (1Cor.1:30). Such righteousness makes it possible for fallen sinners to be justified by God (Rom. 3:24), to become acceptable to God, and thereby to be able to fellowship with God. Therefore, through the substitution by the bleeding sacrifice and through the union with the covering coat of skin, Adam received the anticipated redemption of God. Adam and Eve were then able to continue to live on the earth, and through Eve, whom Adam considered as one who was qualified to have life and live, they were able to beget generation after generation of descendants.

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman And between your seed and her seed; He will bruise you on the head, But you will bruise him on the heel.*

Hebrews 2:14 *Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,*

Genesis 3:20 *And the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living*

Genesis 3:21 *And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins and clothed them. (See John 1:29).*

1Corinthians 1:30 *But of Him(God) you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,*

Romans 3 : 24 *Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;*

DRIVEN OUT OF PARADISE BY GOD AND BEING SEPARATED FROM THE TREE OF LIFE

Although Adam believed and received the promise of God's redemption and also experienced God's anticipated redemption, he, including all the descendants who were to be born of him, was driven by God out of the garden of Eden and was separated from the tree of life in accordance with God's economical arrangement. God would not allow a fallen sinner with a sinful nature to contact Him and to receive Him as life. (Gen.3:22-24) Not until Christ came to accomplish God's redemption and thereby deal with the fallen sinner and his sinful nature, thus fulfilling the requirements of God's glory, holiness, and righteousness, did God open anew for man the way to the tree of life. (Rev.22:14) By so doing He caused all fallen sinners in Adam to be justified by faith and to be accepted by God through the redemption of Jesus Christ, that they might be able to come forward to God, who is signified by the tree of life, to enjoy God as life and the life supply for the fulfillment of God's eternal plan.

Genesis 3 : 22-24 And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever - Therefore Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to work the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

1. What are the different matters implied or signified by Adam?

2. Speak briefly on how Adam would have been able to declare God and express God.

3. How was it that, through Adam, all men were constituted sinners?

4. Speak briefly on the promise of God's redemption and the anticipated redemption received by Adam after his fall.