

ADAM, THE FIGURE OF HIM THAT WAS TO COME

Genesis 2:1-25

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“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.” Romans 5:14

The Bible is often wrongly considered a book of rules and guidelines for life. Whereas it does impart divine wisdom to order our lives, its purpose is far more sublime. In fact, this divine wisdom is part of its primary purpose to reveal God in the salvation He has provided for sinners.

This revelation of God is in and by Jesus Christ (John 14:6-9). Thus the entire Scripture is a revelation of Jesus Christ. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John reveal His life, teaching and ministry. The epistles expound the significance and meaning of His person and His work. Both the gospels and epistles refer often to the Old Testament, revealing events, objects and people to be pictures of Christ Who was to come.

Romans 5:14 affirms the reflection of Christ in Adam. Contemplating this truth, we note that:

Adam is the head of the human race, a race of sinners.

Christ is the head of a redeemed, justified people.

Adam was created sinless, but sinned, incurring guilt and judgment.

Christ never sinned, but was made to be sin for us (II Corinthians 5:21), receiving in His body the weight of our guilt and the brunt of God's judgement upon sin (Isaiah 53).

Adam's bride was created from his rib, taken from his side while he slept (Genesis 2:22).

Christ's bride, the church (Revelation 21:9), was secured unto Him by His crucifixion, which included the piercing of His side (John 19:34), and His “sleep” of death in the grave.

Adam's sin brought the curse of sin upon humanity.

Christ's obedience removed the curse of sin.

Adam's race must die because of his actions.

Christ's people must be resurrected because of His actions. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. . . . The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening Spirit. . . This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (I Corinthians 15:22, 45, 53).

Applications:

1. The necessity of literal acceptance of the Genesis account of man's beginnings.
2. The reality of Adam's action consigning all of mankind unto sin, depravity and destruction.
3. The necessity of faith in Christ for deliverance from sin and all of its effects.
4. The certainty of restoration to Adam's original perfection for all who are in Christ.