

CHAPTER 3

THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE

As we study each of the seven dispensations, we will consider the following outline:

- 1) Man's State at the Beginning**
- 2) Man's Responsibility**
- 3) Man's Failure**
- 4) God's Judgment**

As we begin our study of the different dispensations, we need to go all the way back to the dawn of human history. Human history began thousands of years ago with the creation of Adam and Eve.

1. MAN'S STATE AT THE BEGINNING.

Man Was Made to Reflect God

In Genesis 1:26-27 we learn about the creation of man: "And God said, Let Us make man in Our _____, after Our _____. . . So God created man in His Own _____, in the _____ of God created He him."

Adam was created in the **image** and **likeness** of God! What is an image?

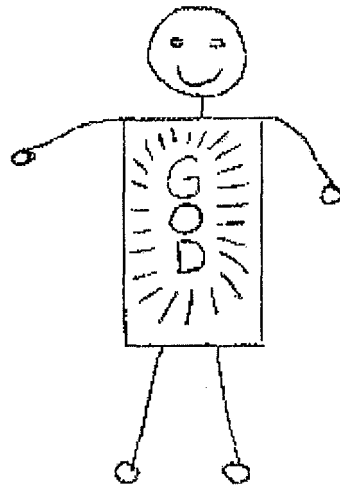
We know that an image can be found on most **coins**. Read Matthew 22:18-21. Whose IMAGE was on this Roman coin? _____ When they looked at this coin, whose face did they see? _____ Whose image is found on our penny? on our nickel? on our dime? When you look at a quarter, who do you see? Whose LIKENESS and whose IMAGE is found on a dollar bill?

When you look into a mirror in the morning, whose IMAGE do you see? _____ Does the mirror reflect you? _____ Your IMAGE is in that mirror! According to Genesis 1:26-27, God's IMAGE was in man!

Man was created to reflect God and to mirror God! This was man's responsibility. Adam was to be like a mirror and this mirror was to reflect God and what God is like.

ADAM

Before
he
sinned



Adam was given the opportunity to **KNOW** and to **SHOW** . . .

God's truth
God's goodness
God's sinlessness
God's righteousness
God's holiness
God's love
God's faithfulness
God's purity

Adam was also told to have D _____ (rule) over all of the animals (Genesis 1:26). God put Adam on the earth as the "KING OF THE BEASTS" (not Mr. Lion). Was God's blessing on Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28)? _____

God Did Not Make A Sinner

At the end of the sixth day of creation God saw everything that He had made (including Adam), and behold it was _____ (Genesis 1:31). We must always remember that what God created was **GOOD!** God is not the Author or the Cause of sin. God did not create a sinful man. He created Adam who **later** became a sinner. But when God first created Adam he did not have a sinful heart. He was perfectly **INNOCENT**.

The word **INNOCENT** means free from sin or wrong or guilt. In the beginning Adam was without sin. He was "**NOT GUILTY**" of any crime or of any sin. He had never disobeyed God. He had never broken God's law. His mind was not filled with evil thoughts. Adam was unacquainted with evil. He could have said, "**I have no sin**" (compare 1 John 1:8) and he would have been speaking the truth. He could have said, "**I have not sinned!**" (compare 1 John 1:10) and he would have been speaking the truth. If we say these things today are we telling the truth? _____ Adam was not a slave of sin. He was free and he was innocent!

Adam also enjoyed a wonderful relationship with God. He could walk with God and talk with God and enjoy wonderful fellowship with God. Also there was no sin in his life which would come between him and God (compare Isaiah 59:2).

Also Adam lived in a PERFECT ENVIRONMENT. He did not live in a sin-cursed world as we do today. Was there any crime in Adam's world? Was there any disease? Was there any death? Was there any poverty? The world Adam lived in was quite different from the world we live in. There was only one thing in Adam's world that was not good was **THE DEVIL** (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9).

2. MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY.

What responsibilities did God give to Adam? What kind of stewardship did Adam have? What did God place in Adam's hand? What was Adam told to do or not to do?

According to Genesis 2:15, what task was given to Adam?

_____ From the very beginning Adam had work to do and a job to fulfill.

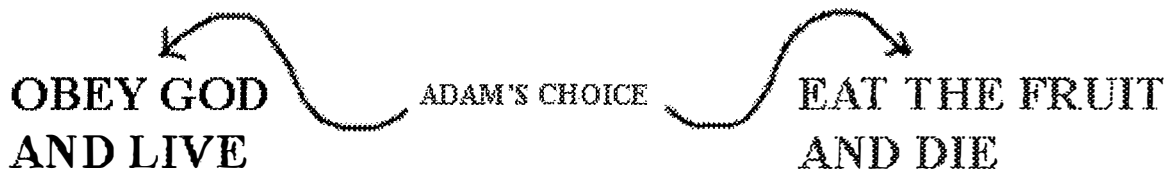
According to Genesis 2:16, what privilege was Adam given?

_____ He was given a great deal of freedom to eat all kinds of delicious fruit. Could he eat apples? _____ oranges? _____ peaches? _____ cherries? _____ pineapples? _____ coconuts? _____ Adam did not have a very restricted diet. He could enjoy the wonderful varieties of fruit that God had made.

According to Genesis 2:17, what responsibility did Adam have? What was he told **not** to do?

_____ God put into Adam's hand a very simple commandment. It was his duty to obey this commandment and not to eat from the fruit of one particular tree in the middle of the garden (compare Genesis 2:9). God gave Adam this very simple test of obedience. It was as if God were saying, "Adam, will you obey My Word or not?" As we shall see, Adam flunked the test!

What did God say would happen to Adam if he should eat the fruit (Genesis 2:17)?



3. MAN'S FAILURE.

Can you find the verse in Genesis Chapter 3 which tells us that Adam disobeyed God's simple command and fell into sin? Genesis 3, Verse _____. Adam chose to disobey God and to break God's command. Adam chose DEATH instead of LIFE.

According to 1 Timothy 2:14, who was **deceived** by Satan, Adam or Eve? _____ This verse tells us that Adam was _____ deceived! He was not tricked. He knew what he was doing and he chose to do it anyway. Adam was fully responsible for what he did. He fell into sin and he was **GUILTY!** He was no longer innocent!

4. GOD'S JUDGMENT.

Because of Adam's sin, God removed him from the garden of Eden. We read about this in Genesis 3:22-24:

Genesis 3:23 – "the LORD God _____ him _____ from the garden of Eden"

Genesis 3:24 – "So He _____ the man"

Adam and Eve no longer had access to "the tree of life" and God placed at the east of the garden two angelic creatures called "cherubim", with a revolving sword like flame flashing around them like lightning bolts, making it impossible for people to come near this place again.

5. THE CONSEQUENCES OF ADAM'S SIN.

What are the last 3 words of Genesis 3:6? _____ These three words describe an event which completely changed our world! This earthshaking event had consequences and results that were more harmful and disastrous and far-reaching than any other event that has ever taken place. **TODAY THE RESULTS OF ADAM'S SIN CAN BE SEEN AND NOTICED ALMOST EVERYWHERE WE LOOK!** Here are some of the consequences of Adam's sin (please MATCH):

1. _____	Sin entered the world and death passed upon all men.	A. Genesis 3:16
2. _____	Difficult toil is required in order to eat. Also each man must face physical death (back to the dust!).	B. Genesis 3:17-18
3. _____	Pain and sorrow in bringing forth children.	C. Genesis 3:19
4. _____	Many were made sinners.	D. Romans 5:12
5. _____	All men condemned.	E. Romans 5:18
6. _____	The ground cursed.	F. Romans 5:19

Today we live in a fallen and wicked world made up of sinful people who are all marching to the grave. All of this because of the three words we find at the end of Genesis 3:6!

Think about the following occupations, and then explain how Adam's sin has created the need for such occupations:

1) policeman 2) doctor 3) Judge 4) soldier 5) pastor 6) missionary 7) undertaker 8) detective 9) life insurance salesman 10) nurse. Can you think of others?

Explain why the following are a direct result of Adam's sin? Jails, funeral homes, a cemetery, a lock on a door or on a car, hospitals, etc. (Can you think of other things?)

Can you see the results of Adam's sin in your own life (in the things you do and do not do? in the things you say and do not say? in the things you think? in your dealings with others? etc.). How has the fall of man affected you?

Remember, Adam's sin has affected every member of the human race. One lit match could fall in a forest and as a result thousands of trees could fall (compare Romans 5:12). Adam fell and as a result the entire human race fell ("IN ADAM'S FALL WE SINNED ALL!"--*New England Primer*).

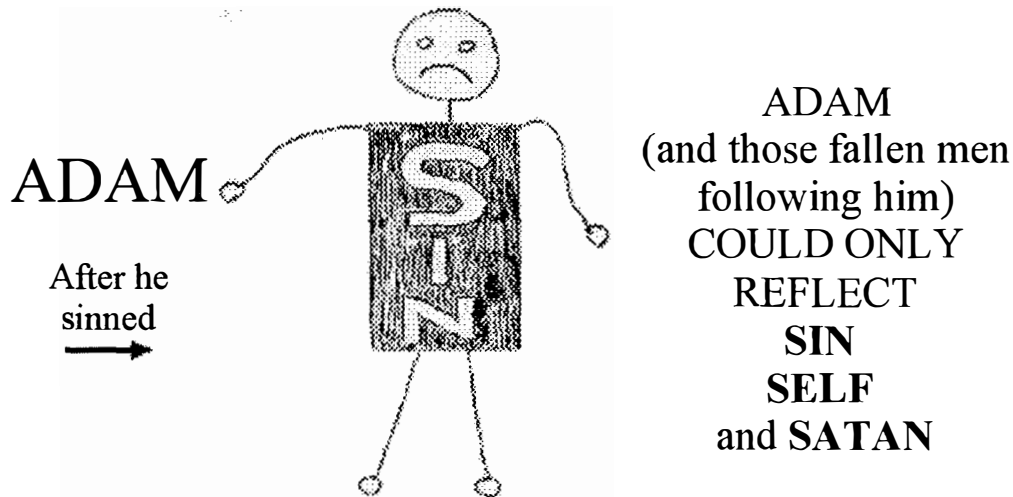
Has God done anything to overcome the terrible results of Adam's sin? Thousands of years later another great and far-reaching event took place as God's Son came to DIE for lost and fallen men: "For as by _____ man's (Adam's) disobedience _____ were made _____ (does this include you?), so by the obedience of _____ (the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ) shall many be made _____" (Romans 5:19). "For as in _____ all _____, even so in _____ shall all be made _____ (1 Corinthians 15:22). **Death** comes from Adam but **Life** comes from Jesus Christ!

The Marred Image

When Adam sinned the image of God that was in Adam was marred and spoiled and ruined. This means that Adam no longer had the capacity to reflect God. Have you ever found a coin that was so scratched and worn that the image on the coin could not be seen? This is what sin did to God's image in man! Adam, instead of reflecting God, began reflecting SIN, SELF and SATAN.

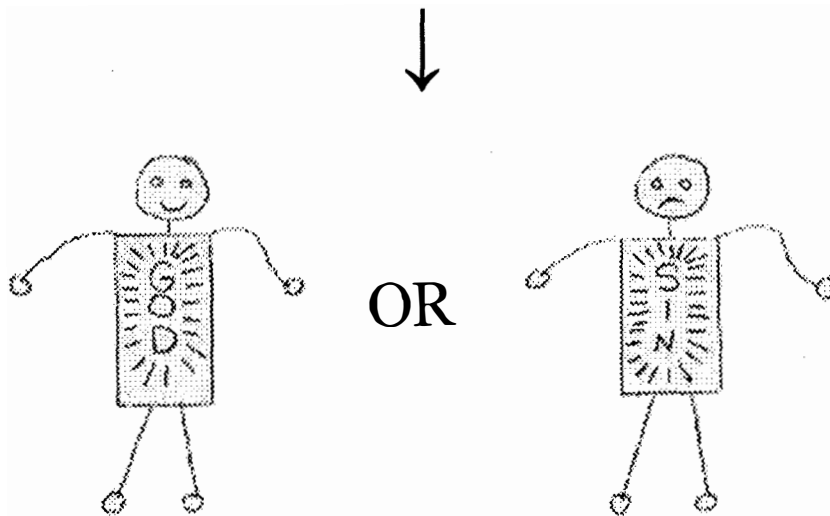
Man was made to REFLECT! Before Adam sinned, man's soul was innocent and apart from sin. Man was given the opportunity to KNOW and to SHOW and to REFLECT God.

After Adam sinned man's condition changed greatly. Man's soul was in sin and polluted by sin. Man could only reflect the wrong thing:



When a sinful man is saved he has both a new nature and an old nature (Ephesians 4:22-24) and he can either reflect the SAVIOUR or he can reflect SIN, SELF and SATAN:

The Saved Man



After his fall into sin, Adam gave birth to several children. Who did Adam's children reflect? The answer is found in Genesis 5:3: "And Adam lived 130 years and begat a son in his own _____ (in Adam's likeness), after his _____ (after Adam's image); and called his name Seth." Whom did Seth reflect, God or Adam? _____ If you were to look at Seth, whose *image* and *likeness* would you see? _____ Every child that has been born into this world (except for Jesus Christ) has been born in Adam's likeness!

There is only one way for a sinner to stop reflecting SIN, SELF and SATAN. He must be saved! Every person is either IN ADAM (unsaved) or IN CHRIST (saved--see 2 Corinthians 5:17). Only those who are IN CHRIST are able once again to reflect God (Ephesians 4:24 and Colossians 3:10). For an additional study dealing with man's responsibility to reflect God, see *Science, the Scripture and the Saviour, Chapter 7 (The Creation of Man)*.

We Must Make A Choice!

Adam was given a very important choice. He had to choose to obey God or disobey God. He had to choose LIFE or DEATH.

The same is true today. Every person must choose between life and death. Every person must choose between a blessing or a cursing. God sets this choice before every man (see Deuteronomy 30:19). What choice does God want us to make (Deuteronomy 30:19)?

Adam's important decision centered around a tree--the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Today man's decision also centers around a tree--the tree on which Jesus Christ died (1 Peter 2:24). WHAT WILL YOUR CHOICE BE?

**TO BELIEVE
ON CHRIST
AND LIVE**

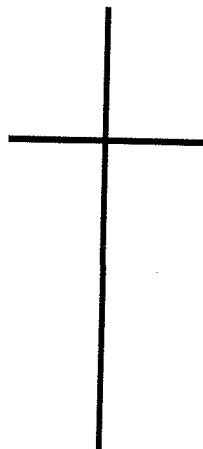
John 3:36
1 John 5:12

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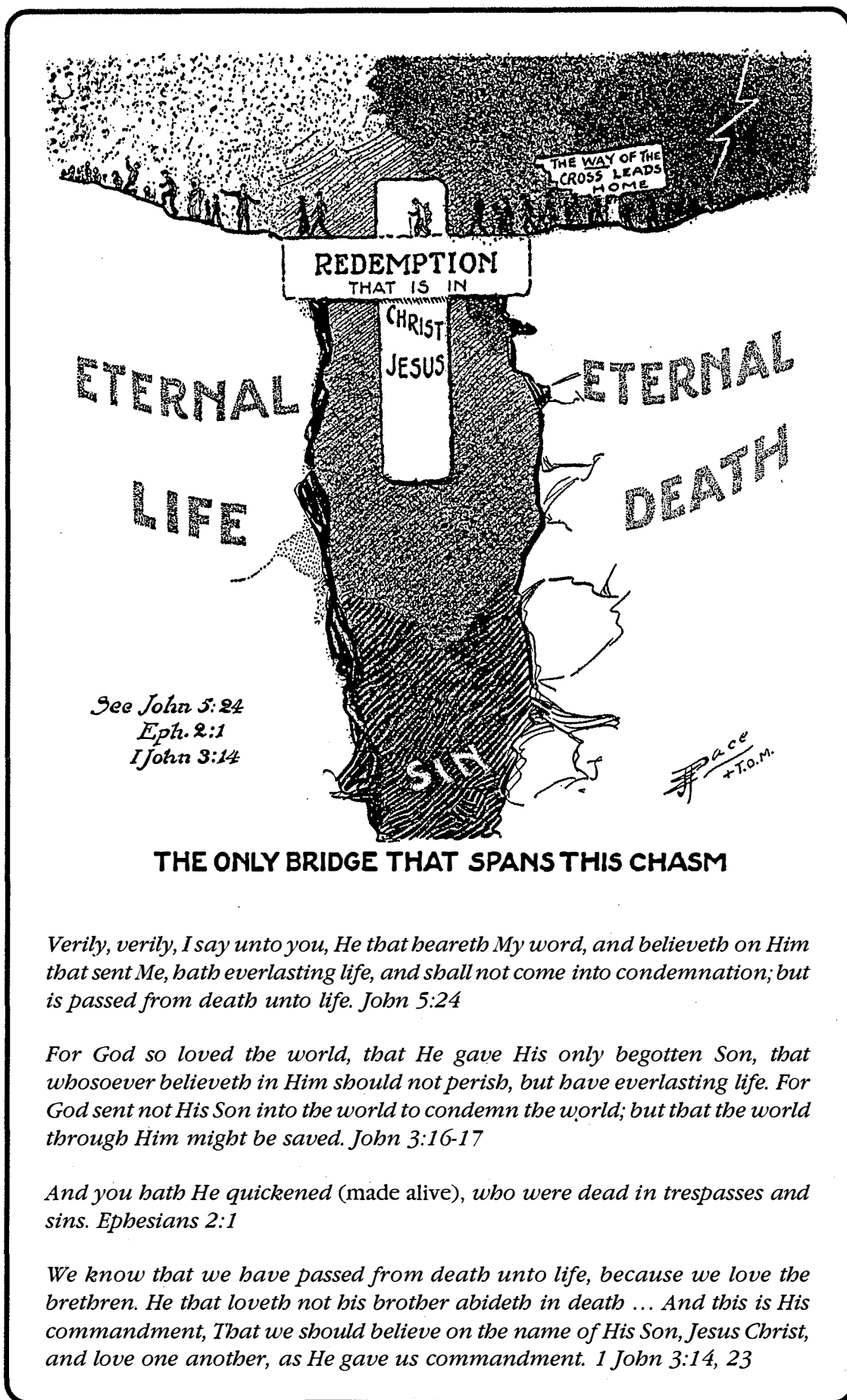
**TO REFUSE
TO BELIEVE
ON CHRIST
AND DIE**

John 3:36
1 John 5:12

?



You Must Choose!



THE ONLY BRIDGE THAT SPANS THIS CHASM

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17

And you hath He quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death ... And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. 1 John 3:14, 23