

Revelation 13:8: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, (the beast) whose names are NOT written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"

Keep this passage in your mind as we look at the first man and woman, Adam, and his wife Eve...but also, of the promised seed of the woman!

I bring you back to the 6th day of creation, after God created all the other living creatures, THEN God created the man.

Genesis 2:7

He was the most glorious and noblest of all the living creatures that God had made BECAUSE OF THIS ONE THING...he was created in the image and likeness of God! Genesis 1:26-27

This high honor and distinction was bestowed upon none of the other living creatures that God had made!

God created the man and the woman to "RESEMBLE HIM" ... in mind and spirit, in knowledge and understanding, in holiness and purity, and in wisdom and intelligence...AND THIS, God created His new humans to commune, and to converse and to fellowship with Him!

Unfallen God-created humans would be as closer to God than any of the other living creatures... They resembled God and were like Him! So, when worldly scientists in our universities teach us that whales or dolphins or spotted owls have a higher and greater intelligence than you, remember this truth...YOU were the only living creature made in the image and likeness of God!

Now, I won't disagree that our fall into sin has made us worse than the beasts...the animals and fish are cursed by our sins, but still, they do what God commands them to do...we're the only ones that don't...

Understand that you were created to glorify God and enjoy Him! No other creature that God created gave Him more joy or pleasure...

Revelation 4:11, Colossians 1:16-17

You know how it is, dads/moms, we show off our children...we love them and love to see their resemblance and likeness to us, especially when they do good things... Aren't we so proud of them when they do well.

In Adam's beginning, we see God's admiration of Himself in His human son (whom He created to be like Him) ...we can see this when God brought ALL the other living creatures, which He had made to Adam "to see what he would call or name them".

Genesis 2:19-20, EVEN AFTER God created the woman from the man's rib, Adam named the woman as well. Genesis 2:21-25.

Regarding the man's/woman's exalted place in God's created order, when the time came for God TO MAKE MAN... There was deliberation, counsel, and agreement in the Godhead. "LET US make man IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS" ... The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit communed together in their creation of man!

THIS creature would be singularly special to God; he would be made like God, for God... able to fellowship and commune with God.

Before God rested on the 7th day, He gave His new humans dominion over the whole earth, God delegated the care of all that He had created to the man and woman.

But then, Genesis 3 happened; enter Satan, who used the crafty and subtle serpent to tempt Eve, who in-turn gave the fruit of the tree forbidden by God to Adam, who openly disobeyed God's command and ate the fruit.

This is the SAME LIE that Satan continues to perpetuate in the minds of the lost all over the world! God is lying! His Word is NOT TRUE! God just doesn't want you to be like Him!

Our first parents should have realized that they were ALREADY LIKE GOD in a good way! They were created in the image and likeness of God, to be like God in righteousness and holiness.

You're not going to die! You're not going to suffer eternal damnation! Do what you want to do. Our first parents believed Satan's lies, and now, so do most of Adam's sons and daughters in the world. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Thus commenced the history of man, after his fall into sin! Adam and Eve lost that which THEY THOUGHT to gain by their sin... they lost their resemblance and likeness to God! Their existence, which, before the fall was associated with holiness, goodness, light, life, and fellowship with God... was now associated with wickedness, darkness, sin, separation from God... and death. In dying you shall die was God's warning. Proverbs 16:18, Romans 5:12

But then as God pronounced His judgment upon them for their disobedience and sin against Him, there was this glimmer of light (to our first parents) in God's judgment of the serpent. Genesis 3:15

I will not leave the man and woman in their sins... I will not be done with you; I will not leave you without hope of being redeemed and saved from your sins against me...! I will send a 2nd Man, a Man of flesh and blood, He will be born of a woman, and He will be somewhat similar to YOU, Adam...for you were created with no sin, though you fell... BUT He will be born without sin, and He will continue to be without sin all His days. I will send THIS 2nd Man into this fallen world to live among fallen men and women... LIKE YOU Adam and you Eve... He will be every bit human, like you... He will even be tempted by the tempter... for I will "allow" the tempter to test and try Him as he did you!

But THIS 2nd Man, this 2nd Adam, my Servant will not fail as you did, Adam. He will not fail in His mission to redeem fallen man. This 2nd Man will conquer the wicked one and break his dominion and power over you.

Satan ruined my 1st man Adam, and now My 2nd Man, Christ, will defeat Satan and redeem believing sinners and give them a better righteousness than that which they lost in the Garden of Eden. Romans 5:12-19

Satan thought he won in the garden, and Satan will think he has won by killing the promised seed, my Son, but my Son will defeat and conquer the devil by His death! Hebrews 2:14-18.

Just prior to God driving the man/woman out of the Garden of Eden, God, He showed them how the seed of the woman would redeem them from Satan's power over them and reconcile them to God. Genesis 3:20-21

I LOVE THIS! God did not leave our first parents to themselves and to their own devices...but instead, God took an innocent victim, probably a lamb or ram, and sacrificed him, shedding his blood. The innocent victim died in the stead or place of Adam and Eve who deserved to die for their sin against God. THIS WAS ALWAYS GOD'S DESIGN!

This was the first picture for them to see from God... of the promised seed of the woman, THEY SAW DEATH for the first time, in the shedding of the innocent animal's blood; THIS taught them about how the seed of the woman, CHRIST would redeem and save them from their sins, and reconcile them to God.

God THEN removed their fig leaves from them and clothed them with the skins of the innocent victim, covering them in that which was not of their own making or of their own works!

God's justice had to be satisfied, justice must be done! And so it was in the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ!

Understand that immediately after the fall of man into sin, IN THE MIND OF GOD, Christ, THE PROMISED MAN, THE SEED of the woman had already bruised His heel on the serpent's head!

By the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, God was gracious and merciful to Adam and Eve immediately after their disobedience and fall into sin!

He could have immediately wiped them out, but He didn't! Instead, He showed them the riches of His grace and His kindness by covering their sins in the death and shed blood of an innocent victim, which was a picture of the promised seed of the woman!

And though the Christ had not yet come in time... yet by faith, Adam and Eve saw Him (AFAR OFF) by faith, and they believed He would be LIKE God's sacrifice, which was before their eyes... and that His death and shed blood would be the sacrifice and propitiation for their sins; THIS GOSPEL was revealed to them right after their fall into sin.

This was NOT God's backup plan, for the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world! As Adam and Eve, and Abel their son looked FORWARD by faith to Christ the promised seed, we look back

to His finished work in His sacrifice and propitiation for our sins.

Now, for all who believe on Christ, and in His sufferings, sacrifice, and death on the cross, (and His resurrection), the image and likeness of God is restored in them..

Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:10

BUT THERE'S ALSO THIS... the righteousness of Christ in God's people, is BETTER than Adam's righteousness which he lost in the Garden of Eden...for Christ's righteousness cannot be lost! 1 Peter 1:3-5

As sure as (IN THE MIND OF GOD) the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world, so it is also sure that the Lamb was slain for God's elect people, whom He chose from the beginning, and whom He will save!

Ephesians 1:3-7, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14