

028, The expulsion from the garden

2/3/2002 (SUN) Bible: Genesis 3:22-24

Genesis 3:22-24 (King James Version)

²²And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: ²³Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Man's work brings about death, guilt, and fear of the future. In our study, we have considered the temptation, the fall, and the curse that fell upon the creation as a result of man's sin. There is now sorrow and pain, conflict and misery, toil and hardship, death and sickness. Man was also to be expelled from the Garden of Eden.

- I. **The disgrace of man pronounced – behold the man is become as one of us**
 - a. **The Person speaking** – Genesis 3:22a, the man is become as one of us, to know Good and Evil. Notice who is speaking, the language that is employed. The Lord God said, there is only one God speaking here. This one God says has become like one of us, plurality. What we have here is the clear expression that this one God is a plurality, a trinity. One God existing as three persons. We have here a plurality within the trinity. The doctrine of the trinity is not fully developed in this passage, it is clearly explained that at the very the least this one God has a plurality within His person.
 - b. **The statement made** – Behold the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil. This was not intending to be a statement of fact. Man could not become like God by sin. Sin cannot make a man like God. Because God cannot sin, and His being is the very opposite of sin. If sin could make man like God, then it would be good. It is a statement of an irony. They have really become like us now haven't they. The image of God in which they were made and had some resemblance of, is now corrupted. God speaks in this fashion to impress upon us the folly for falling for Satan's lies. The way of rebellion brings the opposite results than we expect. Anything opposing God's law will always bring death.
- II. **The eviction of man accomplished** – verses 22-24, and now lest he put forth his hand...
 - a. **The action taken** (verses 23-24) – He sent him forth, he drove him out. God said to Adam you have to leave the Garden and Adam was reluctant. God therefore drove Adam out of the Garden. Adam was very forward to commit his sin, but very reluctant for the consequences. Surely God will let me off the hook, make an exception for me. He will let me stay here even though I have sinned against Him. Once they were driven out, there is no way for them to ever go back. He places angels and flaming swords to prevent people from entering. Adam could not undo his sin and get back into paradise. God forcibly ejects man from the Garden.

b. The Reason Given – twofold

- i. **Man is evicted so that he would till the ground from whence he was taken.**
Man would have to earn his living by the sweat of his brow. The work was to remind him every day of where he was going. This is what my sin will bring forth. It was all for him to turn to God for his only hope in mercy.
- ii. **Man is evicted to keep him away from the tree of life.** God does not want Adam touching or eating the tree of life. This tree had the ability to impart endless spiritual life to all who ate of it. What we do know, is that if Adam had eaten of it, he would have lived forever. Man must die, and man will die, and he will not be able to escape death by reaching out his hand in anyway. The only way for eternal life has been cut off, because the wages of sin which are death will be paid. This denial of the tree of life is not only a judgment of God, but of the mercy of God through Jesus Christ. Christ's work of redemption would have been impossible if death were not a human possibility. And it is by his death that we are saved, and by our death that we are delivered from our bodies and this world. Philippians 3:21, he shall change our vile body. Death to us is a penalty, but the ability to die is the very means by which we have been delivered from that penalty. Revelation 2:7, Christ makes this wonderful promise to His people, when He says, he that has an ear let him hear... him that overcomes I will give the tree of life in heaven. Revelation 22:1-4, speaking of heaven and the tree of life. A description for the remedy of the problem. The problem is that we have been barred away from the tree of life, but Jesus Christ has come and changed all of this, and Christ will lead us to the tree of life and will say freely eat and live forever. If it were possible to eat of the tree of life in heaven and then fall, what a disaster that would be, but it is not possible. We need to find life in Christ because there is no access to the tree of life. When God forbid them, he showed them mercy, through the seed of the woman who would describe the works of the serpent. He will remedy all of the effects of sin, and thus the story of redemption will be final and complete. Though we lost the tree of life, Christ has regained it. If you would ever hope to regain paradise, it will not be by your own works, but by the works of Jesus.