

Theme: Adam stood as our covenantal representative in the garden. He was God's first prophet, priest, and king in creation. By faith we strive to fulfill that calling today, trusting in another to represent us in perfect righteousness.

Background and Introduction: Christ is our prophet, priest and king. But He was not the first; Adam was charged with those tasks in the garden.

I. Adam's Rule – He was to exercise...

A. Kingly Authority (1:26-28)

1. A royal line
  - a. A royal son – bearing God's "Image"
  - b. Extending a royal line – through "royal" sons and daughters
2. Royal power/authority
  - a. Dominion over the earth
  - b. Authority delegated by God to "rule"
3. Extended through His people
  - a. Through Israel's reign
  - b. Through us today

B. Priestly Responsibility (3:8, 9)

1. In "sacred" space
  - a. Where God meets with Adam and Eve
  - b. Driven out when they sinned
2. With Priestly Duties (2:15)
  - a. Adam in the garden
    - 1) Work/Serve: *abad*
    - 2) Keep/Guard: *shamar* (Describes work of the priests in the Pentateuch.)
  - b. The priests in Israel – "Serve/Guard" are used repeatedly in Leviticus and Numbers (1 Chronicles 9:19)
  - c. The people of Israel (1 Kings 9:6)
  - d. In the New Testament
    - 1) The church serves a priestly function
    - 2) In heaven? (Revelation 20:6)

NOTE: These tasks and privileges were never meant to be foreign to us.

C. A Prophetic Presence

1. To proclaim the excellencies of God
2. Instructing God's image bearers in the glory of the creator and maker

NOTE: Adam's "job" was to rule well, serve and guard this sacred space, and to declare God's command to those with him and who would be with him.

It was a place of great honor and duty. Oh, if only...

II. Adam's Role

A. Our Covenantal Representative

1. God acts through covenants
  - a. Covenant: the language of the Bible
    - 1) Noah, Abraham, Moses
    - 2) The book of Hebrews rests on a covenantal relationship
    - 3) Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 require a covenantal relationship
  - b. The "covenant" with Adam?

- 1) The word "covenant" is not used here
- 2) But the elements of a covenant are all present
  - a) Elements necessary for a covenant:
    - The "parties" involved are identified
    - The "terms" are stated to maintain the relationship
    - Blessings and curses are identified for obedience to or breach of the covenant

NOTE: After the fall, that covenantal relationship will have to become much more formal because the minds and hearts of people are so clouded.

#### B. Called to Obedience

##### 1. Defining their relationship

- a. God blessed them
- b. God set the boundaries of their relationship with Him – Enjoy everything!
- c. One explicit prohibition (3:3)

NOTE: Liam Goligher calls it a "moral stimulus" as opposed to a "stumbling stone"

##### 2. In ideal conditions

- a. The restriction was not burdensome
- b. A promise is implied – by the tree of life (3:22) – We wouldn't see what that promise meant for centuries

#### C. In Whom We All Fell in Sin

##### 1. Adam was our representative

- a. At the head of humanity
  - 1) Adam stood as the head of humanity, our "federal" head
  - 2) Romans 5:12-19
- b. A perfect representative
  - 1) *Posse peccare* or "able to sin"
  - 2) *Posse non peccare* - "able to not sin"

c. In whom we are judged – We inherit a fallen nature from the one who represented us

NOTE: We cry "Not fair! Why should I suffer for Adam's failure?" But if you will not accept a representative head you cannot benefit from Christ as your representative either. The refusal to accept Adam's role deprives you of Christ work as well.

##### 2. Who took and ate

- a. Sin intruded into the good of God's creation
- b. Their sin affected the whole world (Romans 8:22)

### III. Our Rule – And Hope – In Adam

#### A. Our calling still stands

1. To serve and guard
2. As kings, priests, and prophets
3. Sin makes it more challenging, but it doesn't change the calling

#### B. Hope in the second Adam, Jesus Christ

1. The perfect Prophet, Priest, King
2. Our covenant head and representative