



The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

09/09/2020

Bibliography

- Beeke, Joel R. & Ferguson, Sinclair B. *Reformed Confessions Harmonized*. Baker Books, 1999.
- Calhoun, David. *Reformation & Modern Church History: Lesson 18, The Westminster Assembly*. Covenant Theological Seminary, 2006.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity. Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1985.
- Presbyterian Church in America. *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. The Christian Education and Publications Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America, 2007.
- Smith, Morton H. *Harmony of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms*. Tolle Lege Press, 2010.
- Ward, Rowland S. *A Short Introduction to the Westminster Assembly and its Work*. Tulip Publishing, 2019.
- Watson, Thomas. *A Body of Divinity*. Reformed Church Publications, 2009.



Contact

dbcummings@prochristo.com






Q&A

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a **covenant of life** with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.






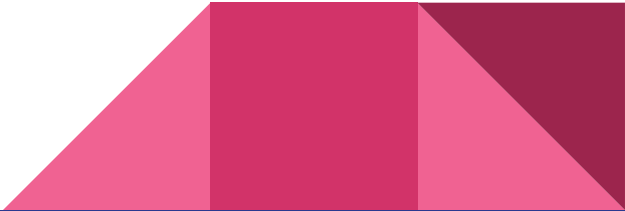
covenant of life

- life or works?

*The first covenant made with man was a **covenant of works**, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience. (WCF 7:2)*

- works that lead to life or death

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17 ESV)







Q&A

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of **perfect obedience**; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.





perfect obedience

- live by them

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. (Romans 10:5 ESV)

- guilty of all

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. (James 2:10 ESV)







Q&A

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon **pain of death**.





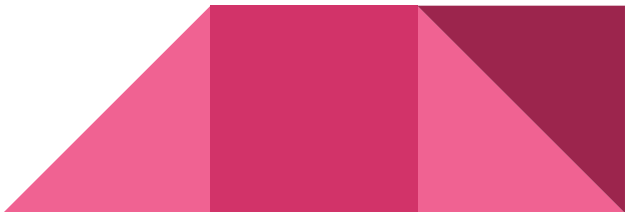
pain of death

- under a curse

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." (Galatians 3:10 ESV)

- death through sin

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned (Romans 5:12 ESV)






the good news!

- the free gift

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:15-17 ESV)





the good news!

- a curse for us

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (Romans 3:10-14 ESV)

