

2. Dispensation of Conscience

Adam and Eve in the cursed earth (The Antediluvian Earth)

“To Adam He said “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which ,I commanded you, “you must not eat of it”
“Cursed is the ground because of you”(Gen.3:17)

Just as the original earth came under curse by the sin of Lucifer, this earth was cursed because of Adam’s sin.

Now consider the blissful state in which the Adamic Earth was prior to the Fall.

This was the earth restored from its chaotic state to its primeval glory. The land was fertile, hills and valleys and plains were covered with flocks and herds of sheep and cattle. The air was alive with bird life and filled with fragrance from fruits and flowers. The surface of the earth was watered by the streams coming up from beneath (Gen.2:6).

In addition to all these God planted a beautiful garden in the east in Eden, after He had created Adam (Gen.2:8). It was watered by a river having four tributaries.

See the change that occurred to the whole earth!

God said to Adam “Through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will **eat the plants of the field**. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return” (Gen.3:17-19). Notice the change occurred in the food habit of man too. Before the fall, his food was fruits which needed no cooking. (2:16). Though Adam had to work and take care of the garden his sustenance did not depend on cultivation, whereas afterwards the situation changed.

“So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden **to work the ground** from which he had been taken. After he drove the

man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden, Cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the “**Tree of Life**” (Gen.3:24)

Seed of the woman (Promise of the saviour)

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your **Offspring (Seed)** and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Gen3:15).

There is a general misconception that conception and birth was subsequent to sin, because Cain was born after Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. But it must be noted that the original plan of God was to fill the earth through the process of procreation. (Gen.1:28)

If they had continued in the state of innocence, still they would have descendants, who would be holy and righteous. For God’s plan for them was to step from the state of innocence in to a righteous holy state, eating the fruit of the “Tree of Life”. But Satan’s scheme was to upset the original plan of God, defiling them before they had their progeny.

But the loving God prepared the way for salvation through the Messiah and pronounced the promise of the **Saviour** in the **seed of the woman**.

From then on Satan’s eye was upon the seed of the woman. As a result Abel was murdered by Cain, Satan’s agency (1 John.3:12) probably mistaking him for the **Promised Seed** of the woman.

After the death of Abel, Adam at the age of 130, had another son born named Seth. The age mentioned here is counted from the day they were expelled from the garden, and not from the day of creation. Cain, Abel and Seth were not the only sons born to Adam, he lived another 800 years and had many sons and daughters. Adam died at the age of 930.

Do you remember what God said to Adam about the consequence of eating the fruit of “The Tree of Knowledge”? “For in the day you eat of it, you shall surely die” (Gene. 2:17.NKJV). On the same day they ate the forbidden fruit, they died spiritually, but physical death occurred at the age of 930 which is **less than a day** in God’s

sight. *[The period of 930 years is not from the date of creation of Adam but from the day he sinned. There is no account for how long he lived in the dispensation of innocence.]*

In Gen.Ch.5, only a brief mention is made of the first ten generations from Adam to Noah (see the chart No.1) which covers a span of 1600 years. This is to highlight the lineage of the Messiah. There were so many sons and daughters born to them in addition.

Exercise

1. *What curse did God pronounce on the devil ?*

M.V.: Romans 2:14,15