

COVENANT OF ADAM

SUMMARY

This paper will look at the covenant of Adam. God created the heavens and the earth. God created living creatures on the earth, the plants and animals. At the pinnacle of his creation God created man. He made man in his own image, meaning that the whole universe could look at man to see what God is like. Man became a living being with an eternal soul. Plants and animals would die and extinguish. Man might die physically but the spirit of man would pass from this world and continue in another world. Adam was given sovereignty over the earth, the rule of all living creatures, similar in a fashion to God's rule over the universe. Most importantly in the covenant of Adam we see a duty of man to obey God, his Creator, with terrible consequences for disobedience. Thus illustrating the holiness of God – God must judge sin - even when it is sin in a creature that he deeply loves.

THE KEY IDEA

A covenant is NOT a contract (as we normally think).

A contract is an agreement between identified parties. A contract is a transaction.

A covenant is an agreement that changes the identity of the parties. A covenant is a transformation.

The concept of transforming one's identity is novel to some. Western thinking has moved to the principle of inalienable human rights from birth regardless of age, gender or station in life. This has not always been the case. The foundation of Western civilization is Judeo-Christian belief as taught in the Bible. In the Bible rights and privileges are not the same for all people and vary depending on age, gender, and many other criteria. As we will see, the Bible shows it is possible to change one's identity through covenant. As would be expected, changing one's identity changes one's rights, privileges, and station in life.

THE COVENANT OF ADAM

Adam was created from the dust. He was dead and then he was alive: God breathed into him the breath of life and he became a living being. God gave him responsibilities: naming the animals (Genesis 2:20) and working and tending the garden the Lord God had planted (Genesis 2:15). God also gave Adam authority over all creatures that swim, fly, walk, and move along the ground of the earth (Genesis 1:26).

God made clear to Adam that if he ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would die (Genesis 2:16). The covenant of Adam was not eternal and not unchangeable. Just as Adam had gone from death to life when he entered into covenant with God, he could also go from life back to death if he chose to abrogate that covenant and enter into a covenant with the Serpent.

The covenant with the Serpent is covered in detail in another paper on this site.



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| The covenant transformation: | <u>from death</u> (dust) <u>to life</u> (breath of God) |
| The sign of the covenant: | <u>the kiss</u> (God breathed into Adam the breath of life) |
| The new authority / role: | <u>rule of Earth</u> (over all living creatures) |
| The new responsibility: | <u>tending the Garden</u> |
| The new privileges / rights: | <u>fellowship with God</u> (walking together in the Garden) |
| The new destiny: | <u>to one day live forever</u> (eat from the tree of life) |

Note: When Eve was created from the rib of Adam, she became partaker of the Adamic Covenant when Adam said “**This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman’ because she was taken out of man**” (Genesis 2:23). The statement ‘bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh’ certified the official adoption of Eve into the family of Adam. The fact that Adam named Eve suggests he was the greater in honor of the two. Eve was created to be a helper to Adam, to serve him. To remove the rib, Adam was cut, causing an issue of blood. The wound of Adam, his sacrifice, justified his position as husband and caretaker of the woman. Eve’s service to Adam and Adam’s devotion to Eve was in perfect harmony. Before there was sin in the Garden the obedience of Eve to Adam was not mandated. Her cheerful giving and serving came out of the goodness of her heart. Likewise, the faithfulness of Adam towards Eve was unshakable; his love for Eve was complete.

¹ Source of image: heavenawaits.wordpress.com