

BIBLE TRUTHS EXPLAINED

What the Bible Teaches About

THE FALL OF MAN

Revised Edition, 2026

GORDON LYONS

ESV Edition

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The Fall of Man

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I must acknowledge a genuine debt of gratitude to the work of Dr. Charles Hodge. The writings of this theologian from a previous generation have helped considerably in preparing this work. On a number of occasions—as will be seen when reading these studies—I have cited or alluded to Dr. Hodge's remarks in his three-volume *Systematic Theology*. These references have been acknowledged in the footnotes to the study text.

The Fall of Man

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PART 1

Synopsis: The Fall of Man

When God created Adam and Eve, they did not have a corrupt or sinful nature. Rather, the Lord God created Adam and Eve originally righteous. When seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, however, our first parents sinned by disobeying God's command, and eating the forbidden fruit. By this sin, they fell from their state of original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in soul and body. Since Adam and Eve were the root of all humanity, the guilt of this sin (original sin) was imputed (reckoned) to all their offspring descending from them by natural procreation. Similarly, death—which included the total corruption of their nature—was transmitted to all their offspring. Thus, today, everyone in the world has a corrupt, sinful nature, inherited from Adam and Eve, their first parents.¹

Note 1: The Forbidden Fruit

The common belief that the forbidden fruit was an apple has no Scriptural basis or support. The Bible does not specify the type of fruit in the Garden; nor is it relevant to the fall of man. The point to be emphasised is our first parent's wilful disobedience and rebellion—not the precise nature of the forbidden fruit.

Scripture References (ESV)

The Forbidden Fruit

When God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat the forbidden fruit, the Lord God did not specify the kind of fruit. He specified the tree only as *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. Thus, God's Word says:

Genesis 2:9

⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ 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."

Note 2: Death is Punishment for Sin

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's express command, and ate the forbidden fruit, God punished our first parents with the sentence of death. In the Bible, 'death' means *spiritual, physical, and eternal* death. (For fuller explanation, see below on the *Nature of Death*, Part 8, p.30.) From that moment on, Adam and Eve lost their close communion or fellowship with God. Their sin had alienated them from

¹ Based on *Westminster Confession of Faith*, [Inverness: Free Presbyterian Publications, 1976 reprint] ch. 6:1-3, pp.38-40.

their Creator and Father in heaven. It had corrupted their originally righteous nature. Now, that fallen and sinful nature would be biased toward evil continually. This, and other related effects, forms part of *spiritual death*. In addition, their bodies now became subject to ageing, decay, illness, disease; and, eventually, cessation of all life-sustaining functions and activities. This is *physical death*. Unless they were to be forgiven, redeemed, and reconciled to God during their lifetime, physical death would be followed by *eternal death*. Eternal death is the final and everlasting separation from God and his love in that place of unremitting torments described in the Bible as ‘everlasting fire’ or a ‘lake of fire’.

Scripture References (ESV)***Death is Punishment for Sin*****Spiritual death:**

Ephesians 2:1

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:5

⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses [sins], made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Physical death (prior to resurrection):

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Eternal death:

Matthew 25:41

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:46

⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Revelation 20:15

¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Note 3: Imputed Guilt

In the above Synopsis, we said that the guilt of Adam’s sin was imputed or reckoned to all his offspring; i.e., to all humanity. We said also that the resulting corruption of Adam’s nature was transmitted to every one of his descendants. This, of course, means all of Adam and Eve’s posterity descending from

them in the usual way; i.e., by natural procreation and conception. Clearly, this encompasses every human being born into the world. However, it does not include the Lord Jesus Christ. Although Jesus developed naturally in Mary's womb and although he experienced a natural birth, the holy Son of God was not *conceived* naturally. Rather, Jesus was conceived *supernaturally and directly*, through the power of God's Holy Spirit. For this reason, Adam's fallen and sinful nature was not transmitted to the incarnate Son of God.

Scripture References (ESV)***Imputed Guilt***

Romans 5:12

¹² 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—

Luke 1:31, 34-35

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Summary below

Part 1 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 1:

Definition

The Fall of Man refers to Adam and Eve's disobedience to God's command in the Garden of Eden. Created originally holy and righteous, they sinned through Satan's temptation and fell from their state of fellowship with God. As the representatives of the human race, their guilt and corrupted nature were transmitted to all their descendants, bringing sin and death into the world.

Key Truths

1. **Adam and Eve were created righteous** — mankind was originally created holy and in fellowship with God.
 2. **The fall occurred through disobedience** — Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the tree God had forbidden.
 3. **The type of fruit is unimportant** — the central issue was rebellion against God's command, not the nature of the fruit.
 4. **Sin brought immediate spiritual consequences** — humanity's communion with God was broken, resulting in spiritual death.
 5. **Death is the punishment for sin** — sin brought spiritual death, physical death, and the possibility of eternal death.
 6. **Original sin affects all humanity** — Adam's guilt was imputed to all his descendants.
 7. **Human nature became corrupt** — every person inherits a fallen and sinful nature from Adam.
 8. **Sin and death spread to all people** — all humanity experiences the consequences of Adam's fall.
 9. **Christ alone is exempt from Adam's corruption** — Jesus was conceived supernaturally by the Holy Spirit and did not inherit a sinful nature.
 10. **Humanity's need for redemption originates in the Fall** — the corruption of sin makes salvation through Christ necessary.
-

 Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 2:9** — God placed the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden.
 2. **Genesis 2:16-17** — God forbade Adam from eating from the tree and warned that death would result.
 3. **Ephesians 2:1** — fallen humanity is spiritually dead in sin.
 4. **Ephesians 2:5** — God makes spiritually dead sinners alive in Christ.
 5. **1 Corinthians 15:21-22** — death entered through Adam, while resurrection comes through Christ.
 6. **Matthew 25:41** — eternal punishment awaits the unredeemed.
 7. **Matthew 25:46** — Scripture contrasts eternal punishment with eternal life.
 8. **Revelation 20:15** — those not found in the Book of Life are cast into the lake of fire.
 9. **Romans 5:12** — sin entered the world through one man, and death spread to all.
 10. **Luke 1:31, 34-35** — Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born holy, the Son of God.
-

 Practical Implications

1. **Recognize the seriousness of sin** — sin is rebellion against God's authority and brings devastating consequences.
 2. **Understand humanity's fallen condition** — every person is born with a sinful nature and needs salvation.
 3. **Acknowledge personal guilt before God** — all people share in Adam's fallen condition and commit actual sins.
 4. **Value Christ's uniqueness** — only Jesus was free from inherited sin and qualified to be humanity's Saviour.
 5. **Understand the necessity of regeneration** — spiritual death requires a supernatural work of God to bring life.
 6. **Take God's warnings seriously** — sin leads to judgment and death unless forgiven through Christ.
 7. **Give thanks for redemption** — Christ came to reverse the effects of the Fall and restore sinners to God.
-

8. **Look to Christ for life** — where Adam brought death, Christ brings righteousness, life, and restoration.
-

 Summary Sentence

The Fall of Man occurred when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, bringing sin, corruption, and death upon themselves and all their descendants, making redemption through the sinless Lord Jesus Christ humanity's only hope of salvation.

PART 2

The Protovangel

Addressing the serpent who deceived Eve, the LORD God declared:

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring [or *seed*] and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

This verse is known as the *protoevangel*. It is the first announcement in the Bible of the *evangel* or *gospel*, by which Christ would redeem multitudes of people from the effects of the Fall, and would triumph over Satan through the cross. Christ would accomplish this redemption and victory over sin, death and Satan by his perfect obedience and substitutionary atonement.

Christ Destroys Satan’s Power

Scripture References (ESV)

Christ Destroys Satan’s Power

Concerning the Lord’s triumph over Satan, the Scripture says:

Luke 10:17-18

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (See vv.19-20)

John 12:31

³¹ Now is the judgement of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. (See vv.32-33)

John 16:8-11

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgement, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Colossians 2:15

¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Hebrews 2:14-16

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

1 John 3:8

⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Children of God, and Children of the Devil

Scripture References (ESV)

Children of God, and Children of the Devil

In Genesis 3:15, the seed of the devil is all mankind generally, with the exception of those whom God in his grace has redeemed. Thus, it is written of the Lord Jesus:

Matthew 13:37-39a

³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ^{39a}and the enemy who sowed them is the devil... (See vv.24-30)

John 8:44

⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (See vv.37-47)

1 John 3:8

⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:9-10

⁹No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's^[a] seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practise righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

1 John 5:19

¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Delivered from the Devil's Domain

More specifically, concerning those who are the children of God, the Scripture says:

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (See vv.4-10)

Colossians 1:12-14

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (See vv.2-11)

The Seed of the Woman is Christ

Scripture References (ESV) *The Seed of the Woman is Christ*

In Genesis 3:15, the seed (or *offspring*) of the woman to whom the Scripture is referring is Christ. Thus, God's Word says:

Romans 16:20a

^{20a} The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet....

Galatians 3:16

¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings", referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring", who is Christ. {Gen. 12:7; 13:15; 24:7} (See vv.6-15)

Galatians 3:19

¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. (See vv.17-22)

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (See vv.6-7; cf. Gal. 3:29)

Seed / Offspring: Singular and Plural

The same term, 'seed' (or 'offspring') can be either singular or plural in English translations. However, Paul was citing the Greek Septuagint (LXX) translation which uses different forms for singular and plural. In this case, the Greek singular is σπέρμα (sperma) and the plural form is σπέρματα (spermata)—and in the dative form that Paul cites in Galatians 3:16, it is σπέρμασιν (spermasin). Thus, Paul is not mistaken when he distinguishes between 'seed' and 'seeds'. He is reflecting the Greek LXX translation.

God's promise to Abraham was fulfilled locally in the birth of his son, Isaac. Nevertheless, as a careful reading of the relevant passages will disclose, this was not the final or ultimate fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham. God had promised that through Abraham's promised seed or offspring he would bless all nations on earth. Only the ultimately promised 'Seed' (Christ) could bring God's blessings of salvation and eternal life to every nation on earth. Again, only Christ could fulfil God's earlier promise to Adam and Eve that the Seed (Offspring) of the woman would bruise or crush the serpent's head. (Gen. 3:15; cf. Gen. 12:2 with 15:4 & 22:17-18)

Summary below

Part 2 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 2: The Protoevangel and Christ's Victory

Definition

The Protoevangel ("first gospel") is God's first promise of redemption, given immediately after the Fall in **Genesis 3:15**. In this promise, God foretold the coming of Christ, the Seed of the woman, who would ultimately defeat Satan, destroy his works, and redeem God's people from the effects of sin, death, and the Fall.

Key Truths

1. **The first gospel appears in Genesis 3:15** — God announced redemption immediately after mankind's fall into sin.
 2. **The Seed of the woman is Christ** — the promised Deliverer who would come to defeat Satan and save His people.
 3. **Satan would wound Christ** — Christ's suffering and death were foretold in the serpent bruising His heel.
 4. **Christ would crush Satan's head** — through His death and resurrection, Christ achieved decisive victory over Satan.
 5. **Christ destroyed the devil's works** — He came to overcome sin, death, and the power of the evil one.
 6. **Humanity is divided into two spiritual families** —
 - The children of God.
 - The children of the devil.
 7. **All people are naturally under Satan's domain** — apart from grace, mankind follows the prince or god of this world (Satan).
 8. **God delivers His people from darkness** — believers are transferred into Christ's kingdom through redemption.
 9. **The promises to Abraham point to Christ** — the ultimate Seed through whom all nations are blessed.
 10. **Christ fulfills God's redemptive plan** — the promise given in Eden finds its complete fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
-

Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 3:15** — the Protoevangel promises the victory of the woman's Seed over the serpent.
2. **Luke 10:17-18** — Christ declared Satan's downfall.
3. **John 12:31** — the ruler of this world is cast out through Christ's work.
4. **John 16:11** — Satan stands judged.
5. **Colossians 2:15** — Christ triumphed over spiritual powers through the cross.
6. **Hebrews 2:14-16** — Christ destroyed the devil's power through His death.
7. **1 John 3:8** — the Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.
8. **Matthew 13:37-39** — Scripture distinguishes between the children of the kingdom and the children of the evil one.
9. **John 8:44** — unbelievers follow the character of their spiritual father, the devil.
10. **Ephesians 2:1-3** — all people were once under the power of the evil one and children of wrath.
11. **Colossians 1:12-14** — believers are delivered from the domain of darkness into Christ's kingdom.
12. **Romans 16:20** — God will crush Satan under the feet of His people.
13. **Galatians 3:16** — the promised Seed is Christ.
14. **Galatians 4:4-5** — Christ, born of a woman, came to redeem sinners.

Practical Implications

1. **Trust God's plan of redemption** — God provided a Saviour immediately after the Fall.
2. **Take confidence in Christ's victory** — Satan's ultimate defeat has been secured through Christ.
3. **Recognize the reality of spiritual warfare** — all humanity exists under either Christ's kingdom or Satan's domain.
4. **Rejoice in deliverance** — believers have been rescued from darkness and brought into God's kingdom.

5. **Look to Christ alone for salvation** — He is the promised Deliverer and Redeemer.
 6. **Live as a child of God** — those born of God demonstrate righteousness and love.
 7. **Reject the works of darkness** — believers are called to live in the freedom Christ has won.
 8. **Share the gospel hope** — God's promise of salvation through Christ extends to people from every nation.
-

Summary Sentence

The Protoevangel of Genesis 3:15 is God's first promise of the gospel, foretelling Christ's coming as the Seed of the woman who would defeat Satan, destroy his works, deliver His people from the kingdom of darkness, and accomplish redemption through His saving work.

PART 3

Origins of Mankind: Current Philosophical View

‘The Descent of Man’ and ‘The Ascent of Man’

If ever there was a mistaken and misleading teaching regarding the origin of mankind, it is the pernicious doctrine that teaches the evolution of mankind from *‘Proto-Ape’* to mankind as we know him today (e.g. as in *‘The Descent of Man’* (Darwin, 1871) and *‘The Ascent of Man’* (Bronowski/BBC documentary, c.1973).)

According to this philosophy, man rose or evolved from a lower state of existence to his present state.

This doctrine could not be further from the truth. It is the very opposite of the facts of Scripture. Man did not ascend from some primitive condition to his present state of existence. On the contrary, the Bible tells us that God created man *fully developed*, and *originally righteous*. By his sin, however, man fell from that state of original righteousness.

Mankind Worships a Supreme Being

Unlike the animal creation, God created mankind with a nature that included conscience, the ability to distinguish morally between right and wrong, and—above all—the innate desire *common to all mankind* to worship the Creator.

Apart from mankind, no created being possesses any of these qualities or attributes. Apart from mankind, no created being seeks to worship God. Certainly, due to their fallen nature, spiritual death and total alienation from the true God, the majority of mankind worship false gods or idols. Nevertheless, the fact that they attempt to worship at all, or to offer prayers or sacrifices, is a clear indication that mankind is a distinct and unique creation of God. Men and women are quite unrelated to even the highest species of animal life: for no animal ever offers worship, prayer or the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to a supreme being! The only other created beings to worship God are the holy angels.

Furthermore, God created mankind to exercise dominion over the entire animal creation. (Gen. 1:26,28; 2:19; Psalm 8:6)

Prehistoric Man?

The Bible does not concern itself with the possible existence or otherwise of prehistoric man-like creatures. If such creatures did exist, they would not have been the same as those individuals whom God created and called ‘Man’. Any man-like creatures would not have been created in God’s image and likeness, nor for his special glory. Rather, if they existed at all, they would have belonged to God’s animal creation—properly so designated.²

² To cite a parallel example from pre-history: the Bible does not discuss the existence of ‘dinosaurs’. However, through his revelation in nature, God has provided mankind with ample fossil evidence to prove that such creatures did exist. However, it has yet to be established that pre-Adamic creatures—outwardly resembling

In reality, such an animal might resemble human beings superficially. However, this creature would not possess the essential attributes of a fully rational, moral and spiritual nature. Such a creature might closely resemble a human being *outwardly, physically or biologically*. Nevertheless, if it did not possess a fully *rational, moral and spiritual* nature—a nature that sought to worship its Creator—then it was not a true human being: For true human beings reflect God’s image and likeness. True human beings are endowed with conscience and can discriminate morally between right and wrong. Above all, and absolutely uniquely, true human beings seek to worship.

Historical Man

Man, *as we know him today*, was created by God, and in God’s own image and likeness (rationally, morally and spiritually—not physically, because God is Spirit). God formed man (Adam) out of the ‘dust of the earth’. The LORD created the first man, Adam, as a fully mature and fully developed human being, and God breathed into him the breath of life. In addition, the LORD gave man the power and authority to exercise dominion over the earth, including the animal kingdom. However, man could never have exercised dominion over the earth and over all kinds of animals, if he had not been created as a fully rational and fully developed human being.

Historical mankind, therefore, did not *descend* or *ascend* to his present position from some lower form of animal life. Rather, he *fell* from the state of righteousness, true holiness, and dominion, in which God had created him.

Many people may seek to evade this important issue by clinging to the theory of humanity’s gradual evolution. Concerning the origin of mankind, a person may reject the facts revealed by God in his Word in favour of man’s theories. To do so, however, is to claim that the theories of finite human beings are more to be believed than the revealed truths of the infinite God. This constitutes a denial of the biblical doctrine of the Fall of man, and an unwillingness to believe or trust God’s Word. We must remember that finite human beings are themselves the creation of God, but that we are also fallen and sinful individuals! We are, therefore, hardly in a position to pass judgment on God or on the truths of his Word!

Biblical Creation Account

Scripture References (ESV)

Biblical Creation Account

The following passages indicate the state in which God originally created man, and from which he fell. They also indicate the extent of the dominion that God gave to mankind to rule over his natural creation. Thus, God’s Word says:

man—did exist. To date, the evidence is uncertain, unverified, and unreliable. In addition, this would suppose the existence of an earlier prehistoric world, which ultimately God destroyed before he created the earth as we know it today. It would, of course, be on this more recent creation that God placed Adam and Eve and the entire historic creation.

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man ³ in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:7

⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
(Cf. John 20:22)

Genesis 9:1-2

¹ And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. (See vv.3-4)

Psalms 8:3-6

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings^[a]
and crowned him with glory and honour.
⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet, (See vv.7-9; cf. Heb. 2:6-8)

³ *Man*: The Hebrew word for *man* (*adam*) is the generic term for mankind and becomes the proper name *Adam*.
(ESV footnote to Genesis 1:26)

Man's Mind is Finite

We must remember that mankind is the creation of God. Mankind is a finite being with limited abilities, faculties, or capacities. God, however, is uncreated, infinite and eternal. His attributes of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, etc., immeasurably exceed that of any human being.

The Almighty and Sovereign God of all creation has declared in his Word that he created the universe and all it contains. It would therefore be foolish indeed to disregard this testimony, or to endeavour to explain it away. It may be that God has not revealed every last detail of *how* he created the universe—including mankind. However, we know that whatever discoveries men may make regarding this subject, these discoveries (including their true origins) must conform to the revelation contained in God's Holy Word (correctly interpreted and understood). If they do not, then clearly man's interpretation of the available, and limited, evidence must be mistaken and subject to correction.

Man's mind—including his intellectual capacities and abilities—is finite. Although they may appear convincing and may sound plausible, man's potentially fallible theories or hypotheses must never be used as the basis for correcting the infallible Word of God. This would involve the absurdity of finite human beings attempting to correct the infinite God!

Some Biblical Statements Misinterpreted

The Lord's people must take great care, however, to ensure that they correctly interpret and understand the meaning of God's holy and inerrant Word. For many centuries, the church earnestly believed that the sun revolved around the earth, because the Bible appeared to say so. They had made the understandable mistake (for their time) of placing a literal interpretation on a particular Biblical expression. Thus, for example, it is written in the Psalms:

Psalms 50:1

The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

The last line of this verse gives the impression that the sun rises and sets in relation to the earth. Other similar passages occur elsewhere in God's Word. On this basis, many generations of people accepted the mistaken doctrine—then taught officially by the church!—that the earth (rather than the sun) was the centre of our solar system.

This teaching was due to a misunderstanding of God's holy Word, which in turn was due to man's mistaken interpretation of that Word. These expressions were never intended to be understood as facts of science concerning the solar system. Rather, they were being used according to the language of customary or everyday usage, and not according to strict scientific fact.

We too must be careful not to misunderstand or misrepresent the Bible. On all matters where the subjects overlap, the Bible agrees with the findings of true science. Here, of course, we are referring to scientifically *verifiable and repeatable exercises*. We are not referring to the speculations, theories, or hypotheses of philosophers or quasi-scientists operating under the guise of true researchers or scientists. There is a world of a difference between the two categories.

Summary below

Part 3 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 3: Origins of Mankind

Definition

Mankind was created directly by God in His image and likeness as a fully developed, rational, moral, and spiritual being. Contrary to evolutionary theories that portray humanity as ascending from lower life forms, Scripture teaches that mankind was originally created righteous, given dominion over creation, and subsequently fell from that state through sin.

Key Truths

1. **God created mankind directly** — man did not evolve from lower forms of life but was specially created by God.
 2. **Man was created fully developed** — Adam was created mature, rational, and capable of exercising dominion over creation.
 3. **Man was created in God's image** — humanity uniquely reflects God's image in rational, moral, and spiritual capacities.
 4. **Man was originally righteous** — mankind began in a state of holiness and fellowship with God before the Fall.
 5. **Humanity is distinct from animals** — human beings possess conscience, moral awareness, and a capacity for worship that animals do not possess.
 6. **The desire to worship is unique to mankind** — throughout history, humanity has demonstrated an innate awareness of, and desire to worship, a supreme being.
 7. **God gave mankind dominion** — humanity was commissioned to rule over and steward the earth and the animal creation.
 8. **Historical man fell from righteousness** — mankind's problem is not that he has failed to evolve higher, but that he has fallen from the condition in which God created him.
 9. **Human reason is finite** — theories concerning mankind's origins must ultimately be evaluated in light of God's revealed truth.
 10. **Scripture must be interpreted correctly** — misunderstanding the Bible can lead to error, but properly interpreted Scripture never conflicts with true science.
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■ Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 1:26-28** — God created mankind in His image and gave humanity dominion over the earth.
 2. **Genesis 2:7** — God formed Adam from the dust and breathed into him the breath of life.
 3. **Genesis 9:1-2** — after the Flood, God reaffirmed man's authority over the animal creation.
 4. **Psalms 8:3-6** — God crowned mankind with glory and honour and placed creation under his dominion.
 5. **James 4:17** — humanity possesses moral responsibility before God.
 6. **Psalms 50:1** — illustrates the use of ordinary language in Scripture rather than scientific terminology.
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■ Practical Implications

1. **Value human life highly** — every person possesses dignity because they are created in God's image.
 2. **Recognize mankind's uniqueness** — humanity differs fundamentally from the animal kingdom in spiritual and moral capacities.
 3. **Worship the Creator** — mankind was created for fellowship with and worship of God.
 4. **Exercise responsible stewardship** — God entrusted humanity with dominion over His creation.
 5. **Acknowledge the reality of the Fall** — human sinfulness results from mankind's fall from original righteousness.
 6. **Submit human theories to Scripture** — God's revealed truth must remain the standard by which all claims are evaluated.
 7. **Interpret Scripture carefully** — biblical language should be understood according to its intended meaning and context.
 8. **Maintain humility before God** — finite human understanding must not be elevated above God's infallible revelation.
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** Summary Sentence**

God created mankind directly in His image as a fully developed, rational, moral, and spiritual being, endowed with the capacity to worship, given dominion over creation, and originally righteous before falling into sin.

PART 4

Man Originally Righteous

In the beginning, God created man in his own image and likeness. This, of course, does not refer to physical likeness, for God is pure Spirit. Rather, it refers to the likeness of God's character or attributes. God created man with an immortal soul. Again, unlike the animal creation, God created man with a spiritual, moral, and fully rational nature. In these ways, human beings are said to be created in God's image and likeness.

God, therefore, had made mankind (i.e., Adam and Eve) spiritually and morally upright. This is sometimes known as '*original righteousness*'. Before the Fall, man's nature or character had been completely untainted by sin. Man and woman had walked in the closest possible fellowship with God.

Adam and Eve were the special creation of God. When God created them, they were perfect (although finite) human beings—morally, spiritually, and physically. God had invested them with glory, dignity, and honour. They were the living and unblemished temples of God's Holy Spirit.

Man Created in God's Image

Scripture References (ESV)

Man Created in God's Image

Genesis 1:27

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them. (See v.26)

Genesis 5:1

¹ This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. (See v.2)

Genesis 5:3

³ When Adam had lived for 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

Genesis 9:6

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image. (See v.5)

1 Corinthians 11:7

⁷ For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. (See vv.3-16)

Ephesians 4:23-24

²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (See vv.20-32)

Colossians 3:10

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (See vv.8-14)

Man Chose to Disobey God

Although initially they had no sinful nature, and no inner impulse to sin, Adam and Eve had free will. God had not created the first pair without freedom of choice. Rather, the LORD had created them as free and responsible agents. They had the capacity to obey or to disobey the command and will of God. Had Adam and Eve believed God's word and obeyed his will, they would have experienced the continual blessing of the Lord throughout their lives. Their descendants also would have benefited from God's special blessings, provided they too had remained faithful and obedient to God.

Sexual Relations had No Part in the Fall

Some people believe that the 'sin' that led to the Fall of man was the conjugal love or sexual union between Adam and Eve. This is an absurdity, which hardly merits refutation; and the Bible itself contradicts this notion very firmly. Thus, the Scripture says:

Genesis 1:27-28a

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

^{28a} And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply
and fill the earth and subdue it...

This was one of the very first commands that God gave to Adam and Eve; and to this command, God attached the promise of his blessing. Far from being sinful, the expression of love by sexual union is holy and honourable in the sight of God, when shared between a husband and his wife. In God's sight, Adam and Eve were husband and wife.

God Created Eve for Adam

Scripture References (ESV)

God Created Eve for Adam

The Scripture says:

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Genesis 2:22-25

²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (See vv.18-21)

Hebrews 13:4

⁴Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

God Blesses the Marital Union

God made mankind male and female with the express purpose that a man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. The love and affection expressed and experienced during sexual union is a supreme blessing from God.

This blessed union is to be practised regularly and enjoyed fully within the marriage relationship. It is the fusion of two people into one. It is a bonding relationship between a husband and his wife that neither of the marriage partners should ever neglect, abuse or disparage. Thus, to the Pharisees, the Lord Jesus said:

Matthew 19:4-6

⁴He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, {Gen. 1:27} ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? {Gen. 2:24} ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (See vv.7-12)

Moreover, to the Lord's people, the apostle Paul says:

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (See vv.1-7)

Corruption of Mind and Nature

When they had eaten the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve experienced shame and guilt when they realised that they were naked. As the Scripture says:

Genesis 3:7

⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (See vv.9-11, 21; cf. Gen. 2:25)

Originally, this state had been their glory. Their bodies had been the perfect handiwork of God: a creation of signal honour, dignity and natural beauty. However, with the Fall came corruption of nature, including corruption of mind.

This corruption of nature also included a distorting of natural desires, which in turn resulted in a propensity to lust. God-given and natural sexual desire gave way to sinful licentiousness or uncontrolled and impure desire.

Similarly, with the corruption of nature, and with this now innate tendency to lust, came a sense of shame and guilt. Had Adam and Eve not fallen and corrupted their nature, they would never have experienced shame and guilt with their natural state, nor with their natural desire for physical or sexual intimacy.

Summary below

Part 4 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 4: Man Originally Righteous

Definition

Original Righteousness refers to the moral, spiritual, and relational purity in which God created Adam and Eve. Created in God's image and likeness, they were free from sin, enjoyed perfect fellowship with God, possessed a fully rational and moral nature, and were endowed with dignity, honour, and dominion over creation.

Key Truths

1. **Man was created in God's image** — humanity reflects God's image in spiritual, moral, and rational capacities, not in physical form.
 2. **Adam and Eve were originally righteous** — before the Fall, their nature was completely free from sin and corruption.
 3. **Humanity enjoyed fellowship with God** — Adam and Eve walked in close communion with their Creator.
 4. **Man possessed an immortal soul** — unlike animals, human beings were created with a spiritual and moral nature.
 5. **God created mankind with free will** — Adam and Eve had the ability to obey or disobey God's commands.
 6. **The Fall resulted from disobedience** — mankind fell from original righteousness through voluntary rebellion against God.
 7. **Sexual union was not the cause of the Fall** — marriage and sexual intimacy were created and blessed by God before sin entered the world.
 8. **God instituted marriage** — Eve was specially created for Adam, and marriage was established by God as a holy union.
 9. **The marital relationship is honourable** — sexual intimacy within marriage is a divine blessing and part of God's good creation.
 10. **Sin corrupted human nature** — after the Fall, shame, guilt, lust, and moral corruption entered human experience.
-

Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 1:27** — God created humanity in His own image.
 2. **Genesis 5:1** — God made mankind in His likeness.
 3. **Genesis 5:3** — Adam fathered Seth in his own likeness and image.
 4. **Genesis 9:6** — the sanctity of human life is grounded in God's image.
 5. **1 Corinthians 11:7** — man is the image and glory of God.
 6. **Ephesians 4:23-24** — the new self is created in righteousness and holiness after God's likeness.
 7. **Colossians 3:10** — believers are renewed after the image of their Creator.
 8. **Genesis 1:27-28** — God blessed marriage and commanded mankind to be fruitful and multiply.
 9. **Genesis 2:18** — God created Eve as a suitable helper for Adam.
 10. **Genesis 2:22-25** — God established marriage and the one-flesh union.
 11. **Hebrews 13:4** — marriage is honourable and the marriage bed is undefiled.
 12. **Matthew 19:4-6** — Jesus affirmed God's design for marriage from creation.
 13. **1 Corinthians 7:3-5** — husbands and wives are to fulfill their marital responsibilities.
 14. **Genesis 3:7** — shame and guilt entered human experience after the Fall.
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Practical Implications

1. **Value human dignity** — every person possesses worth because they are made in God's image.
 2. **Recognize the seriousness of sin** — mankind's current corruption is the result of the Fall from original righteousness.
 3. **Pursue holiness** — redemption aims to restore God's image increasingly within believers.
 4. **Honour marriage** — marriage is God's creation and should be respected and protected.
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5. **View sexuality biblically** — sexual intimacy within marriage is holy, honourable, and blessed by God.
 6. **Reject false views of the Fall** — Scripture teaches that sin entered through disobedience, not through marriage or sexual relations.
 7. **Acknowledge human responsibility** — God created mankind with moral accountability and freedom of choice.
 8. **Look to Christ for restoration** — the corruption introduced by the Fall is overcome through God's redeeming work.
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Summary Sentence

God created Adam and Eve in His image with original righteousness, moral purity, and free will, blessed them with marriage and fellowship with Himself, and humanity fell into corruption only through deliberate disobedience to God's command.

PART 5

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

In the Garden of Eden, God had provided Adam and Eve with everything necessary. Further, God had promised to bless their union together as husband and wife. As the Scripture says:

Genesis 1:28-29

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. (Cf. v.29 with Gen. 9:3)

Genesis 2:8-9

⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

The Entrance of Sin

Our first parents, however, were not content with what the LORD had been pleased to provide. In their hearts, they desired more. As the Scripture clearly indicates:

Genesis 3:6

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Springing as it did from a rebellious and ungrateful heart, this evil desire represented the very beginnings of sin. God had commanded Adam to eat of any tree of the Garden—except of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Thus, the Scripture says:

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ 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.”

God, however, prohibited Adam and his wife from eating the fruit of this one tree. Their disobedience to the express command of God would result in death; immediate *spiritual* death, followed later by *physical* death, and then by *eternal* death—the everlasting conscious separation from God in the torments of hell.

Earth Cursed on Account of Adam's Sin

God had endowed Adam with free will. However, if Adam chose to disobey God, his wilful rebellion would bring down upon him the threatened curse or punishment of God. This curse would not be confined to Adam alone; nor to Adam and Eve alone. The curse would extend to all their posterity; i.e., to the entire human race. In addition, God would place the earth itself under a curse. To this end, the Scripture says:

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And to Adam he [the LORD God] said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it’,
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Removal of God's Curse on the Earth

The earth would remain under God's judicial curse, until the final purging (or purification) of the world by fire, and the subsequent inauguration of the new heaven and the new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Thus, God's Word says:

Romans 8:18-22

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its

bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. (See v.23)

Renewal of the Earth by Fire

Regarding the purification of the world by fire, the apostle Peter says:

2 Peter 3:7

⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgement and destruction of the ungodly. (See vv.1-6)

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

God's New Creation

Concerning this new creation, the apostle John says:

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (See vv.10-22)

Regarding the removal of the curse, the apostle John says:

Revelation 22:1-4

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Summary below

Part 5 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 5: Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

Definition

The Fall of Man began when Adam and Eve, despite God's abundant provision and clear command, chose to disobey Him by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This act of rebellion brought sin, death, and God's curse upon humanity and the created order. The effects of the Fall continue until God's final renewal of creation in the new heavens and new earth.

Key Truths

1. **God provided abundantly for mankind** — Adam and Eve lacked nothing in the Garden of Eden and enjoyed God's blessing and provision.
 2. **God gave a clear command** — Adam was forbidden to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 3. **Sin began with disobedience** — the Fall resulted from a deliberate act of rebellion against God's command.
 4. **Sin originated in the heart** — Eve's desire for what God had forbidden preceded the act of disobedience.
 5. **The penalty for sin was death** — disobedience brought spiritual death immediately and ultimately physical and eternal death.
 6. **The curse extended beyond Adam and Eve** — the consequences of sin affected all humanity and the entire created order.
 7. **Creation was subjected to futility** — the earth itself came under God's curse because of Adam's sin.
 8. **The present world is fallen** — suffering, corruption, toil, and death are consequences of the Fall.
 9. **Creation awaits restoration** — God has promised to remove the curse and renew the heavens and the earth.
 10. **A new creation is coming** — God will ultimately establish a new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells and the curse is removed forever.
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Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 1:28-29** — God blessed mankind and provided abundantly for their needs.
 2. **Genesis 2:8-9** — God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and provided every good tree.
 3. **Genesis 2:15** — Adam was entrusted with caring for the garden.
 4. **Genesis 2:16-17** — God prohibited eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 5. **Genesis 3:6** — Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit.
 6. **Genesis 3:17-19** — God pronounced the curse upon the ground because of Adam's sin.
 7. **Romans 8:18-22** — creation groans under the effects of the Fall while awaiting redemption.
 8. **2 Peter 3:7** — the present heavens and earth are reserved for future judgment.
 9. **2 Peter 3:10-13** — God will renew creation and establish a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
 10. **Revelation 21:1-5** — God will create a new heaven and a new earth and remove sorrow, pain, and death.
 11. **Revelation 22:1-4** — the curse will be removed and God's people will dwell with Him forever.
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Practical Implications

1. **Understand the seriousness of sin** — even one act of disobedience brought devastating consequences.
 2. **Trust God's commands** — God's restrictions are given for our good and should not be viewed as burdens.
 3. **Recognize the source of suffering** — much of the world's brokenness traces back to humanity's fall into sin.
 4. **Avoid sinful desires** — temptation often begins with wrongful desires before resulting in sinful actions.
 5. **Take personal responsibility** — Adam and Eve freely chose to disobey God's command.
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6. **Live in hope** — present suffering and corruption are temporary and will one day be removed.
 7. **Look forward to Christ's restoration** — God's redemptive plan includes the renewal of creation itself.
 8. **Pursue holiness now** — believers should live in light of God's coming kingdom and new creation.
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Summary Sentence

Adam and Eve's disobedience brought sin, death, and God's curse upon humanity and creation, but God has promised a future renewal in which the curse will be removed and His people will dwell with Him forever in a new heaven and new earth.

PART 6

The Fall of Man

Early Church Teaching

After the apostolic period, the early Church held different views as to the interpretation of some fundamental Bible doctrines—particularly, the doctrines of sin, grace and predestination. Amid much error and heresy, Augustine (354-430), Bishop of Hippo in North Africa held closely to the biblical truth *concerning these particular doctrines*, although he erred very significantly in other matters.

Hundreds of years later, at the Reformation, both the Lutheran and Reformed wings of the Church based their interpretation of Bible doctrines on the express teaching of God's Word—comparing Scripture with Scripture. Among the many works that the Reformers consulted while preparing their statements of doctrine, were those of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. Where Augustine's teaching expressed clearly the doctrines of God's Word—and God's Word alone—the Reformers drew upon this teaching and rephrased it to express even more accurately and clearly the teaching of the Bible on these issues.

In view of its relevance and importance to biblical doctrine, we will be referring briefly to Augustine's teaching, both in this study and in other studies in this series.

Augustinian Doctrine of the Fall

1. God created man originally in his own image and likeness in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. He was immortal, and was invested with dominion over the creatures. Adam was endowed with perfect liberty of the will.
2. Being left to the freedom of his own will, Adam—under the temptation of the devil—voluntarily sinned against God, and thus fell from the estate in which God created him.
3. The consequences of this sin upon Adam were the loss of the divine image, and the corruption of his whole nature, so that he became spiritually dead, and thus indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all spiritual good. Besides spiritual death, Adam also became mortal, liable to all the miseries of this life, and to eternal death.
4. Such was the union between Adam and his descendants, that the same consequences of his transgression came also on them. They are born the children of wrath: that is, in a state of condemnation, destitute of the image of God, and morally depraved.
5. This inherent hereditary depravity is truly and properly of the nature of sin, involving both guilt and corruption (or moral pollution).
6. The loss of original righteousness, and the corruption of nature consequent on the fall of Adam, are penal inflictions: that is, they are the penalty of Adam's sin against God.
7. Regeneration (which is included in effectual calling) is a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit in which the soul is the subject, and not the agent. Regeneration is a sovereign gift of God. It is

granted or withheld according to the good pleasure of God. Consequently, salvation is entirely of grace.

The above is the Augustinian doctrine of the Fall in all that is essential.⁴

Of himself, unregenerate man is totally unable to do any spiritual good. Because he is spiritually dead, he cannot contribute toward his salvation in any way. God, therefore, acting in sovereign grace and mercy toward sinners, must grant salvation to men and women.

Eve Tempted by Satan

The sins committed in the Garden of Eden began in the mind. Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve with something that appeared pleasant and wholly desirable. The devil caused her to doubt in her heart the word or command of God. The visual attraction of the forbidden fruit further inflamed these sinful thoughts and desires. Eventually, the lust of the heart gave way to the outward sinful act. Overcome with desire, and no longer willing to exercise restraint, Eve took the forbidden fruit. She gave also to Adam, who joined with her in the transgression.

Illustrating this sequence of events, the Scripture says:

Genesis 3:6

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,^[a] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

James 1:13-15

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God", for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides for ever.

⁴ Based on C. Hodge, *Systematic Theology* Vol. 2, [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977 reprint] pp.161-162

Sins Committed at the Fall

Some of the sins that led to the fall of man, were:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Unbelief | <p>Failing to believe the word of God: "...you shall surely die."</p> <p>Genesis 2:17</p> <p>¹⁷but 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." <i>(bold emphasis added here and below.)</i></p> |
| 2. | Lust | <p>Desiring what God had forbidden.</p> <p>Genesis 3:2-3</p> <p>²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (See vv.4-5)</p> <p>Genesis 3:6</p> <p>⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.</p> |
| 3. | Pride | <p>The desire to become as knowledgeable and as wise as God, and to be independent of God.</p> <p>Genesis 3:4-5</p> <p>⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."</p> <p>Proverbs 16:18</p> <p>¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall.</p> |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>4. Disobedience</p> | <p>Refusing to obey the express command of God: "...you shall not..." (v.17)</p> <p>Genesis 2:17</p> <p>¹⁷ 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."</p> <p>Genesis 3:3</p> <p>³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"</p> |
| <p>5. Rebellion</p> | <p>Determination to prove God's word wrong.</p> <p>Genesis 3:4-5</p> <p>⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."</p> |

The Magnitude of Adam and Eve's Sin

Eve Believed Satan Rather than God

Eve doubted God’s Word. Therefore, she doubted the character and integrity of Almighty God. Eve’s doubt led her to heed the inducements of Satan. She believed Satan’s word—even although the devil’s suggestion was a lie. Eve chose to believe Satan rather than God.

Soon, Adam followed his wife in her sin and rebellion. Consequently, God expelled both of them from the Garden of Eden and from access to the tree of life. Adam and Eve's sin, therefore, was no minor matter. Our first parents sinned calculatedly and wilfully. They showed utter disregard for the word of the LORD and for the integrity of God. Again, they demonstrated a total disbelief in what God had said.

To believe the lies of the devil before the truth of God is a sin of the utmost magnitude. Our first parents were guilty of that sin. So too is anyone who chooses to believe the lie of the devil and reject the truth of God. (John 8:44)

Summary below

Part 6 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 6: The Fall of Man

Definition

The Fall of Man refers to Adam and Eve's voluntary disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden. Through unbelief, lust, pride, disobedience, and rebellion, mankind fell from original righteousness into sin, corruption, guilt, and spiritual death. As Adam was the representative head of humanity, the consequences of his sin extended to the entire human race.

Key Truths

1. **Man was created righteous and free** — Adam was created holy, with freedom of will and the ability to obey God.
 2. **The Fall was voluntary** — Adam and Eve freely chose to disobey God under Satan's temptation.
 3. **Sin began in the heart** — temptation progressed from desire and unbelief to outward disobedience.
 4. **The Fall brought spiritual death** — mankind lost original righteousness and became spiritually alienated from God.
 5. **Human nature became corrupted** — the Fall resulted in moral depravity and an inability to please God apart from grace.
 6. **Adam's sin affected all humanity** — his descendants inherit a fallen nature and stand under condemnation.
 7. **The Fall involved multiple sins** — unbelief, lust, pride, disobedience, and rebellion all contributed to humanity's downfall.
 8. **Eve believed Satan rather than God** — the heart of the Fall was rejecting God's truth in favor of the devil's lie.
 9. **Salvation is entirely by grace** — fallen humanity cannot save itself and depends wholly on God's sovereign work.
 10. **Regeneration is God's work** — spiritual life is restored only through the supernatural action of the Holy Spirit.
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Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 3:6** — Eve desired the forbidden fruit and ate; Adam followed in disobedience.
 2. **Genesis 2:17** — God warned that disobedience would result in death.
 3. **Genesis 3:2-5** — Satan tempted Eve to doubt God's Word and seek independence from God.
 4. **James 1:13-15** — sinful desire leads to sin, and sin results in death.
 5. **1 John 2:15-17** — the desires of the flesh, the eyes, and pride characterize the fallen world.
 6. **Proverbs 16:18** — pride goes before destruction.
 7. **John 8:44** — Satan is a liar and the father of lies.
 8. **Romans 6:23** — the wages of sin is death.
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Practical Implications

1. **Take temptation seriously** — sin often begins with inward desires before becoming outward actions.
 2. **Trust God's Word completely** — spiritual ruin begins when God's truth is doubted or questioned.
 3. **Guard against pride** — the desire for independence from God remains a root of many sins.
 4. **Recognize humanity's fallen condition** — mankind's problem is not merely bad choices but a corrupted nature.
 5. **Depend upon God's grace** — fallen human beings cannot save themselves.
 6. **Watch over the heart** — sinful actions are often preceded by sinful thoughts and desires.
 7. **Resist the devil's lies** — Satan continues to attack God's truth and character.
 8. **Rejoice in God's saving work** — regeneration and salvation are gracious gifts from God to fallen sinners.
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 Summary Sentence

The Fall occurred when Adam and Eve freely chose to believe Satan rather than God, plunging humanity into sin, guilt, corruption, and spiritual death, leaving salvation possible only through the sovereign grace of God.

PART 7

Effects of the Fall

What were the effects of the Fall, and of the resulting curse?

Adam and Eve immediately became sinners. They lost their original righteousness. They lost their close fellowship with God. Their sin would be imputed (reckoned), and their corrupt nature transmitted, to all their descendants. This consequence of the Fall is known as '*original sin*'.⁵

Again, Adam lost the privileges that God had granted him in the Garden of Eden—the earthly paradise in which the LORD had placed the man and his wife. Because of his sin, God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden. They had forfeited their privilege to take from the tree of life, and live forever. From henceforth, they—and all mankind after them—would become subject to bodily ageing, decay, and death.

Concerning their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the Scripture relates:

Genesis 3:22-24

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live for ever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Effects of God's Curse

Furthermore, instead of being able to enjoy the fruits of paradise earth with a minimum of effort, Adam would now need to toil for his living by the sweat of his brow. Likewise, Eve would be reminded of her sin by the intensified labour pains that she would endure during childbirth. The effects of the Fall, and the resulting curse upon Adam and Eve would be experienced by all humanity.

Because of Adam's sin, God placed the ground under a curse. Thus, the Scripture says:

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And to Adam he [God] said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it',
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

⁵ See further on *Bible Truths Explained: Sin*, under *Original Sin*.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Because of Eve’s sin, the Scripture records:

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶ To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.” (Cf. John 16:21)

This is the reason why God’s Word says:

1 Timothy 2:11-15

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. (Cf. 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-24; Titus 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:1,5-6)

Concerning the effects of the Fall on all mankind, God’s Word says:

Romans 5:12

¹² 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 5:18-19

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. (See vv.13-17)

Adam's Sin Imputed to all Mankind

Adam's Headship Made Him Primarily Responsible

In point of time, it was Eve—rather than Adam—who was the first person to sin against God. However, as the man, God held Adam primarily responsible. This is because Adam was the head and representative of all humanity. Moreover, God had appointed Adam the head of his wife. When Adam fell, his sin was imputed to the entire human race.

Regarding these things, God's Word says:

Genesis 3:17

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it’,
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

1 Corinthians 15:22

²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Concerning man's position as head of his wife, the Scripture says:

1 Corinthians 11:3

³ But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 5:23-24

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Sinful from Conception

Every child conceived by natural procreation, and born into the world, is born in sin. As the Scripture says:

Psalms 51:5

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

The sole exception to this was the Lord Jesus Christ. The virgin Mary did not conceive Jesus as a result of natural procreation, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, *original sin* was not imputed or

transmitted to him. For the same reason, the Lord Jesus did not inherit Adam's fallen and corrupt nature. In all respects, the Son of God was—and is—totally without sin.

Sinful Nature Not Transmitted to Christ

The Lord Jesus experienced a perfectly natural *birth*. However, his *conception* was supernatural and divine—caused by the direct intervention of God's Holy Spirit.

Concerning the miraculous conception of Christ, the Scripture says:

Matthew 1:20

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (See vv.18-21)

Matthew 1:22-23

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (See vv.24-25; cf. Isa. 7:14)

When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive and bear a son, the Scripture records:

Luke 1:34-35

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. (See vv.26-33)

Christ Totally Sinless

Concerning the sinless nature of Christ, the Word of God says:

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

1 Peter 2:22

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. {Isaiah 53:9}

1 John 3:5

⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

Virgin Mary Not Sinless

There is, however, no scriptural support for the teaching that Mary was free from the corruption of original sin (the doctrine of the *Immaculate Conception*). Mary herself acknowledges God to be her Saviour. Only those, however, with an inherently sinful nature acquired from Adam, require a Saviour.

The conception of the virgin Mary was a *natural* conception. As such, the inherently sinful nature was transmitted to Mary from the line of Adam. The conception of Jesus, however, was a *supernatural and divine* conception. As such, the Son of God did not inherit Adam's fallen, sinful nature.

Concerning Mary's acknowledgement of God as her Saviour, it is recorded of this most blessed and favoured of women:

Luke 1:46-47

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

This verse demonstrates that Mary herself acknowledged that she had need of God as her Saviour. No sinless person would need a Saviour.

Summary below

Part 7 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Creation of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 7: Effects of the Fall

Definition

The Effects of the Fall refer to the consequences of Adam's sin upon himself, Eve, their descendants, and the entire creation. Through Adam's disobedience, sin, guilt, corruption, suffering, and death entered the world. As the representative head of humanity, Adam's sin was imputed to all mankind, while Jesus Christ alone was exempt from original sin and remains the only perfectly sinless man.

Key Truths

1. **Adam and Eve lost original righteousness** — the Fall destroyed their state of innocence and fellowship with God.
 2. **Original sin affected all humanity** — Adam's guilt was imputed and his corrupt nature transmitted to his descendants.
 3. **Humanity was expelled from Eden** — access to the tree of life was lost as a consequence of sin.
 4. **Physical death entered the world** — mankind became subject to aging, decay, and death.
 5. **Creation came under God's curse** — the ground was cursed, making labor difficult and burdensome.
 6. **Suffering increased in human life** — pain, toil, sorrow, and hardship became part of the human condition.
 7. **Adam's representative headship affected all people** — through one man's disobedience, all humanity became sinners.
 8. **Every person is born with a sinful nature** — human beings inherit corruption from conception.
 9. **Christ alone was exempt from original sin** — His supernatural conception by the Holy Spirit preserved Him from Adam's fallen nature.
 10. **Jesus remained completely sinless** — He alone lived without sin and was therefore qualified to save sinners.
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Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 3:22-24** — Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden.
 2. **Genesis 3:16** — Eve's sorrow and pain were increased as part of the curse.
 3. **Genesis 3:17-19** — the ground was cursed because of Adam's sin.
 4. **Romans 5:12** — sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin.
 5. **Romans 5:18-19** — Adam's disobedience brought condemnation, while Christ's obedience brings righteousness.
 6. **1 Corinthians 15:22** — in Adam all die; in Christ believers are made alive.
 7. **Psalms 51:5** — human beings are conceived in sin.
 8. **Matthew 1:20-23** — Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
 9. **Luke 1:34-35** — Jesus' conception was supernatural and holy.
 10. **2 Corinthians 5:21** — Christ knew no sin.
 11. **Hebrews 4:15** — Jesus was tempted yet remained without sin.
 12. **1 Peter 2:22** — Christ committed no sin.
 13. **1 John 3:5** — in Christ there is no sin.
 14. **Luke 1:46-47** — Mary acknowledged God as her Saviour.
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Practical Implications

1. **Recognize the seriousness of sin** — the Fall brought devastating consequences upon all creation.
 2. **Understand humanity's condition** — all people are born with a sinful nature and need salvation.
 3. **Accept personal responsibility before God** — every person shares in Adam's fallen condition and commits personal sin.
 4. **Do not minimize the effects of the Fall** — suffering, death, and corruption are direct consequences of humanity's rebellion.
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5. **Look to Christ as the second Adam** — only Christ can reverse the effects of Adam's fall.
 6. **Trust in Christ's sinlessness** — His perfect righteousness qualifies Him to redeem sinners.
 7. **Reject confidence in human goodness** — fallen humanity cannot overcome sin through its own efforts.
 8. **Rejoice in God's provision of salvation** — God sent His sinless Son to rescue those ruined by the Fall.
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Summary Sentence

Through Adam's disobedience, sin, corruption, suffering, and death entered the world and spread to all humanity, but through the sinless Saviour Jesus Christ, God provides righteousness, life, and redemption for fallen sinners.

PART 8

Nature of Death

Before Adam and Eve sinned, God gave them this command:

Genesis 2:17

¹⁷ 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.”

Again, in the book of Romans, the apostle Paul wrote concerning sin’s penalty:

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When spoken of in relation to sin, the word ‘death’ does not refer merely to physical death. In the Scriptures, this term has a much more comprehensive meaning than we normally attach to it in everyday usage. When the Bible speaks of death—as the wages or penalty of sin—it is speaking of the following: (1) *spiritual* death, (2) *physical* death, and (3) *eternal* death.

We may represent this more fully as follows:

1. **Spiritual death:**

Alienation from God in this life, together with all its attendant temporal miseries.

Spiritual death is:

 - (a) mortality
 - (b) the loss of original righteousness
 - (c) hereditary corruption (i.e. moral and spiritual pollution, and ultimate depravity)

Spiritual death affects the whole person and personality, in body (including the mind) and soul. Sin, sickness, disease (mental and physical) and suffering, are but a few examples of its effect upon all humanity.

2. **Physical death:**

The death of the body, but not of the soul. The soul, being spiritual and immortal, is not subject to physical death. However, it can be subject to spiritual death and eternal death.

The body is subject to physical death and dissolution only until the resurrection. Then, the body will be raised again (reconstituted),

reunited with the soul, and translated; i.e., suitably adapted for eternal existence—either in heaven or in hell.

3. **Eternal death:**

The everlasting separation of the lost from the blessed presence of God. This separation involves their eternal conscious sufferings in the torments of hell. This is the just recompense for their final and wilful impenitence and for their unforgiven sin.

This is the final state of the wicked (i.e., all those who remain wilfully impenitent, and outside of Christ. In hell—or ‘the lake of fire’—the finally impenitent will suffer for all eternity. They will be forever subject to pains of body and soul, and to the unremitting pangs of an ever-accusing conscience. There, too, they will suffer endless anguish and despair.

According to the teaching of the Bible, therefore, hell is not a place of annihilation or non-being. Rather, it is a place of endless existence and eternal conscious sufferings.

In hell, each person will be so consumed with their own pain and anguish, that they will not be in the least concerned for the pains and griefs of others. It is a vain hope, then, to imagine that there will be plenty of like-minded company in hell.

Death is the Penalty of Sin

Without sin, death would not have existed. As far as mankind is concerned, death has come upon everyone only because of the Fall. Death—in all its forms—is the *penalty* or *wages* of sin. Thus, God’s Word says:

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:15

¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Had Adam not sinned, he would not have incurred God's penalty—death: spiritual, physical, and eternal death. Had he not brought upon himself and his posterity the wrath and curse of God, mankind's physical body would not have become subject to gradual ageing and decay. Nor would his body or mind have become subject to sickness, illness, or disease. All of these flow directly from the corruption of man's nature at the Fall, and indirectly from God's curse on the ground; and, therefore, on the produce of the ground.

Had Adam and Eve obeyed God, they—like the holy angels now in God's presence—would have continued to live in blessed communion with their Creator, throughout the everlasting ages. Adam and his descendants may not have continued to live in the same body with which God had created them. Theirs was an earthly body, perfectly created for their present environment, but not suitably adapted for the glories of heaven. However, like Enoch and like Elijah who did not experience death, but were translated while still alive, Adam and Eve's bodies too would have been translated—without passing through death—and received into the presence of God.

A similar scenario will occur with those believers who are still living at the time of the Lord's Second Coming. They will not die. The Lord will transform their present earthly bodies into immortal spiritual bodies: bodies which—in union with the soul—he will fully adapt for everlasting life in his glorious presence.

However, in partaking of the tree of knowledge, Adam and Eve had immediately forfeited their privilege to take of the tree of life. They had sinned against God defiantly and wilfully. They knew that the penalty of sin was death. Of this, the LORD God had clearly warned them before they had disobeyed his express command. Thus, God had said:

Genesis 2:17

¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat^[a] of it you shall surely die."

Since, however, they had refused to heed God's explicit warning, Adam and Eve incurred sin's penalty and they lost the right to, and the privilege of, eternal life.

Summary below

Part 8 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 8: Nature of Death

Definition

Death is the judicial penalty imposed by God for sin. In Scripture, death is more than physical death; it includes **spiritual death**, **physical death**, and **eternal death**. Through Adam's disobedience, mankind became subject to all three forms of death, losing the privilege of eternal life and falling under God's righteous judgment.

Key Truths

1. **Death is the penalty for sin** — death entered the world because of Adam's transgression.
 2. **Spiritual death is immediate** — sin results in alienation from God, loss of original righteousness, and corruption of human nature.
 3. **Spiritual death affects the whole person** — mind, body, soul, desires, and conduct are all impacted by sin.
 4. **Physical death affects the body only** — the body returns to dust, while the soul continues to exist.
 5. **The resurrection is certain** — the body will be raised and reunited with the soul for eternal existence.
 6. **Eternal death is everlasting separation from God** — the finally impenitent will experience conscious punishment apart from God's blessed presence.
 7. **Hell is not annihilation** — Scripture presents hell as a state of ongoing conscious existence and judgment.
 8. **Death did not belong to God's original creation for mankind** — it entered only because of the Fall.
 9. **Adam forfeited access to life** — through disobedience, Adam and Eve lost their right to the tree of life and incurred sin's penalty.
 10. **Christ alone provides eternal life** — God's gift of eternal life is available only through Jesus Christ.
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Biblical Foundations

1. **Genesis 2:17** — God warned Adam that disobedience would result in death.
 2. **Romans 6:23** — the wages of sin is death, but God's gift is eternal life.
 3. **James 1:15** — sin, when fully grown, brings forth death.
 4. **Genesis 3:22-24** — Adam and Eve were barred from the tree of life after the Fall.
 5. **1 Corinthians 15:51-53** — believers living at Christ's return will be transformed without experiencing death.
 6. **Hebrews 9:27** — it is appointed for man to die once and then face judgment.
 7. **Revelation 20:14-15** — the second death is associated with eternal judgment.
 8. **John 3:16** — believers receive eternal life through Christ.
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Practical Implications

1. **Take sin seriously** — death in all its forms demonstrates the severity of sin before God.
 2. **Recognize humanity's fallen condition** — suffering, disease, decay, and mortality are consequences of the Fall.
 3. **Prepare for eternity** — physical death is not the end of existence.
 4. **Seek reconciliation with God** — spiritual life is found only through redemption in Christ.
 5. **Live with eternal perspective** — earthly life is temporary, but eternity is everlasting.
 6. **Find hope in the resurrection** — believers look forward to transformed and glorified bodies.
 7. **Trust God's promise of eternal life** — Christ has conquered death for His people.
 8. **Warn others of coming judgment** — Scripture teaches the reality of eternal consequences for sin.
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** Summary Sentence**

Death entered the world through Adam's sin and includes spiritual, physical, and eternal death, but through Jesus Christ God offers forgiveness, resurrection, and everlasting life to all who believe.

PART 9

Eternal Life Now Limited to the Redeemed

Now that the human race had fallen in Adam, God would never again extend to all humanity automatically, the privilege of eternal life. However, God would grant the gift of eternal life to all those who, by his sovereign and unmerited grace, he would call to repentance and faith in his Son. Those who heard God's call and who—through the Spirit—responded to that call, would be justified in his sight. By regeneration of their soul (i.e., the new birth), and through faith in Christ, they would become God's children. Together with Abraham and his spiritual seed, all truly born again believers are the children of God.

Those whom the Holy Spirit regenerates and calls to repentance and faith, are known as the elect of God. By his grace, God redeems his elect out of every people and nation on earth. These redeemed children of God are the sole possessors of new and eternal life. They—and they alone—are the heirs of the heavenly kingdom prepared for them by their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.⁶

Regarding those whom God has redeemed, or will redeem, by his grace, the Scripture says:

Revelation 5:9-10

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 21:27

²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:3-5

³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

⁶ See further on *Bible Truths Explained: Predestination*.

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Evidence of the New Life

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord is saved by the grace of God, and is clothed with the perfect righteousness of Christ. This reckoning of Christ’s perfect righteousness to the sinner’s account comes to him as a free gift from God. The repentant and believing sinner receives this gift, completely apart from good works or merit, and solely on the grounds of God’s grace and Christ’s redeeming work on the sinner’s behalf. It comes to the believer through his faith in Christ; but this faith, too, is a gift from God.

This gift of righteousness that God grants to the regenerated and believing sinner is known as *imputed* righteousness. We must not confuse imputed righteousness with inherent righteousness. No one—even as a believer—is inherently righteous. God justifies the believer (i.e., he declares him righteous) only on the grounds of Christ’s perfect righteousness being credited to him as a gift of God’s sovereign grace and undeserved mercy.⁷

Practical Evidences of a New Life

Those whom God has pronounced righteous (i.e., those to whom he has imputed Christ’s righteousness), must show by their outward conduct that their lives have been inwardly renewed. If indeed God has justified them, then each believer’s life must show the evidence of this justification by holy, honest, and honourable living—at home, at work, and in all their activities. Thus, the Scripture says:

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The production of this fruit in a believer’s life, is the evidence of the new birth and new spiritual life. These fruits are the proof that the Holy Spirit of God has effected a new creation through regeneration and faith in Christ Jesus. For, if any person be in Christ, he or she is a new creation. To this end, the Scripture declares:

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Romans 8:8-9

⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁷ See further on *Bible Truths Explained: Justification*.

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Romans 8:10-11

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

What Counts is a New Creation

Galatians 6:15

¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

If, however, the evidence of the new creation is lacking from a person's life, then evidently that person is not in right relationship with God. Regardless of outward profession of faith, there can be no new birth without subsequent new life; a life that is lived unto God, in holiness, and to his glory.

Our conduct is the mirror of our character. If our conduct is not in accord with a life that is being continually sanctified, then we must question whether we have been justified.

A tree is known by its fruit. A good tree cannot consistently produce bad fruit—nor can a good tree fail to produce any fruit.

What we think, is what we are.

Summary below

Part 9 Summary

BTE02 Summary — The Fall of Man (ESV Edition)

Part 9: Eternal Life Now Limited to the Redeemed

Definition

Eternal Life is God's gift of salvation granted through His sovereign grace to those whom He regenerates, justifies, and brings to faith in Jesus Christ. Following the Fall, eternal life is no longer the common inheritance of mankind but is reserved for God's redeemed people, who are made new creations in Christ and demonstrate the reality of that new life through holy living.

Key Truths

1. **Eternal life is God's gift** — after the Fall, eternal life is granted only through God's grace and redemption.
 2. **The redeemed are God's elect people** — God calls men and women from every nation to repentance and faith in Christ.
 3. **Regeneration precedes spiritual life** — the Holy Spirit gives new birth, enabling sinners to believe and become God's children.
 4. **The redeemed inherit God's kingdom** — those written in the Lamb's Book of Life alone will enter God's eternal kingdom.
 5. **Justification is through imputed righteousness** — believers are declared righteous because Christ's righteousness is credited to them.
 6. **Salvation is apart from works** — justification comes solely through God's grace and Christ's redeeming work.
 7. **New life follows the new birth** — genuine salvation results in an inward transformation that becomes visible outwardly.
 8. **The fruit of the Spirit evidences regeneration** — spiritual fruit demonstrates the reality of the Holy Spirit's work.
 9. **Believers are new creations in Christ** — regeneration produces a fundamentally new spiritual life.
 10. **Conduct reveals character** — a transformed life confirms the reality of justification and regeneration.
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Biblical Foundations

1. **Revelation 5:9-10** — Christ redeemed people from every tribe, language, people, and nation.
 2. **Revelation 21:27** — only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life enter God's eternal kingdom.
 3. **Revelation 22:3-5** — God's redeemed people will reign with Him forever.
 4. **Revelation 22:17** — the invitation to receive the water of life is freely offered.
 5. **Galatians 5:22-23** — the fruit of the Spirit evidences God's transforming work.
 6. **2 Corinthians 5:17** — anyone in Christ is a new creation.
 7. **Romans 8:8-9** — those who belong to Christ possess the indwelling Spirit.
 8. **Romans 8:10-11** — the Spirit gives life to those united to Christ.
 9. **Galatians 6:15** — what counts is a new creation.
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Practical Implications

1. **Trust in Christ alone** — eternal life is found only through faith in Jesus Christ.
 2. **Rely on God's grace** — salvation is a gift, not an achievement.
 3. **Examine the evidence of new life** — genuine faith produces spiritual fruit and practical holiness.
 4. **Pursue godly character** — believers should increasingly reflect the fruit of the Spirit.
 5. **Live as a new creation** — the old way of life should give way to a Christ-centered life.
 6. **Seek assurance through spiritual fruit** — transformed conduct confirms God's work within.
 7. **Value holiness in daily living** — outward behavior should reflect inward renewal.
 8. **Look forward to eternal inheritance** — God's redeemed people will dwell with Him forever.
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** Summary Sentence**

After the Fall, eternal life became the exclusive inheritance of God's redeemed people, who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, justified through Christ's imputed righteousness, and evidenced by a transformed life that bears the fruit of the Spirit.

Final Summary of entire study follows below

Final Summary

The Fall of Man

1. Purpose of the Doctrine

The doctrine of the **Fall of Man** explains why humanity is in its present moral and spiritual condition and why salvation must be entirely of grace. It shows how the events in Eden shape every aspect of human nature, responsibility, and redemption.

2. Key Biblical Foundations

Genesis 3 records Adam's disobedience and the entrance of sin, death, and separation from God. Romans 5:12–19 teaches that Adam acted as the representative head of the human race, so his sin brought guilt and corruption to all. Ephesians 2:1–3 describes fallen humanity as spiritually dead, enslaved to sinful desires, and under God's righteous wrath. These passages form the biblical basis for understanding universal sin and human inability.

3. How the Parts Fit Together

The study begins by describing the original state of man — created upright, responsible, and in fellowship with God. It then explains the temptation and disobedience that led to the Fall, showing how sin entered the world through Adam. Further Parts explore the consequences of the Fall: guilt, corruption, spiritual death, and the loss of fellowship with God. The final sections show how the Fall affects every person, making salvation dependent on God's initiative and grace. Together these Parts present a coherent doctrinal flow: original righteousness, catastrophic disobedience, universal ruin, and the need for divine rescue.

4. Doctrinal Conclusion

The Fall teaches that humanity is **fallen, guilty, and unable** to return to God by its own efforts. Adam's sin brought both condemnation and corruption to all his descendants, leaving the human will inclined toward sin and resistant to God. This condition is not superficial but spiritual and moral, affecting every part of human nature. Only God's grace in Christ can reverse the effects of the Fall and restore sinners to life and fellowship with Him.

5. Practical Implications

This doctrine humbles human pride and removes all confidence in self-salvation. It strengthens evangelism by showing why the gospel is necessary for every person. It deepens gratitude for grace, since salvation is God's work from beginning to end. And it shapes discipleship by reminding believers that spiritual growth depends on the ongoing work of the Spirit, who alone can overcome the lingering effects of the Fall.

END

