

ADAM'S APPLE

The Meaning of Death

"And the Lord God commanded the man saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:16, 17). This is the first commandment given to mankind by his Creator, with a penalty for disobedience. Adam had life, but to disobey merited the death sentence, to die, or cease to live. The margin says, "dying thou shalt die," meaning of course, in the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt become a dying man. Life, not being immortal, must choose to live, or to die.

Satan denying this, said to Mother Eve, "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6).

Pronouncing the curse, God said unto Adam, "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou

be an alive for evermore..." (Rev. 1:13). Do not dispute this. Paul declares this to be the gospel by which we are saved, and we must believe that Christ "died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3, 4). When you say that Christ's body died, but His spirit did not, I ask you then, which was Christ, the part that died, or the part that did not die? "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20). Yes, Christ slept the sleep of death, and was made the firstfruits of immortality: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming" (Verses 22 and 23).

Yes, if we be Christ's, then through Him we will be the second fruits to immortal glory, when He comes again. He says, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev. 22:12; Matt. 16:27). The eating of Adam's Apple brought death to humanity, but in Christ we may be made immortal and incorruptible when Christ, our Life Giver, shall appear. (1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17.)

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THE BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS

Stanberry, Missouri

eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:17-19). Here, God informs Adam that he is mortal and must die, and cease to live.

Dare we deny thus, and say that God told a lie, and Satan told the truth? Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way were placed about the tree, "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken..." (Gen. 3:22-23). The purpose of the tree of life was to sustain life, but he was not permitted to partake of it, "lest he live for ever." Then since Adam was mortal, we, his posterity, must be mortal also.

So Job exclaimed: "Shall mortal man be more just than God?" (Job 4:17). We gain immortality **only** through Christ (Rom. 6: 23), and we are told to "seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life" (Rom. 2:7). "Adam's Apple" brought death to us, and not life: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22). Do not argue that it was a spiritual death, for if so, all will be made alive spiritually. "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have

sinned" (Rom. 5:12). We all have sinned through our foreparents and partake of their mortal nature, so death is passed upon all of us. And death is ceasing to live. Isa. 38:1; Job 14:14; Rev. 20:5.

Do not be like the serpent and say Adam did not die, that only his body died: for God said: "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died" (Gen. 5:5). Abraham died. "And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years. Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age" (Gen. 25:7, 8). David was a man after God's own heart, but he died also. "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments..." (1 Kings 2:1-3). "So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David" (Verse 10).

Many now want to eat Adam's Apple, and like the serpent, say it is good—"Eat it and live forever." They want to believe that the serpent told the truth. They want to believe that David did not die, that he is now still alive in heaven. They say that David's body died, but that David went to heaven. This text says that David slept, and that he died. God saw fit to restate these facts in Acts 13:36. "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep...and saw corruption." This tells us plainly that David did not go to heaven,