

THE SECOND ADAM

1 Corinthians 15:45-47

INTRODUCTION

- “Who has been the most influential person in history for evil?”
- Some might think of dictators, mass murderers, war criminals
- “Who has been the most influential person in history for good?”
- Some might think of great scientists, inventors or teachers
- By far the one person who has brought the most evil upon humanity is Adam
- And by far the one Person who has brought the most good to humanity is Jesus Christ
- The Scriptures present Adam and Christ as representative heads over man
- Adam, the first man, was not only our father genetically, but our head representatively – his actions would affect all who came after him
- Like the occasion when the war between Israel and the Philistines was to be settled by a representative from each army in a single combat (1 Samuel 17), so Adam in his temptation would determine whether all of humanity would abide in righteousness and life, or in sin and death
- Adam went forth to battle against Satan and he was defeated, and in doing so, he brought the entire human race into defeat, under the curse, under God’s condemnation, subject to eternal death

- Our great need is to be freed from Adam's headship and place under the headship of another who might bring us into a state of righteousness and life
- We need a champion to go out to battle on our behalf to fight against Satan and sin and to win the victory for us
- *O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight,
And to our rescue came.*
- If we would understand the purpose of Christ's coming into this world, and why he did what he did, we need to understand what the first man, Adam, did, and what he brought upon humanity and the rest of creation
 - ✓ Christ came to seek and to save those who were lost through Adam's fall
 - ✓ Christ came to redeem us from the curse that Adam brought us under
 - ✓ Christ came to bring life, because Adam brought us death
 - ✓ Christ came to bring righteousness, because Adam brought us sin
 - ✓ Christ came to deliver those that Adam brought into bondage
 - ✓ Christ came to destroy the works of the devil, under whose power Adam brought us under
- Every person is either under Adam or under Christ, and which one you are under determines where you will spend eternity

I. WHAT CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM, DOES AS MAN

- A. Christ came into this world as a man

1. Christ is called “the last Adam” and “the second man” (1 Corinthians 15:45-47)
2. Adam is “the figure of him that was to come” (Romans 5:14)
3. Christ became fully man - “the word was made flesh” (John 1:14)
4. This body, like ours, was subject to weakness, tiredness, hunger, thirst, and “common infirmities” that we suffer
5. Unlike ours, however, his body was untainted by the sin which we inherit from Adam, it was an entirely holy body (Luke 1:35), prepared by the Father (Hebrews 10:5), which would see no corruption in life or death (Psalm 16:10)
6. Just like Adam before the fall, he was genetically perfect and that body would not have aged and degenerated as ours
7. Christ came in the *likeness* of sinful flesh (Romans 8:1-4)

B. Christ came as a Servant

1. Adam was assigned a job by God – to dress and keep the garden (Genesis 2:15)
2. Christ took upon himself the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7), made under the law (Galatians 4:4)
3. Adam served himself, but Christ served God

C. Christ came to be tempted

1. They were both tempted but Christ's temptation was far more severe
 - a. Adam was in paradise, with plenty of other fruit to eat, forbidden from only one tree; Christ in the wilderness, fasting for forty days, physically weak
 - b. Adam faced one temptation, Christ three
 2. Christ overcame by appealing to the word of God
 3. He was further tempted by Satan to refuse the cross through Peter (Matthew 16:22)
 4. While Adam failed in the Garden of Eden, Christ prevailed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42)
- D. Christ came to obey God's law
1. While Adam did his own will, Christ came to do the Father's will (Hebrews 10:7)
 2. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Romans 5:19)

II. WHAT CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM, DOES FOR MAN

- A. Christ is our justification
1. To justify is to declare as righteous
 2. Justification is a judicial act of God whereby the believing sinner is forgiven, pardoned and accepted as righteous for the sake of Jesus Christ

3. Through justification, “the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us”, as if we ourselves had kept and fulfilled all the law (Romans 8:3-4)

B. Christ’s righteousness becomes ours by *imputation*

1. Imputation means “to put on someone's account; to reckon; to lay to one's charge”
2. Imputation is God's act of reckoning righteousness or guilt to a person’s credit or debit
3. Adam’s sin is imputed to every one of us (Romans 5:12,19)
4. Christ’s righteousness is imputed to all who believe (Romans 5:19)
5. Justification involves “double imputation” (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - a. Our sin is imputed to Christ
 - b. Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us
 - i. This includes His “passive obedience” (in paying the penalty for sin by his death)
 - ii. And His “active obedience” (in fulfilling all the precepts of the law perfectly)
6. It is possible for God to accept us as righteous because Christ’s righteousness is made ours by imputation (Romans 4:1-8)
 - a. Christ shall “justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities” (Isaiah 53:11)

- b. Christ is “made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30)

III. WHAT CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM, DOES IN MAN

A. He brings us regeneration

1. Christ restores the image of God that was lost in the fall (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10)
2. Adam effaced our original righteousness, holiness and knowledge, but Christ restores them in us
3. This takes place in the new birth
4. This recreation is an ongoing process as “the inward man is renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16)
5. He performs this gracious work of regeneration in order that we would serve and glorify him in this world (Ephesians 2:10)

B. He brings us resurrection

1. Christ as the second Adam not only had to suffer and die for us, he had to rise from the dead
2. In doing so, he became the “firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)
3. Those who are in Christ “shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17)
4. Presently we dwell in these vile, Adamic bodies, awaiting resurrection (Philippians 3:21)

5. The contrast between this mortal body and the resurrection body is given in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44
 - a. From corruption to incorruption
 - b. From dishonour to glory
 - c. From weakness to power
 - d. From natural to spiritual

C. He brings us exaltation

1. The glory that Christ has prepared for his redeemed ones is inconceivable (Romans 8:17-19; 1 John 3:2)
2. The final position of the believer is not merely equivalent to what Adam originally enjoyed in Eden, but is far greater
3. We will be perfectly united with Christ, dwelling with him, reigning with him (Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-6)

CONCLUSION

1. What incomprehensible mercy and grace, that Jesus would become a Man, to suffer and die, in order to redeem us from Adam's sin!
2. All those who are in Adam will die and suffer eternal judgment
3. All those who are in Christ will live and enjoy eternal blessedness
4. Are you in Adam or in Christ?

5. It is only through repentance and faith in Christ that we can be freed from Adam's condemnation and brought into a state of justification and life
6. A person's life reflects who their head is – those in Adam are characterised by sin; those in Christ are characterised by righteousness (1 John 3:6-10)
7. Do you, like Adam, yield to temptation? Or do you like Christ, overcome it?
8. As believers we still have the old, adamic nature dwelling in us, striving against the Spirit
9. We are to put off the old man and put on the new, by daily yielding to God, striving against sin, using the word of God and prayer (Ephesians 4:21-24)