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"DID ADAM FALL OR WAS HE ELEVATED?"

The question of the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, has become a main subject of discussion and even a major part of the Christian landscape. in the fourth century, Constantine, along with permanent church bishops took control of church doctrine, and how the scriptures were interpreted. (Even which scriptures were to be included in our bible, and which ones were to be excluded. We can safely assume that by that time, the idea of Adam's Fall was well accepted as a part of church history.

The term "The Fall" has for a long time been a widely accepted term across the vast expanse of Christendom. Let us hear what the serpent said to the woman. "Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day that thou eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis3:4,5. So they ate of the tree in disobedience to God's command: and what happened thereafter?

Next, we are presented with all the forms of temptations that mankind is faced with. "The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." "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."

God is now ready to pass judgment upon the situation of the disobedience of the man and his wife. "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 forever: Therefore, the Lord God sent him forth from the

garden of Eden to till the ground from whence he was taken." Genesis 3:4-7, 22,23.

It is now plain to see that the serpent told the truth, that upon eating the fruit of the tree in disobedience to God's command, Adam would not die, but instead he would become like God. As we just read, God himself said: "Behold the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil. Would you say that he became as God?: We can clarify and quantify this aspect as much as we care to but the fact is that it was God himself who asserted that the man (is become as one of us.) He did not die, as the serpent said he would not die from eating of the tree, but rather would become like God.

Here again is what the serpent said to the woman as part of the temptation. "For God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Therefore, it is not a stretch to conclude that the serpent spoke only half-truths. The kind of lies that can easily be sold are those that are mixed with truths. In such case the truth becomes the selling card-the attraction up front.

In recent bible studies coming from SBN (either the message of the cross, or a study of the Word) along with up to six members of the panel: the question was asked by a panel member, who posed the question as being asked by someone else.

The question was, "Why did God allow the devil to enter the garden and proceeded to cause the fall of the human race?" The answer that was given sounded good, but the biblical answer was missed. It is worthwhile and totally necessary for us to bring our study back to where God came on the scene in creation to set all things in their properly designed place in God's overall plan and blueprint for the created universe and the ensuing years in which we live, thrive and hope in the future as God has already ordered the events along with the time frame that relates to each event.

What does that biblical account of creation say? Did it say that Satan made a deliberate mess of God's handy work? Did it blame Adam and Eve for making a total mess of God's handy work? Was there a specific purpose behind the breakup and what seemed to be failure on the part of creation itself? Where can we find the truth of what happened in the failing apart of God's handy work? Was It the result of Satan's anger and spite that the whole creation was blown apart as if with a mighty A-Bomb? Was God unaware of the mess that was about to be unleased upon creation?

Let us hear from the Lord himself! "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited. I am the Lord, and there is none else." Psalm 45:12,18. The apostle Paul stepped forward with the appropriate answers to all of these questions and others that we may want to bring forth in our study.

The Apostle offered a candid account of what happened at the time when the entire universe was spoken into being. Here is what he wrote! "For the earnest expectation of the creature (creation) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature (creation) was made subject to vanity, not willingly (not of its own will) but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope." What is the hope that Paul alluded to? The truth that the creature (the entire creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption (not to be adopted, but to be placed in the heavenly family as a matured sons) to wit, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:19-23. Salvation has two components: The buying back, which happened spontaneously at Calvary, and the bringing back which is yet to be. When we first believed, we are given the holy Spirit which is called the holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.

The earnest refers to the "down payment, or first instalment." By paying the "earnest or first down payment" the buyer enters a binding contract which will culminate when the final purchase is made. Based on this principle, by giving us the holy Spirit (The earnest of our redemption, or first down payment) the Lord has obligated himself, that at a later date, he will return as we read: "Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13, 14. To this end we are exhorted not to grieve the holy Spirit with which we are sealed unto the day of redemption. That is the redemption of our body. See Romans 8:23. Paul did pray that on this wise: "And the very God of

peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1st Thessalonians 5:23.

Let us examine the use of the word *REDEMPTION* as used twice in scripture. In *Romans 8:23* we are told of *the redemption of our body*, and in *Hebrews 9:15*. The Greek word *redemption* in *Hebrews 9.15 is Lutrosis* (meaning ransom) and the same word in *Romans 8.23* is *apolutrosis* (the loosing away of all restrictions)—this comes with our redeemed body that will be *fashioned like unto His glorious body*. *Philippians 3:20,21*. The entire plan of salvation as it emerges from the shed blood of Christ upon the cross of Calvary, emerges with messages of life eternal, and the *Philips Translation* puts it this way: "The whole creation is on tip toe, waiting to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own—into their full sonship in Christ."

The most wonderful news for us to get excited about, is the fact that although at present we are all groaning in birth pains along with the creation around us, the day of liberation is already earmarked on God's blueprint, and we can rest assured that not one jot or title of his word will pass away or fall to the ground in total failure. We are given a sure word from the Lord, saying, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light." Romans 13:12.

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Royce Kennedy