



FEED MY SHEEP

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The Innocent Blood of Adam! *Part 17—The Covenants of the Bible*

In our studies of the covenants, we left off as we were expounding and enumerating the blessings of the Edenic Covenant.

Blessing #4. Adam was to have dominion. He was the pinnacle of God's creation and as such, he was to have dominion, to rule over all the lesser orders of creation.

Psalm 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet:

7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Quite inclusive, would you not agree? Remember also that although man was created "a little lower than the angels," that after the game is over, the roles will be reversed, because Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels?

Blessing #5 of the Edenic Covenant: Man would eat fruits and green plants. Man would not to be a flesh-eater until after the Flood.

Lastly, blessing #6: Man would till the ground.

Yes, work is to be a blessing. There is a phrase in America that points back 400 years. The phrase is the "Puritan work ethic." The Puritans, those rather dour, but otherwise generally godly people understood well that labor was to be a blessing.

There is a mindset which has been spreading among the people of this country for several generations now that it is somehow praiseworthy to find a way to get government checks for not working.

The politicians in this country—including every one of the presidential candidates except one—are reinforcing that socialist mentality and economy to greater or lesser degrees. They are all pushing the nation towards socialism, they are just pushing it at different speeds.

But the Bible makes it clear in Genesis that in the time before the fall, and elsewhere in Scripture, in many places after the fall, that man will be blest by working. Paul instructed Christians in...

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

Paul was speaking of able-bodied persons, of course; not those who *could* not work. It's about the lazy person; not the disabled. This is verified in this passage from...

Proverbs 24:30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the

stone wall thereof was broken down.

32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

And so indeed, we are to look upon our six days of labor as a blessing from God. Thus we conclude the words of blessing in the Edenic Covenant. The words of cursing in the Edenic Covenant, in contrast, are very succinct.

Genesis 2:17 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.

The curse is just one thing: death! But oh—how all-encompassing in what death has brought! Pain and suffering of an almost infinite variety. Sorrows without measure. Disease and debility as we approach death's door, culminating in that final expiration, that last labored breath. Dust to dust, ashes to ashes. What a draconian curse!

This death curse was not only physical, but spiritual. The moment Adam partook of the forbidden tree, the process of physical death began in his body. It took 930 years to finally cause him to expire physically, but the spiritual death occurred instantly. How do we know that? Because he and Eve were ashamed. They hid themselves from God. They sewed fig leaves together to make some kind of covering for their genital area. They had lost that intimate communion with God that they had previously possessed and enjoyed.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

That this included spiritual death is further reinforced in Paul's statement to the believers in Ephesus. He said in...

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Thus the terms of the covenant were a *multitude* of blessings, balanced by a *single*, but all-encompassing curse of evil, and all conditioned upon Adam being obedient to only one prohibition; being forbidden to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

If you look at our outline again (the outline which

was provided to readers as page 4 of the FMS for April 2019.), we will skip #3 for now. Number 4 is the seal or the sign or the witness of the covenant. Is there anything in the Garden of Eden scenario which springs to mind which could be considered a sign or witness of the Edenic Covenant?

Remember, of all the trees in the Garden, there were only two which were named: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life. Can we understand the Tree of Life to serve as the sign or witness of the Covenant in Eden?

I think so because the terms of the covenant dictated that Adam could only eat from one of those trees. When he disobeyed, it was withheld from him. And thus, previously, every time that Adam partook of the Tree of Life, he was reminded of God's commands and promises to him. It was a witness to the words of God. In at least *that* sense, the Tree of Life was a token or a *sign* of the Edenic Covenant, a.k.a. [also known as] the Covenant of Life.

Presently, millennia after the fall in Eden, mankind has been given the means through Jesus Christ to regain what was lost in Eden—and then some. For when redemption is complete, man will once again have access to the tree of life. (Revelation 22). But as I stated earlier, it will not only be a matter of mankind gaining what was lost, but it will be better than Eden because of the incorruptibility factor.

Number 5 on the outline refers to the celebration after the covenant has been made. Of course, there is no record of God eating a meal with Adam to celebrate anything, but perhaps we can see this from a little different perspective.

Meals have to do with friendship and fellowship and communing with one another. Clearly, before the Fall, Adam communed with God in the Garden. He had a very close union, an intimate bond with his Creator-Father.

Everything that Adam knew, all the knowledge that he possessed, had been imparted to him by his Father. Father showed Adam the fulness and the variety of His creation. I think Adam could have aced the Mensa exam, don't you?

For those who have never heard of Mensa, it is a society of individuals who have a very high IQ. To be a member, one must pass a very rigorous test, measuring all areas of intelligence. Only a very few qualify. Of course, it was I, yours truly, who founded the society 30 years ago. (*grin, chuckle, LOL.*)

Actually, Mensa is older than that and I have great confidence that I could not pass the test, but who was it—some one in our Atlanta or Cleveland, Tennessee, Stone Kingdom Fellowship who had told me that they, in fact, were a member?

Come to think of it, they may have asked me to not blow their cover, so to speak, but I cannot now recall who that was (see what I mean about not qualifying), but would that person kindly contact me by phone or letter, if you don't mind. I have a question or two for you.

In any event, consider Adam. What a smarty pants he must have been! I mean, after all, the guy was home-schooled and look who his teacher was—His daddy! For several years after it came out, we carried a fascinating book by Richard C. Hoagland, called *Dark Mission: The Secret History of NASA*. We no longer carry that one, but we are now stocking four books dealing with the alleged Secret Space Program. (See fliers within this month's mailing.)

If you should decide to read any of them, just keep the intelligence of Adam in mind as you do so. What I am suggesting as a possibility is wrapped up in this rhetorical question: Did Adam possess equal or greater intelligence than, say, Werner von Braun or some of the other purported geniuses of our overt and secret space programs? When you live to be nearly a thousand years old, imagine what you could accomplish!

Number 6 on the outline is the memorial to the covenant. Here again, I believe that lovely tree in the Garden of Eden called the Tree of Life served as the reminder and memorial to the Edenic Covenant.

Number 7 is the duration of the Covenant. Well, I believe we have addressed that in our little discussion regarding the length of Adam's probationary period. Which is to say, the Edenic Covenant *could* have lasted indefinitely, or if the probationary period were finite—say, 40 days—then, the Edenic Covenant would have been converted into the Everlasting Covenant.

But because the Fall did happen—most assuredly it was a part of God's Plan from the beginning—then we have to say that the Edenic Covenant was temporary. It was not revocable, however. Because God gave a specific condition regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. As such, Adam had no standing whatsoever to say: "Uh, gee, Dad, could ya ease up on the restriction on that Good and Evil tree for a while? Couldn't I just hack into it every once in a while, just to...you know...just to see what's there? Huh? How 'bout it, Dad?"

No, once that restriction was set down; it was immutable. It had to be. It was all part of the Father's programmed (predestinated and foreordained) plan.

Number 8 on the outline, should be self-explanatory as regards to the Edenic Covenant, a.k.a. the Covenant of Life, the Covenant of Works.

To this point, we have seen the *parties* to the Edenic Covenant. We have examined the *words*—the terms, conditions or promises—of the Edenic Covenant. We have looked at all the *features* of covenants as they applied to Adam and the "Covenant of Works," as the Reformed school of thought calls it.

But we skipped number 3 of the features of covenants: the blood of the covenant. At first glance, we might think that this feature is like the oath, that there is no record of it as it pertains to the Edenic Covenant. But let's look a little deeper. Let's read Genesis 2.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

For your information, the term "help meet" is not another form of saying a "helpmate." Rather, it could be better translated into modern English as "a helper suitable", or "a helper appropriate for him." So how did God make a suitable helper for Adam? God performed a medical procedure on Adam.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

In modern medical terminology, we would say that first God put Adam under full anesthesia, so that he was rendered unconscious. God then performed a surgical operation. It says that God "closed up the flesh." Well, obviously the flesh had to have been opened then, right? And again it is implicit, not explicit, that some of Adam's blood was shed. So label it speculation, if you will.

Now, here is the real kicker! Did it ever occur to you *that innocent blood was shed*? Think about that: the first Adam's blood, *before* the fall when this blood was shed, was *every bit as sinless and innocent as the blood of the last Adam, Jesus Christ!*

There are more contrasts and parallels here. First, I want you know that there are differing schools of thought on the creation accounts in Genesis 1 vs. Genesis 2. But you can look it up, and you will find that the Hebrew word for *Adam* and *man* in Genesis 2 is

the same word translated “man” in Genesis 1:26 (... Let us make **man** ...is the Hebrew word *awdawm*, Strong’s reference #120 in both chapters 1 and 2.).

It is not our purpose here to go into the details of that controversy; our focus here and now is on the covenants. So with that fact in mind, here are a couple more correlations.

We know that Jesus died after six hours on the cross in fully-conscious, utter agony. Six hours of unbelievably excruciating pain and torment. Adam, in contrast, was unconscious when his blood was shed.

In further contrast, Jesus died at the end of six hours. Similarly, in the Genesis 1 account, the creation of Adam is listed last on the sixth day. Therefore, we can suggest that Adam was created at the end of six days.

Moreover, the final shedding of Jesus’ blood was when the spear pierced His side. In the creation of Eve, God opened Adam’s side and takes out a “rib.” Exactly how God made Eve out of the so-called rib is open to speculation, and so here is ours.

Could God have removed a literal rib from Adam? Sure. And by the way, that does not mean that all males since Adam should have one less rib. That’s just silly. If a man has one of his kidneys removed before he fathers a son, does that mean the son will have only one kidney?

Another thought is that since the Hebrew word for rib is *tsela* and it can mean rib, beam or side-chamber, that God took the chamber or *womb* out of Adam and created the “womb-man” or woman. That’s not a play on words. That is where our English word *woman* comes from. Womb-man. Look it up.

Of course, some have maintained that the true derivation of the word *woman* goes back to the Garden. I mean, can you imagine how incredibly beautiful Eve must have been? The very first woman, hand-designed and fashioned by God Himself?!!

Imagine then, when God brings Eve to Adam. Adam was star struck! And like any guy, all he could stammer was “Whoa-man!” (wo-man!)

In all seriousness now, allow me to suggest another possibility. Could it have been that God removed some stem cells from out of the bone marrow of Adam’s rib? And from the DNA therein, He could have created a perfect clone of Adam, which would have been another male. But instead, God modified the genetic code in the appropriate places so that the male

was differentiated into the female known as Eve? I present that only as food for thought...

So if we go back to our outline, perhaps Adam made a sacrifice, albeit unconsciously, in shedding his own innocent and sinless blood. **The purpose was to bring forth a bride**. He lay down in a deep sleep and allowed the Mediator of the Edenic Covenant, God Himself, to open his side and to take out of his own body a bride who would be “bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.” (Genesis 2:23)

Do you see how the shedding of innocent blood to bring forth a bride is a type and shadow of the last Adam, Jesus, having His sinless blood shed in order to bring forth His bride?! Do you see that?

The Edenic Covenant, a.k.a. the Covenant of Works, the Covenant of Life, and some also call it the Adamic Covenant—whatever the name—this covenant stands alone since it is the only covenant God made with man *before* the great fall.

Slightly paraphrasing authors Conner and Malmin, This covenant declared God’s creative purpose for man including covenantal relationship, character, dominion, fruitfulness and eternal life based upon obedience and faith. The fall of man necessitated the revelation of the redemptive covenants to bring the Edenic covenant to fulfillment. This was particularly made possible by the New Covenant, which restores to man all that was lost in the Edenic Covenant.

And I hasten once more to qualify the authors’ last clause, in that they do not go quite far enough. Because the New Covenant will eventually do *more* than restore what was lost in Eden, because in Eden man obviously had the potential to fall. But our restoration in the Age of Tabernacles or beyond will bring us to a state of life and existence where there will never again be even the potential of falling. Instead, we shall enjoy immortality and blissful fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Hallelujah! And what a Savior!

(To be continued.)

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