

Sunday, May 11, 2014

**From the book “The Ministry of Salvation” (16)**

## **The Wages of Sin (2)**

**Why did man not die by flesh immediately after the fall?**

**Did the fact that man didn't die by flesh immediately after the fall contradict the true word of God?**

We have established that God created man out of His love, and His love toward man is steadfast and unchanging. Man's disobedience of the commandment caused him to deserve the judgment of death, However, in God's conversation to the serpent after the fall, He gave man a promise of salvation: **“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”** (Genesis 3:15). This verse represents the first promise of salvation and the first prophecy about the coming of Christ the savior from the woman's offspring. Some consider it as one of the pivotal verses in the book of Genesis.

**There are three aspects to the judgment of death that befell upon man: spiritual death** which is separation from God, and it happened after the fall immediately. Then, **moral death** which is a state of being under the dominion of sin and corruption. This death had power over Adam and Eve, and all mankind; and it happened after the fall immediately as well. The third aspect is **the death of the flesh** which was postponed for a little while to give Adam and Eve the chance to have an offspring for the promised savior to come, since Adam and Eve didn't have any offspring at the time of the fall. And death by flesh happened afterwards.

Thus, God was honest in His statements, and the judgment of death befell upon man. God also remained firm in His love, gave the promise of salvation, and completed it by the incarnation and the crucifixion.

**Why do we see evil increase around us?**

**Why are there sufferings on earth? And why are there diseases, natural disasters and other things?**

Man's nature was corrupted because of his fall, as a result, sorrow and pain became his share on earth. Man also started to be drawn towards evil which dominated and spread in the world amongst mankind.

St. Athanasius said: **“When this happened, men began to die, and corruption ran riot among them and held sway over them to an even more than natural degree, because it was the penalty of which God had forewarned them for transgressing the commandment. Indeed, they had in their sinning surpassed all limits ; for, having invented wickedness in the beginning and so involved themselves in death and corruption, they had gone on gradually from bad to worse, not stopping at any one kind of evil, but continually, as with insatiable appetite, devising new kinds of sins. Adulteries and thefts were everywhere, murder and rapine filled the earth, law was disregarded in corruption and injustice, all kinds of iniquities were perpetrated by all, both singly and in common. Cities were warring with cities, nations were rising against nations, and the whole earth was torn with factions and battles, while each strove to outdo the other in wickedness. Even crimes contrary to nature were not unknown, but as the martyr-apostle of Christ says (St. Paul): “Their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature ; and the men also, leaving the natural use of the woman, flamed out in lust towards each other, perpetrating shameless acts with their own sex, and receiving in their own persons the due recompense of their pervertedness.”**

In this Paragraph, St. Athanasius demonstrated the various kinds of evil and sins which spread amongst mankind as a result of death and corruption which afflicted mankind because of Adam's disobedience.

The earth was cursed because of Adam's sin, and it started to grow thorns and thistles instead of fruits and good things. It also revealed its disobedience towards man through diseases, earthquake, volcanoes, and natural disasters of all kinds.

Thus we find that the main cause of all evil we see around us, calamities which spread in the world, also sufferings, diseases and natural disasters are all due to the corruption which entered into the world by Adam's transgression. However, righteousness and holiness entered by the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the second Adam.

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