

## The First Man and Transgression

**M**ankind is naturally of the flesh and temporal. God is naturally of the Spirit and eternal. **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8.** God is “Holy” by nature—man is not. “Holy” means without transgression of God’s will and without sin. By definition, “sin” is the result of breaking some legal obligation such as a law of God including one of the Ten Commandments discussed below. However, where there is no formal written law, covenant, or rules to break, there can be no sin, but even without sin there can be transgression of His will.

Transgression of God’s will is technically not a sin in many instances, simply because transgression is “bigger” than sin. Still, any Law He might promulgate (put in place) is rooted in His supreme will. Thus, any sin *or* transgression of the will of God is a rejection of His will and His purpose(s) in holiness. By way of analogy, if transgression of God’s will is a large circle, the circle of sin fits inside it. The Bible sometimes refers to transgressions of His will as sin simply because of the overlap in meaning.

As to mankind, we were given the freedom to choose to live by God’s will or not. Man’s choice to live *forever* (or die) is associated with his personal choice to *do* the will of God (or not). As explained below, “living by His will” means doing it, but first we must know what His will is. All of this is better understood in the context of the first transgression of God’s will. In a manner similar to the biblical account of creation (“creationism”), the biblical account of the first transgression introduces the association of God’s will and His Word. Thus, even if you question the imagery or facts associated with the “forbidden fruit” story as depicted in the Bible, the underlying message and lesson remains clear: God reigns supreme, His Word is His will, and His Word is true in power of operation (as guaranteed).

Prior to the first transgression of God’s will, and at a time when there was no Law, the Bible says the first man and woman lived potentially forever. God placed the first man named “Adam” along with his wife “Eve” in a perfect garden environment in which to live, and He gave them everything they needed for sustenance. As residents in God’s garden, Adam and Eve were instructed not to eat of the fruit of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (the “forbidden fruit”). If they ate the forbidden fruit, God *said* they would “die”. **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. Genesis 2:16-17; see also, Genesis 3:1-5 below.**

Meanwhile, the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) was roaming about the earth as the enemy of God (Matthew 13:37-43) seeking whomever he might destroy. **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring**

**lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1 Peter 5:8.** The enemy is sometimes called the “tempter”. **And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Matthew 4:3.** (The reference to “him” in the preceding verse is a reference to Jesus who was also tempted by the enemy as discussed later.)

The tempter was on earth before Adam and Eve. *See, Matthew 4:1-10.* The tempter entered the garden and first tempted Eve to disobey God’s will by not believing His Word. **Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Genesis 3:1-5.** (Irrespective of whether or not the enemy “trespassed” into the garden as the domain of God, or if the enemy had the right to be there because the garden was placed in the world as the domain of the roaming devil, the fact is the enemy was there.)

After having fallen to the wiles of the devil, Eve then did the work of the devil. She used her own flesh—the flesh of Adam from which she was made (*Genesis 2:23*), to tempt him to personally commit the same transgression—unbelief. **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. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.** Adam gave in to the temptation by partaking of the forbidden fruit. In so doing, the first man transgressed the will of God in *unbelief* of His Word. Adam (and Eve) chose the will of his flesh instead of the will of God.

God said Adam and Eve would die if they partook of the forbidden fruit, so God the Father considered them dead. “How” they died is discussed in detail below, but we can assume Adam and Eve would have chosen *not* to die *if* they truly believed God’s Word and the promised outcome of their unbelief would be death.

Because God is a God of the living and not the dead (*Matthew 22:32; See also, Luke 20:38 and Mark 12:27*), Adam and Eve could no longer dwell in the eternal garden with God and His sustenance. They were expelled from the garden and barred from *ever* reentering it. **Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. Genesis 3:23-24.**

Adam and his wife lived in the flesh a long time after they were banished from the garden. In fact, the Bible says Adam was 930 years old when his flesh body finally died. **And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and**

**thirty years: and he died.** *Genesis 5:5.* Considering human procreation, the first man and woman could have been surrounded by thousands of descendants at the time of Adam's death. Some scholars say tens of thousands, and others say 120,000 is possible. (Please note, by comparison to eternity, even 930 years is short. **But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** *2 Peter 3:8.*)

To understand "how" the first man died "in that day", we must reconsider the context of what God said. God is supreme, His Word is true in the context of guaranteed as His will. When Adam (and Eve) died "in that day" all of mankind became disconnected from the will of God that gave them *eternal life* through obedience. He had previously provided for all of mankind, and enabled all of mankind to live forever so long as they obeyed His Word/will. "(Please note, at that time in the beginning Adam and Eve *were* all of mankind!)"

Today, people consider their life in the flesh the only life they know, and the enemy prefers it that way. In an attempt to answer the "in that day" question, by default many people say Adam "died spiritually". In so doing, they incorrectly suggest Adam was born of the Spirit in the beginning. For anyone to say Adam "died spiritually", or say people today are born "spiritually dead" as a result of Adam's transgression, Adam must have been born "of the Spirit" of God at some time prior to his alleged death. Stated another way, if the first man was born "of the Spirit" so that he could die spiritually as many people incorrectly advocate, the first man would have to be part of the Spirit of God *before* the transgression. (To say man was part of the spirit of the enemy is a non-starter.)

While the entire Bible, and particularly the difference between the Old Testament and New Testament proves Adam was not born of the Spirit, *could* the first man have been of the Spirit? Could the first man, or at least part of him, have been part of the Spirit of God and die, in order for every descendant of humankind to be spiritually dead at birth as some people claim?

Adam had a body, soul and spirit like every person. Was the first man's body of flesh and bones a "glorified" spiritual body? No. Jesus was the first man to receive a glorified body, but only *after* His death as explained below. Recall, the Bible clearly says the first man was made of the earth and earthy (*Genesis 2:7 and 1 Corinthians 15:47-49*), and the human body would return to the earth when the body dies. **...till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.** *Genesis 3:19.*

Was the soul of the first man of the Spirit of God? No. Even though all mankind was made a living soul (*Genesis 2:7*), our natural "bloodline" is human. If man's soul were of the Spirit of God we would be of the Father who is the soul of God or at least part of God (*Matthew 12:18 and Isaiah 42:1*), and thus of the Father's bloodline like Jesus also explained below.

Was Adam's spirit/will of man of the Spirit of God and the piece that allegedly died spiritually? No, but this one gets the "closest." If man's spirit were of the Spirit of God, Adam would have been Jesus as explained below, *and* this cannot be for a proper reconciliation of the entire Word by what it says. **The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.** *1 Corinthians 15:47.*

The first transgression sentenced all of mankind to death, because of a separation from the will of God unto life

Okay, so what happened when mankind died “in that day” of the transgression? “In that day” mankind lost the *connectivity* to the will of God unto life. As explained in more detail below, we come to know God the Father by His will. When Adam desired and chose to “live” by his own spirit/will instead of the Father’s Spirit/will, Adam chose death, and gave up the eternal sustenance God provides by His will. In the context of *disobedience*, the first man and his wife, and their offspring which is every person after them, was *personally* separated from God unto death. The importance of desiring and doing God’s will cannot be overstated. Recall, the Word of God is “God” (*John 1:1*). Rejecting His Word is a rejection of His will, and thus a rejection of God!

Man’s personal disconnection from the will of God was the result of man’s freedom to choose to live or die by his own will. Therefore, the first man and woman proved God’s Word is truly a double-edged sword as it cuts both ways, giving life or taking it. Even today, the penalty for not believing God’s Word is not living by His will and remaining condemned as explained below. **He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. *John 3:18*. But the fearful, and *unbelieving*, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. *Revelation 21:8*.**

For completeness, even if Adam chose what he *thought* was “life” by the will of his flesh instead of the will of God and claimed he was lied to, Adam cannot be excused from the penalty of his transgression because of his wrong thinking *and* the unbendable truth of God’s Word. From here, we begin to “see” man’s need to reconnect to the will of the Father to live. **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. *John 14:6*.**

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