

# THE TWO DEATHS!

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● Some Christian people believe that there is a physical death and there is a spiritual death taught in the Scriptures. Neither of these two expressions are used by the Bible writers at all.

Other Christian people believe and teach that because of the sin of Adam, God passed the divine sentence of death and eternal condemnation in the fires of hell upon all humanity. This teaching is referred to as the doctrine of "ORIGINAL SIN". This teaching is very widely held by many Christian people.

We shall turn our attention to examine this question and see what we can find within the pages of the Bible concerning these teachings.

## WHAT DO WE ALL INHERIT FROM ADAM?

● This is a crucial question that we need to come to grips with from the teachings of the Scriptures. To understand the truth concerning this question, we need to go back and examine what the Bible teaches concerning the first man Adam.

- Moses has recorded for us the truth that *"God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him"* (Genesis 1:27).

*"God created man, in the likeness of God made he him"* (Genesis 5:1).

The wise man Solomon has recorded the fact that *"God hath made man upright"* (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

Therefore we can safely conclude that the first man Adam was morally perfect in character at his creation. He was in perfect harmony with his Maker and his will. It was natural for Adam to obey his Maker and his Law.

- *"The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed."* (Genesis 2:8.)

Within the Garden *"out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."* (Genesis 2:9.)

- The Lord commanded Adam that *"of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat"* (Genesis 2:16).

This would indicate therefore that Adam had both permission and access to eat from the Tree of Life within the Garden. Continual eating of the Tree of Life gives a person the power to *"live for ever"* (Genesis 3:22).

- The Lord also commanded Adam, *"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 2:17.)

- Unfortunately, we know only too well that both of our first parents disobeyed God's express command and did indeed eat of the forbidden tree, as Eve *"took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat"* (Genesis 3:6).
- Because of Adam's disobedience of the Lord's express command by listening to his wife's voice, God pronounced the following death sentence upon him, and through him upon all his descendants, *"Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: ...In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return."* (Genesis 3:17 & 19)  
The Godhead took the decision that because of Adam's sin, he would be denied access to the Tree of Life, and thus he would eventually die, and not be able to live forever.  
*"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 for ever: 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 3:22-24.)

And thus as the apostle Paul has recorded for us in the book of Hebrews the following Divine decree has been placed upon every human being that has ever entered this world *"it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27).

- While we know that Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, after their fall they could only produce offspring after their own likeness and image, as it was recorded of Adam's procreation of his son Seth that he *"begat [a son] in his own likeness, after his image"* (Genesis 5:3).

☞ As Adam and Eve were no longer in harmony with the will of their Maker, they were no longer morally perfect; their offspring would be procreated with the same tendency to disobey God and his Law. Jesus himself has recorded for us what is within the hearts of all humanity naturally without the regenerating grace of Christ.

*"That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."* (Mark 7:20-23.)

As Adam and Eve were also now subject to death and mortality, so would their offspring. Adam and Eve could not impart to their descendants something that they no longer possessed themselves. This is the death sentence that we all inherit from Adam's sin – the 1<sup>st</sup> Death – the eventual ending of our earthly existence.

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* (Romans 5:12.)

*"As in Adam all die"* (1 Corinthians 15:22).

## **GOD'S JUSTICE IS BASED UPON THE PRINCIPLE THAT WE ARE ONLY PUNISHED FOR THE SINS THAT WE EACH INDIVIDUALLY COMMIT: -**

- The prophet Moses wrote out the above principle concerning God's justice in the book of Deuteronomy, *"The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin."* (Deuteronomy 24:16.)

This principle has been clearly repeated several times in the Scriptures, and we note in the following two passages that the Lord himself commanded this principle of justice: -

*“But the children of the murderers he slew not: according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.” (2 Kings 14:6.)*

*“But he slew not their children, but [did] as [it is] written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.” (2 Chronicles 25:4.)*

*“Every one shall die for his own iniquity” (Jeremiah 31:30).*

*“The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4).*

*“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son” (Ezekiel 18:20).*

☞ All humanity is obviously not unto the divine sentence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death and eternal condemnation in the fires of hell because of Adam’s sin. The doctrine of “*Original Sin*” is contrary to the principle of Divine Justice as revealed in the pages of the Holy Scriptures.

### **THERE ARE INDEED TWO DEATHS RECORDED IN THE BIBLE: -**

- The apostle John has recorded in four places within the book of Revelation that there is to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Death, and he indicates in two of these passages that it shall take place in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.

*“He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (Revelation 2:11).*

*“Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power” (Revelation 20:6).*

*“And death and hell<sup>1</sup> were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:14.)*

*“The lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).*

- Those who will suffer the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death are recorded as including “*the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars*” (Revelation 21:8).

☞ Clearly the sins individually committed by each of these people will be the reason why they will be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone to suffer the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death.

- It is to this 2<sup>nd</sup> Death that Paul wrote the following statement, “*the wages of sin [is] death*” (Romans 6:23).

Paul describes the natural person who is without the regenerating grace of Christ, “*to be carnally minded*” and which results in “*death*” (Romans 8:6). And the reason that the carnal mind ends in death is given to us in the next verse, “*Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*” (Romans 8:7.)

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek word that is translated as “hell” is the word “hades” – See Strong’s Concordance, Greek, No. 86. It is synonymous with “the grave”.

Therefore to be not subject to or obedient to the Law of God, and the wages of sin both result in the same destiny = death – **the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death.**

- The prophet Ezekiel has recorded the above principle very clearly in the following verse,  
*“When a righteous [man] turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.”* (Ezekiel 18:26.)

☞ That there are two deaths recorded in the above passage, we should be able to clearly see from a careful reading of the passage; the first death comes to us all, being the end of our earthly existence and is because of Adam’s sin; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death is to be inflicted upon people because of the sins that they individually commit during this brief earthly existence, and from which they have not repented of. That is the principle of God’s justice as taught in the Holy Scriptures.

And the gospel of Christ is God’s remedy to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death for those sinners who will repent of their sins and have faith in Christ as their Saviour from sin.

*“For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*  
(Romans 6:23.)