

7. God-imposed cure

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No one knows how many lives have been lost due to cancer. I don't think that I've come across anyone who does not know or is not related to someone who has cancer. Whenever we hear that a particular person has cancer, without even realizing, we let out a long sigh that comes out from our mouths with a thought, "Another one...?"

Can you imagine what would happen if someone invented an affordable method or medication that can cure cancer immediately without any exception? That person will not only become very, very wealthy, but he or she also will be one of the most respected people in the world.

Ever since the first couple Adam and Eve committed sins against the Lord in the Garden of Eden, mankind has been looking for a cure that would set us free from this eternal self-imposed curse. But we all know that it is not going to happen without the intervention of God. We must solely rely on a God-imposed cure that is the grace of God.

A. THE FIRST GOSPEL

Genesis 3:14-15 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 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."

Note that the satan in a serpent form was still hanging around with Adam and Eve when the Lord appeared to them. I believe that he was condemning them for their disobedience to God. That is how satan operates. First, he tempts us. But once we fall for it, he condemns us. We don't have to listen to his temptation only, but also his condemnation, because both are from the pit of hell.

Adam and Eve must have been terrified as this once-beautiful creature called a serpent was transformed into a creeping, slithering, and hissing snake we know today. They must have thought, "Uh, oh, we are next!"

In v15, God prophesies the doom of satan, showing that the real battle is between satan and the Seed of the Woman. There is no doubt this is a prophecy of satan's ultimate defeat by Jesus. God announced that satan would injure the Messiah, but the Messiah would crush satan with a fatal wound. Jesus did that through His own death and resurrection. Some people call this chapter the first Gospel in the Bible.

God's plan wasn't "set back" when Adam and Eve sinned. Because God's plan was to bring forth something greater than man in the innocence of Eden. God wanted more than innocent man, rather REDEEMED MAN.

The title deed to this planet earth was originally given to Adam in the Garden of Eden when God told him to subdue the earth according to Genesis 1:28. But Adam forfeited his right to ownership when he ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You see, although Eve was tricked into eating the forbidden fruit, Adam's sin was a blatant and calculated act of rebellion, which is why the Bible speaks of his sin as that which transferred to satan the title deed of our planet.

No human could buy the earth back because of the sinful nature we are born with. Does it mean that we are forever doomed? No, we have the Kinsman Redeemer of mankind.

This time we are going to go to the future:

Revelation 5:1-4 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

During the 7 year Great Tribulation period on earth in the future, the apostle John was witnessing this scene in the Throne Room of God in heaven.

Similar to other scrolls in John's day, it was made of horizontally 8"x10" sheets of papyrus, which were wound around a pair of wooden handles. Here we see a scroll written on both sides and sealed with seven seals, which can be perplexing until one studies Jewish history. It means that this scroll is unusual. It wasn't a common practice to write on both sides of the scroll. However, we find numerous examples of a certain kind of document with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals: a title deed to a piece of property.

Initially, a title deed would be written only on the smooth side and sealed with a single seal. But if the owner became unable to meet his financial obligations, he would have to relinquish his title deed – upon the backside of which would be written his debts and upon which would be placed seven seals. If at any time during the ensuing seven years he could pay off his debts, the seals would be broken and the title deed returned.

All of this explains what is in the hand of the One who sits on the throne here in chapter 5. It's the title deed to planet earth.

From Leviticus 25:25-55, the Lord explained to Moses about the redemption of the land and the house of the poor that builds up to the redemption through Jesus Christ who will fulfill what God said in the Garden of Eden.

If a poor Jew had to sell himself or his property in order to stay alive, he didn't have to wait until the Year of Jubilee to regain either his property or his freedom. At any time, a kinsman who was willing and able to pay the price could redeem him or his land. However, there were 3 qualifications that had to be complied with.

1) The redeemer has to be a relative of the one who sold the land, house or himself.

This very law was practiced in the Book of Ruth. Boaz redeemed the land that formerly belonged to Naomi's husband as well as Ruth when the nearest relative chose not to do.

The Kinsman-Redeemer is a picture of Jesus starting from the Garden of Eden. God, in His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge, knew that the man was going to sin.

Genesis 3:15 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."

In other words, the Seed who was Jesus would come from the descendent of Eve. Jesus met the first qualification.

As a side note, v15 of Genesis 3 said, "her Seed." This shows the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. Generally a woman does not have a seed, she has an ovum, which is fertilized by a man's seed. Our God spoke more clearly of this in Isaiah when He said that He would give a sign:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

2) The redeemer has to have enough wealth to purchase it back.

To purchase back what Adam sold to satan by committing sins against the Lord, the Kinsman-Redeemer must be sinless. No human being could do it, because we all are born with the same sinful nature and continuously sin against the Lord as long as we have these human bodies. It means that we were spiritually bankrupt before Jesus came into our hearts. There was only one person who was completely sinless – Jesus Christ. He met the second qualification.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

3) The redeemer has to have a willingness to purchase it back.

No one can force the Kinsman-Redeemer to buy the land, house, or person back from the debtor. The Redeemer should do it in his own willingness. There are many verses in the Gospels that Jesus came to die for our sins so that we may have eternal life in His own willingness. The Lord met the third qualification.

John 10:18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

B. SELF-IMPOSED CURSES ON MANKIND

1) Self-imposed curse on women

Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; (1) In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

I don't think I have to explain about the pain in child bearing and all the other things you ladies go through for that. When you get to heaven, have a long heart-to-heart talk with Eve, ladies.

The principle of Adam's headship as a husband was established before the fall. Now the curse on Eve makes it much harder for her to submit and flow with God's institution of male headship in the home. As a result of the fall, marriage has constant power struggles between husband and wife.

2) Self-imposed curse on men

Genesis 3:17-19 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; (2) In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both (3) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 (4) In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread (5) till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And (6) to dust you shall return."

Because of Adam, there is a curse upon all creation. Before the curse on man, the ground only produced good. After the curse, it will still produce good, but thorns

and thistles will come faster and easier than good fruit. If you have any doubt, just step outside. We are surrounded by them – weeds.

This is the judgment upon man. Death now comes to man. But Adam did not die physically the day that he ate the forbidden fruit. He did not die until more than nine hundred years later. But he did die spiritually the moment he disobeyed. He was separated from God spiritually. That's why to be with the Lord, we must be born-again.

Please allow me to make connections between what you marked and our Lord Jesus:
1) Sin brought pain to childbirth, and no one knew more pain than Jesus did when He, through His suffering, brought many sons to glory.

2) Sin brought toil, and Jesus endured great toil to bring salvation to us.

3) Thorns came with sin and the fall, and Jesus endured a crown of thorns to bring our salvation.

4) Sin brought sweat, and Jesus sweat, as it were, great drops of blood to win our salvation.

5) Sin brought sorrow, and Jesus became a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, to save us.

6) Sin brought death, and Jesus tasted death for everyone that we might have eternal life.

C. THE REDEMPTION CURE THROUGH SACRIFICE

Genesis 3:20-24 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. 22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"- 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

In order for Adam and Eve to be clothed, a sacrifice had to be made. An animal had to die. Without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Adam and Eve were clothed in a garment that was purchased with the life of another which only covered their sins temporarily. But we who are born-again Christians are clothed with a garment of righteousness that was purchased with the life of Jesus Christ permanently and with that righteous garment our sins were forgiven and washed away.

With disobedience of the first Adam, the mankind was separated from God. But because God loved us so much that He sent the second Adam, Jesus Christ to bridge that gap.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In creation, God did all the work and He rested. In redemption, God did all the work so we could rest.

D. APPLICATIONS

- 1) We will fall straight into temptations when we neglect God's Word and prayers to Him.
- 2) What we desire fleshly is contrary to what the Holy Spirit wants in our lives. Let's ask ourselves if the consequences of what we want is worth it.
- 3) There is nothing you can do about yesterday's sin. Yet you can do what is right before God right now by confessing and repenting of your sin.