

The Ark Community

114: **The Fall and the Rise of Mankind**

by Tony **Palmer** (SELAH)

Through Mankind's disobedience, man invited death into creation, death had entered the cosmos for the very first time. The systems of self-perpetuating life came crashing down. Eternal life had now become terminal life (*mortal*), and our incorruptible (un-fallen), creation was now corrupted by the stain of sin and the sting of death. The world as we knew it went from being an incorruptible system of immortality to a fallen world, offering only mortality in a fallen, corrupted state.

It is important however to note the sequence of events: Corruptibility gave birth to mortality. Our fallen-ness caused our loss of immortality, and just as our fallen-ness gave raise to our mortality, our redemption and rebirth to righteousness purchases back our immortality. Let's look at scripture for a moment: [Gen 3:22-24]

*"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**"— **therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 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.**"*

Mankind's disobedience caused our incorruptible (un-fallen), nature to become corrupted (fallen), and therefore no-longer reflected the true nature of God... we fell from grace, **"we lost the image of God"**. [Rom 3:23], we lost what we had..!

Part of God's image was God's life [ζωή - zō ē], eternal life... immortality. Mortality is the effect of human fallen-ness. **We are mortal because we are fallen**. In the garden of Eden our eternal life was replenished and maintained by the ability to eat from the **"Tree of Life"**. Access to this tree gave us the ability to live forever. But now Mankind was fallen - **fallen but not yet mortal..!**

As of yet, we were fallen yet still immortal, immortal because we had access to the Tree of Life. **Imagine having to live eternally fallen?** So God in His **kindness**, not as punishment, sent us out from the Garden so, **"lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"**— *(in a fallen state)*, **therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden."**

It was the love of God that banished us from the Garden, prohibiting us from eating the fruit of Eternal Life. Here we see how the fall of Mankind was actually two events, a 'cause' and an 'effect'. **a) The loss of the image of God (cause) and b) the loss of the life of God (effect)**

This is our past. A history of our fall from immortal un-fallen-ness, in a world of peace and prosperity, a world without death, pain, tears, loss and lack; a place where the Lion could lie with the Lamb; a world of justice and truth; a world of love, a world that God Himself desired for us... our world. But God did not leave us there. He gave us a promise of a NEW Earth...

"So when this corruptible (fallen human body) has put on incorruption (un-fallen-ness), and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory?" [1 Cor. 15:51-55]

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." [Rev 21:1]

Friends – THIS is our Christian Hope, don't let anybody or anything steal your Hope away!