

Covenant, Adamic

Adamic Covenant (Gen 3:14-19)

The Adamic Covenant was initiated between God and mankind because of Adam's sin. God and Adam are involved in this covenant in which Adam represented the whole human race. Thus, the judgment on Adam is the judgment on all humanity. It is through this covenant that the sinful condition of mankind entered into the world and passed upon all mankind making necessary the work of Christ if individuals are to receive restoration of their relationship with God.

Even though it is not mentioned in Genesis this covenant is referenced in Hosea where it says, "But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; there they have dealt treacherously against Me" (Hosea 6:7). This covenant contains the cursed status of man and creation that he must endure throughout history. The curse will be primarily removed during the millennial reign of Christ (Rom. 8:19-23) and finally death will be eliminated during the eternal state (1 Cor. 15:53-57; Rev. 21:4; 22:3).

God individually addressed the serpent (3 provisions), Satan (4 provisions), Eve (3 provisions), and Adam (5 provisions).

Three provisions given to the serpent:

1. Cursed above all other creatures of the animal kingdom
2. The serpent is to crawl on its belly
3. Dust will be the serpent's food

Note: skeptics point to the fact that the text states that snakes will eat dust (and snakes don't), but this is a Hebrew idiom meaning to be especially cursed (Micah 7:17). The curse will continue into the Millennial Kingdom (Is 65:25).

Four provisions are given in relationship to Satan:

1. Perpetual hatred between Satan and the woman
2. This hatred would culminate between Satan's seed (Antichrist) and the woman's Seed (Messiah)
3. The serpent would bruise the heel of the woman's seed (crucifixion)
4. A prophecy of the Messiah's victory over Satan (woman's Seed will crush Satan's head)
 - a. This occurred initially at the resurrection (Heb 2:14-15)
 - b. The final crushing of Satan was still future when Paul wrote Rom 16:20; it will come when Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:10)

Eve (and all women) were made subject to three provisions:

1. Multiplication of menstrual pain and conception
 - a. Apparently conception was different before the Fall; since the Fall, a woman generally is able to conceive at least once a month. Also, a woman's menstrual periods are uncomfortable and painful.
2. Pain in child birth
3. A wife is to be in subjection to the husband
 - a. This was already true before the Fall, but the new element was that she would now have a desire to rebel against that subjection and choose to try to rule him.

Adam and all men and the entire human race were subjected to the following five provisions:

1. Since Adam stands as the representative head of the human race, the judgment on Adam is the judgment on all mankind. It is Adam, not Eve, who is held responsible for the human condition.
2. The earth was cursed. While working was required before the Fall, the difference now is in the earth's response. After the fall, there are thorns, thistles and weeds.
3. Human diet remains vegetarian.
4. Man's work was to be characterized by hard labor, as opposed to easy, simple, enjoyable working conditions before the Fall.
5. Physical death was introduced. Under the Edenic Covenant, man died spiritually, under the Adamic Covenant man would ultimately die physically (Rom 5:12-21). Thus far, there have only been two exceptions to this rule: Enoch and Elijah.

The Adamic Covenant because the basis for the Dispensation of Conscience. As an unconditional covenant, it is very much in effect today.