

Covenant, Edenic

Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:28-30; 2:15-17)

This covenant was made between God and Adam, and provides the pre-Fall basis that God employs to establish His rule and relationship to mankind. Adam stood as the representative head of the human race. Thus, the actions of Adam are attributed to the whole of humanity.

Even though not called a covenant in the Genesis text, the components of a covenant can be observed. Since mankind is cursed due to human failure to keep these stipulations, this supports the notion that such would not continue to be the case if these things were not administered through an agreement or covenant. The Edenic Covenant, in conjunction with the Cultural Mandate (Gen 1:26-28), provides the basis for areas of individual human responsibility, social, political and economic duties, as well as accountability before God for all humanity down through subsequent history. This covenant provides the judicial basis for God's rule over mankind. It provides, for example, the legal jurisdiction for God's judgment through the Flood (Gen 6-8). After the fall into sin, other covenants will augment this foundational relationship.

The Edenic Covenant was the basis for the Dispensation of Innocence. The record of the Edenic Covenant being broken is found in Gen 3:1-8.

Genesis 3:6a: And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, corresponds to the first phrase of 1 John 2:16a: the lust of the flesh.

Genesis 3:6b: and that it was a delight to the eyes, corresponds to the second phrase of 1 John 2:16b: the lust of the eyes.

Genesis 3:6c: to be desired to make one wise, corresponds to the third phrase of 1 John 2:1c: and the vainglory [pride] of life.

Eve gave in to the temptation and disobeyed the one negative commandment. Adam recognized what had happened, but he still chose to join his wife in disobedience (1 Tim 2:14). Their first reaction was an attempt to hide from the presence of God, which only illustrated the truth of Gen 2:17. Man at that very moment died spiritually and could no longer share the same communion with God he had experienced before his disobedience. With that act, the Edenic Covenant, being conditional, came to an end (Hosea 6:7). The prohibition against eating the forbidden fruit was a one-time test given only to Adam (Gen 2:15-17) and thus is not a ban that we can transgress today (see also Rom 5:13-14). However, the Cultural Mandate (Gen 1:26-28) was not just for Adam. It provides the basis

for areas of individual human responsibility, social, political and economic duties, as well as accountability before God for all humanity down through history. It is through this covenant that God defines man's role for cultural activity in history. It is mankind's job description in shorthand.