

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM ADAM?

Gen. 1-3, Rom. 5:12-21, 1 Cor. 10:11

INTRODUCTION: Good morning. So good to be with you again. In our nearly 15 years with you, Karen and I have only rarely been out two Sundays in a row on vacation. But we did that at the end of 2020, and we had some wonderful personal time and time with family. I am especially grateful to Bro. Rick and Bro. Mark for preaching those two Sundays. We actually worshiped with you by way of streaming the services on both of those days and so were blessed by the worship and the preaching of God's Word.

All of us have been hoping for a better 2021 than we have had in 2020. So far, I will be honest enough to say, it has not seemed that way to me.

Wednesday, when the joint session of congress began to count the electoral votes submitted by the states, I was encouraged that

- On the one hand, Vice-President Pence, a man who has been consistent in both his testimony and his lifestyle that he is a devoted follower of Christ, did his very best to follow the constitution and the law as he had pledged both to God and to the American people to do. He did not act unilaterally to try to force his preference for the outcome of the election, yet he allowed, as the constitution allows, for objection to be raised when supported by both a member of the House and the Senate.
- On the other hand, I was also encouraged that men like Senator Ted Cruz, while voicing the frustration of many that there was to them the perception of massive voting irregularities and of states not following either their own constitutions or the Constitution of the United States, Mr. Cruz did not call for an overturning of the electoral votes of the several states but only for a bipartisan examination of the evidence, which would then be reported back to the states for whatever action they deemed appropriate.

Sadly, as you know, all of that was interrupted by a mob (maybe both Trump supporters and Leftist anarchists like Antifa) storming the Capitol Building, forcing representatives and senators to shelter while some of the building was invaded, occupied, and trashed. Even more sadly, four people died in the violent episode. And as followers of Christ, we condemned the violence that broke out this past summer, so also we condemn the violence that took place this week, no matter their political persuasion.

Tony Perkins, the leader of the **Family Research Council – FRC.org**, is a personal friend of mine, a stalwart and faithful Christian, and has preached in our church back in 2015. I receive his **Washington Update** - which is a free email newsletter on

Washington's hottest issues from a Christian worldview. I find it to be both insightful and informative.

Tony said in his Update Thursday morning,

The violence at the U.S. Capitol building against Congress and Capitol Police is wrong and dangerous for our republic. Lawlessness is not the way, and such actions make it difficult for law-abiding Americans to fight the good fight.

Pray for our republic!

I could not agree more. The only time believers are to disobey the law is when obeying the law of man would mean disobeying the command of God written in His Word. So once again, I want to call our church to concerted prayer, right here, right now. I prefer to kneel, but you feel free to sit, or stand, or kneel right where you are. Our present seating arrangement allows well for that. But please, would you join me in prayer for our nation.

Prayer

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| A nation divided | Unity based on truth – Your Word is truth |
| For leaders put in office by You | President Trump, President Elect Biden |
| Establishment of righteousness and justice | For every citizen of every race, background |
| No law would be established contrary to Your clear written commands | That would force our disobedience as followers of Christ |
| Our desire is to be faithful followers of Christ | And faithful citizens of our country. |
| Strengthen us to be faithful to speaking, living, and working for the things of the Kingdom of God | While living in a land that will not always be sympathetic to our goals |
| As Pastor Tony Evans declared | |
| Our hope is not in the White House | Our hope is in the church house |
| And our hope is there only to the extent | That it is Your house |

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| Where You O God are worshipped, Where Jesus is honored as Lord, and as | Your Word is proclaimed, and your people hear with a heart devoted to obedience |
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In the name of Jesus Our Sovereign Lord, we pray. Amen.

NOW, in keeping with what we just prayed, and as is our practice, let us turn to the Word of God to receive instruction for the living of our lives.

The Holy Spirit through Paul, after discussing many people mentioned in the Old Testament gave us these words:

1 Corinthians 10:11 NKJV Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were written **for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Greek for admonition is vouthesia

Vous – mind Tithomi – to place Vouthesia – to place in our minds

We are to receive in our minds the lessons from these examples given us by the Holy Spirit to warn and instruct us.

And that is what we are going to do in this new sermon series.

We are going to examine what the Lord in His Word tells us about the lives of different men and women in the Bible for the purpose of learning from their lives, whether they were good lives or bad.

These people are those who have BEEN THERE and DONE THAT. For as Solomon said,

Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV ... *there is nothing new under the sun.*

The things we face in our daily walks, our decisions, our priorities, our desires, our problems, our victories, our losses – those who walked before us faced the same. And in the Scriptures we get God's point of view on how they handled it.

And seeing that, we are to place God's point of view in our minds and live by it!

So today, as we learn from those who have walked before us, we look at the life of Adam.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNIFICANT THINGS GOD TELLS US ABOUT ADAM?

- **Adam was the first man created.** (An actual man, a literal creation)
 - In the image of God

- After the likeness of God
- By the hand of God
- God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life.

Genesis 1:26–27 NKJV 26 **Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."** 27 **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

- **The world into which Adam was placed was perfect in every regard.** I wish we could accurately imagine what Adam saw when his eyes first opened.
 - Sin had not yet entered the world.
 - It was a place of beauty, with all that man could need or want.
 - It was a place without deterioration, decay or death.
- **Adam was made the steward of God over all the earth.**

Genesis 1:26, 28 NKJV 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**" 28 Then God blessed them, and **God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

- **Adam was instructed by the Lord not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and God warned him that death would be the consequence.**

Genesis 2:16–17 NKJV 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"

- **Adam was lonely and incomplete without a wife.** (We will look at Eve next week.)
 - Before creating Eve, God had Adam name the different kinds of animals. He saw that each of them had a mate, male and female. He had no mate!
 - Adam could not fulfill the Lord's command to multiply and fill the earth by himself.

- So God made Eve, taking a rib, a portion of Adam's side and reshaping it into the first woman.
- Adam said in essence, "Wow, you did a great job in reshaping that rib, Lord!"
- **While Adam taught Eve what the Lord had commanded, he nonetheless joined her in her disobedience to the Word of the Lord.**

Genesis 3:17–19 NKJV 17 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; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

- Adam's personal disobedience caused the beginning of the law of increasing entropy, the law of universal decay.
- This is why wood rots, metals rust, and bodies age to our dismay.

WHAT IS THE INSIGHT AS TO GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON ADAM'S LIFE AND HIS INSTRUCTION TO US?

- **As Adam's descendants, each of us is created in the image of Almighty God because God's desire is that we should live forever as a part of His family.**
- **Also as Adam's descendants, we have inherited a sin nature. With it has come the death penalty, unless we are pardoned through faith in Christ.**

Romans 5:12, 17 NKJV 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned... 17 For if **by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

- **God created a perfect world for mankind. One day, the Lord will remake this world into a larger globe, inhabited by God Himself, and all the redeemed shall dwell with Him forever in a universe bigger and better than the original.** God showed the Apostle John a glimpse of that new world.

Revelation 21:1–8 NKJV 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God

will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” 6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

- **God declares that we are His stewards.**
 - Not only are we stewards of the world itself,
 - We are especially stewards of those things entrusted to our specific care: our time, talents, spiritual gifts, resources and treasures, energy, and opportunity.
 - Further, we are stewards of the Bible message and especially the gospel which we are to proclaim around the world and with which we are to disciple those who believe.
- **Jesus referred to the first marriage as an example of God’s desire for the permanency of marriage, which was and is the union of one man and one woman.**
- **The Holy Spirit warns us to make certain of our salvation so that we do not suffer the second death in the Lake of Fire but live with God as He intended and desired.** The gospel as summarized in the Roman Road explains.

Romans 3:23 NKJV for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 NKJV For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 NKJV But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9 NKJV that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Let us live as faithful stewards, especially of the gospel, fanning the flames of certain hope that we who believe shall live forever in God’s Eternal Kingdom.