



# **Creation and Fall: The Problem of Death**

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# Introduction

- **Millions and billions of years requires presence of death longer than the Bible reveals.**
- **Fossils provide evidence of death.**
  - **Geological column is not a record of life zones, but of death and burial zones.**
- **When did death enter the created world?**
- **Genesis 1:31—“God saw all that He had made, and behold, **it was very good.**”**



# Epistle to the Romans

- I. Introduction (1:1–17)**
- II. The Need for Righteousness Because of Universal Sin (1:18–3:20)**
- III. The Righteousness of God in Justification (3:21–5:21)**



# Epistle to the Romans

## **III. The Righteousness of God in Justification by Faith (3:21–5:21)**

**A. The Constitution (3:21–26)**

**B. The Corollaries (3:27–31)**

**C. The Confirmation from Scripture  
(4:1–25)**

**D. The Constancy (5:1–11)**

**E. The Causation (5:12–21)**



# Epistle to the Romans

## III. The Righteousness of God in Justification by Faith (3:21–5:21)

### E. The Causation (5:12–21)

#### 1. Consideration of Headship (12–14)

##### a. Universal result: death (12–14a)



# Death

- **Disobedience results in the entrance of death (Gen 2:17).**
  - (1) Refers to the initiation of the process of aging and dying,**
  - (2) to the entrance of spiritual death, or**
  - (3) to both of these kinds of death.**
- **The last seems more consistent with the immediate, as well as the remote, context.**
- **See Genesis 3:19, 22.**



# Epistle to the Romans

## III. The Righteousness of God in Justification by Faith (3:21–5:21)

### E. The Causation (5:12–21)

#### 1. Consideration of Headship (12–14)

a. Universal result: death (12–14a)

b. Headship of Adam as a Type of Christ (14b)



# Epistle to the Romans

## III. The Righteousness of God in Justification by Faith (3:21–5:21)

### E. The Causation (5:12–21)

#### 2. Contrasts of Headship (15–17)

- a. Different in quality (15)
- b. Different in operation (16)
- c. Different in consequences: death vs. life (17)





# Life

- **God extends his mercy.**
  - **Immediate physical death would have put an end to God's program for Adam and Eve.**
  - **God allows the pair to continue living so that they might produce offspring (seed) that eventually will triumph over the serpent.**
- **Without that extension, the Restorer cannot come.**
- **Without that extension, no remedy can be applied.**



# Life

- **All that God did in Genesis 3 has an eschatological end in mind.**
- **Compare with God's actions in Exodus 32:1–34:28.**
- **Death in Genesis 2–3 = alienation from the life of God, which replaces freedom and innocence with shame and fear.**



# Epistle to the Romans

## III. The Righteousness of God in Justification by Faith (3:21–5:21)

### E. The Causation (5:12–21)

#### 3. Consequences of Headship (18–21)

- a. Similar in scope: for all (18)
- b. Similar in operation: by one (19)
- c. Similar in measure: dominance (20–21)



# Conclusion

**If death did not begin with Adam,**

- **The apostle Paul's theology has no certain foundation.**
- **Scripture is in error.**
- **The Fall did not take place.**
- **The descendants of Adam are not sinners.**
- **Christ did not need to give His life.**
- **Christ is not Savior.**
- **The grace of God has no power.**



# 1 Corinthians 15

- 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.**
- 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**
- 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,**
- 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.**



# 1 Corinthians 15

**25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.**

**26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.**

**27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.**



# 1 Corinthians 15

- 45 So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.**
- 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.**
- 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.**
- 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.**



# 1 Corinthians 15

**49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.**

**50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.**





# 1 Corinthians 15

**54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**

**55 “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”**