

The Servant of the Lord and His Servant People

Adam: The First Servant

Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:15

The identity of the human race has always been that of servants to God, and its purpose has always been to glorify God.

I. God Created Adam to Serve.

A. Adam was made in God's image. (Gen. 1:27)

1. He was to reflect God.
 - A reflection in a mirror reflects something about the object. A reflection does not have all the qualities of the original, but it should give you a good idea what the original is like.
 - Observing human beings should show something about the very nature of God Himself. This is not a physical similarity. There is something about the nature of human beings that in some small way is comparable to God.
2. He was to represent God.
 - They act in that advance the interests and purposes of the God who created them.
 - Human beings are like envoys, sent by an authority figure.
 - They are authorized on behalf of that authority figure in ways that are consistent with the agenda of that authority figure.

B. Adam was commissioned as a priest.

1. Eden was a sanctuary of God.
 - It was the place where He walked with Adam and Eve. (Gen. 3:8; Deut. 23:14; 2 Samuel 7:6-7)
 - God stationed cherubims to guard the garden. (Gen. 3:24; Isa. 37:16; Ps, 18:10, 80:1, 99:1)
 - Scripture makes the connection between Eden and the temple. (Ezekiel 28:13-18)
2. Adam was God's representative in that sanctuary. (Gen. 2:15-16)
 - "Put him into the garden" - used to describe the deliberate placement of objects in the tabernacle or temple. God has placed Adam exactly where he wants him, for a specific and holy purpose.
 - "To dress it - dress is most common term used in Hebrew Old Testament for servant.
 - "To keep it" - protection and provision (Num. 3:7-8; Num. 8:26; Num. 18:7; 1 Chronicles 23:32; Ezek. 44:14)
 - Adam's role is more than that of a gardener in the modern sense. He is a priest serving in God's garden sanctuary.
 - Just as priest were later given the Torah to strictly follow, obey, and pass on, Adam was given a commandment to obey and pass on as well.

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II. Adam Rejected the Opportunity to Submit.

A. He questioned God's truthfulness.

1. God promised certain death for disobedience. (Gen. 2:16-17)
2. Satan claimed disobedience would lead to life.

B. He questioned God's goodness.

1. Satan convinced Adam and Eve that God was withholding something good.
2. Satan claimed that mankind was being kept from being all that he could be.

C. He questioned God's authority. (3:5)

1. The desire to "know good and evil" has more to do with determination than awareness.
2. Elsewhere in Scripture, the verb has the sense of "discern". (Jon. 4:11; Deut. 1:39; Isa.7:15) Similar uses in 1 Kings 3:9, 2 Samuel 14:17
3. Satan is inviting them to reject God's authority and autonomously decide for themselves.

D. He questioned his own identity.

III. God Continued To Act in Sovereignty.

A. God initiated confrontation with His servant.

1. He pursues His servants in love.
2. He highlights the symptoms of disobedience.
3. He confirms the source of disobedience.

B. God issued consequences for disobedience.

1. The serpent is cursed and humiliated.
 2. The woman's role will be painful and frustrating.
 3. The man's role will be difficult and ultimately futile.
- But....
4. Death will not be immediate.
 5. Provision is made to cover their shame.
 6. Provision is made to conquer their sin (Gen. 3:15)

C. God identified others who would serve.

1. Noah
2. Abraham
3. The patriarchs

Adam and Eve rejected what was a beautiful relationship of service to God. The results were tragic, and God raised up other servants.