

Keep in mind that Scripture presents seven dispensations in human history:

1. Innocence	Genesis 1:26 to 3:24
2. Conscience	Genesis 4:1 to 8:14
3. Government	Genesis 8:15 to 11:9
4. Promise	Genesis 11:10 to Exodus 12:51
5. Law	Exodus 13:1 to Matthew 3:17
6. Grace (or Church Age)	Matthew 4:1 to Revelation 3:22
7. Kingdom (or Millennium)	Revelation 20 to Eternity!

God's purpose in each of these dispensations is to test man according to a fixed standard of conduct. Love requires a choice, therefore, man must *choose* to love God, and when loves God, he willingly chooses to obey God.

The Dispensation of Innocence

The first dispensation is called "*innocence*" because when God first created man he was innocent, sinless and free from all evil. However, despite the fact that man was innocent, he was not yet **righteous** because one can only become *righteous* after he has been tested by temptation to sin. When God created man, He created him with a "*free will*," with the power to choose between good and evil – to obey or disobey. Therefore, during the dispensation of innocence, it was God's purpose that He test man as to whether he would choose to obey or disobey Him. So God gave man a fair test of obedience, He told Adam and Eve, "*You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.*" Then God left them to choose what they would do.

If God had made man *incapable* of sinning, rather than being a free willed individual, man would have been just another creature who operated on instinct alone. Because God would not receive any glory from a creature who – like a robot – could not do other than follow a certain course he was "*programmed*" to perform. God had to expose man to sin in order that man could make that choice not to sin!

God receives *glory* from voluntary obedience! Therefore, in order that man might have the opportunity of exercising his will, Satan was allowed to approach him with the suggestion to *disobey* God's commandment.

Because man failed God by disobeying His commandment, man opened the flood-gate of sin, sorrow, sickness and death upon the human family. Right after man sinned, however, God manifested His mercy to man by promising him a **Redeemer** (Genesis 3:15), Who would pay the full penalty of man's sin. This **Redeemer** was Jesus Christ!

After man sinner, this dispensation of innocence ended with his being expelled from the Garden of Eden, the home that God had prepared for him.

How Long Were Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

It is not known how long Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, however, many Bible scholars believe it could not have been for very long, for the following reason:

1. Judging from Satan's character, he would not have left them alone very long before he would have tempted them.
2. Adam, evidently, had not had time to visit the "*Tree of Life*."
3. The fact that Adam and Eve visited the forbidden tree first indicates that they were curious, and when curiosity is aroused in man it does not take long for him to attempt to satisfy that curiosity.
4. The "*Fall of man*" – man's sinning and being separated from God's fellowship – occurred *before* Adam and Eve had any children.
5. Because Scripture records only one Sabbath before the fall, it would seem to indicate that the period of time that Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, before they sinned, must have been less than one week.

What did God mean when He told Adam, "In the DAY you sin, you will die?"

The Hebrew word that is translated "die," or "death," literally means "to be *separated from*" and, when man sinned, he was "*separated from*" God spiritually, which means that man died spiritually the day that he disobeyed God. However, even though man died spiritually the day that he was expelled from the Garden of Eden, he, nonetheless, continued to live *physically* for 950 years after that day of expulsion.

Virgin Birth Prophesied

Genesis 3:15 states that the "*Redeemer*" would come of, "*the seed of woman*," of a human mother, but not of a human father, that is, the birth of the Redeemer would be a *Virgin birth*.

Redemption by blood

In Genesis 3:21, when God slew an animal to clothe man, because, by so doing, God was revealing to man that "*without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin*." This act of God is, essentially, God's plan of redemption given to man in *type*.

Why is all man punished as a result of Adam's sin?

According to Romans 5:12, man is not punished because of Adam's sin, but, rather, for his own sin. This verse states, "*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men **BECAUSE ALL HAVE SINNED***."

Man is not punished because of Adam's sin, but rather, because of *his own* sin. However, man did inherit a nature to sin from Adam.

Adam was the Federal, or representative head of the whole race of human beings – he was also the Seminal head [the determining influence], as well. The infection of Sin and Depravity the result of his Disobedience and Apostasy, was received by hereditary transmission to his "seed," the Adamic race; the "*lives*" contained in him and through his posterity. For this reason, Genesis 5:3, states, "*Adam...**begat a son in his own likeness, after his image***" – not in the image and likeness of God in which he himself was "created," but in his own sinful, fallen and depraved likeness. Having lost the pure and holy likeness of God, he could not convey it to his children. Therefore, "*by **one man** sin entered into the world*." Consequently, the sinful or

depraved **NATURE** of Adam is inherent in his seed, or posterity, begotten in his image and likeness.

We are all “*sons of Adam*” by birth and by nature, and as long as we remain “*in Adam*” there is no way out of the consequences of this sin that separated him from Holy and Eternal Communion with God. We cannot change our Adamic nature, no matter how we try we “come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). But the Good news is the wondrous story that God has made a way “*out of Adam into Christ.*” Out of spiritual Death into spiritual and everlasting Life. Out of Separation into Communion – “as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:22). Although Sin and Death are ours “*in Adam,*” Righteousness and Life are ours ‘*in Christ.*”

We inherited Adam's nature at birth – but we inherit Christ's nature in the New-Birth!