

VII. THE RESULTS OF THE FALL

A. Immediate Results of the Fall, to Adam and Eve

By their sin our first parents suffered:

1. Spiritual death

Spiritual death in the case of Adam and Eve meant a judicial cessation of those (spiritual) life-giving influences of the Holy Spirit graciously bestowed on Adam and Eve at their creation, resulting in the extinction of spiritual life and the consequent corruption and depravity of their moral nature.

2. The loss of original righteousness

3. The loss of communion with God

4. Guilt and condemnation

5. The incurring of God's wrath and curse

6. Bondage to Satan

7. Physical death

Physical death in the case of Adam and Eve meant a judicial cessation of those (physical) life-giving influences of the Holy Spirit graciously bestowed on Adam and Eve at their creation, resulting in a weakening of bodily powers, the gaining of a susceptibility to disease, a decaying of the physical organism, and the ultimate dissolution of the union of the soul/spirit and the body, with the consequent extinction of physical life.

B. Long range Results of the Fall, to Adam's Posterity

As a result of the Fall, all of Adam's posterity come into the world spiritually dead, lacking original righteousness, cut off from communion with God, guilty and condemned, under God's wrath and curse, in bondage to Satan, and physically dying.

Two areas of this great loss need expansion and explanation: the imputation of Adam's guilt and the impartation of Adam's corruption.

1. The imputation of Adam's guilt to his descendants

In Scripture, "to impute*" means to mentally charge something negative against a person, or to mentally credit something positive to a person. Thus in Psalm 32:2 the person whose sins are not charged against him is called blessed; and in Romans 4:6 the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works is called blessed.