

14 -- "But death ruled from Adam until Moses, even upon those who did not sin after the likeness of the disobedience of Adam, who is (the) type of the coming one."

This brings us back to the question: Do all men die because they individually sin?

However, if sin is not charged to one's account when there is not law, then how could it be the case from Adam to Moses that all men sinned individually and therefore died? This is, how could death rule during that time if death comes by individual sins and sin was not charged during that time?

To complicate the matter, those persons who sinned during that time did not sin in the same way that Adam sinned. Although they sinned in many ways, they did not transgress God's command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (In the nature of the case, this was no longer possible). Since the penalty attached to disobedience to God's command not to eat of the forbidden tree was death, presumably this penalty fell only upon the ones who disobeyed God's commandment. Yet death fell upon all men from Adam to Moses, even though they did not eat of the forbidden tree.

This raises the question: How could sin be in the world and death rule when there was no Law to condemn sin and prescribe death as its penalty?

Although it is possible to see that from Adam to Moses there could be corruption in the world (and there was) and that there could be sinful actions in the world (and there were), it is difficult to see how there could be guilt in the world without Law to condemn sin, unless that guilt was imputed to human beings, not because of their individual sins, but because of their corporate involvement with Adam's sin. If Adam's sin was imputed to them and they became guilty of that sin, then it is possible to see how there could be sin in the form of guilt in the world even before the Mosaic Law, and how death could rule from Adam to Moses. Then it is possible to see how both sin and death passed over to all men, through the imputation of Adam's guilt and the impartation of Adam's death.

Before the Mosaic Law, there was no objective codification of the Law of God on the basis of which human beings could have the verdict of guilty and the sentence of death pronounced upon them. There was no Law which said, "You are guilty and you must die!"

After the Mosaic Law was given, then it can readily be seen that there was a Law that said, "You are guilty and you must die!" But before the Mosaic Law there was no Law that prescribed the penalty of death. Why then did human beings from Adam to Moses die?

The text says that death ruled over those who lived during the time from Adam to Moses. All human beings were marked by death even before they committed any act of sin! How could this be so?