

Adam and the Reign of Death

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 5:12-21.
- B. Death is king over the human race.
- C. One man's deed affects many. The act of Adam affected many, and he is the illustration of how Christ's one deed affects many.
- D. Everything lost in Adam is gained in Christ.
- E. There are phases in Paul's argument about the progression of death.

II. Sin entered the world through one man.

- A. This does not mean that Adam originated sin. He merely introduced what he learned from the Devil into the human realm. (1 John 3, Genesis 2:15)
- B. There is something about man that does not want to be ruled. He wants to be like God.
- C. Adam's sin brought a corrupting influence into the human soul and it entered into the human stream. (Hebrews 7:9)
- D. Adam had to be a real man in order for sin to enter the world through him.

III. Death came through that one man.

- A. Death comes not because we commit sins but because we bear a sin principle—a corrupt nature.
- B. Man is spiritually dead, physically dies and some will eternally die. (Ephesians 4:18, Hebrews 2)

IV. Death comes to all men through Adam.

- A. Our fallen-ness is the cause of our sin. (Psalm 155; 58:3; Jeremiah 17; Job 14:4; 15; John 8:44)
- B. The death of Christ is effectively our death. (1 Corinthians 15:52)
- C. God redeems the church for his praise. God wants all to come to redemption for the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 3:10, 2 Peter 3)

V. History proves that death reigns through Adam's sin.

- A. People were not dying on account of the law because they died before the law was given through Moses.
- B. Sin was at work in people before sin could be held into account.

VI. Adam's act is an illustration of the act of Jesus that will affect all.

Application Questions:

1. Why is it important to understand that sin is more than the acts we commit?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that it is not fair that we are held accountable for someone else's sin?

3. Can you anticipate how Christ is a type of Adam?
