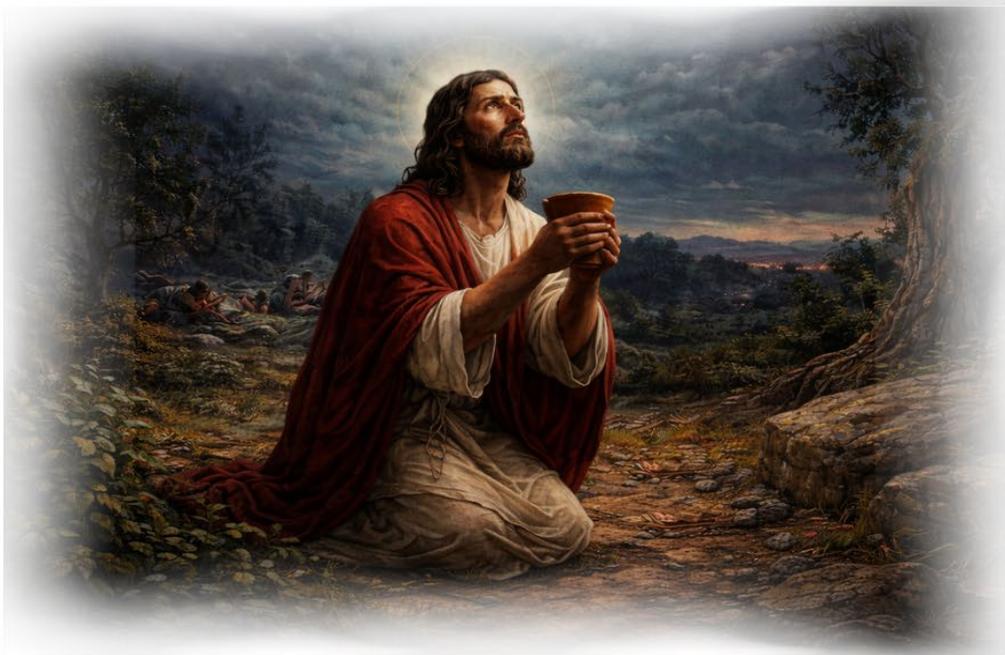


EDEN CUP ADAM'S FAILURE

REQUIRED CHRIST'S OBEDIENCE



Life Before Death

Before sin entered the world, there was life—full, clean, and unbroken. Adam was created in fellowship with God and placed in a world where nothing yet carried fear, decay, or loss. Life worked the way God designed it to work. Nothing had ever ended. Nothing had ever died.

Adam knew God as Creator and LORD. God’s presence was not distant or hidden. His voice was known and trusted. Life was lived in peace, not worry. There was no reason to fear the future, because the future had never brought loss.

The garden was filled with God’s goodness. Adam lacked nothing. Work was a joy, not a burden. Relationships were pure. Time itself carried no threat. Death was not part of Adam’s world, not even as an idea shaped by experience. Life simply continued.

Yet Adam was not created without choice. Love is real only where trust is real. Fellowship with God was not forced or automatic. Adam lived by what God provided, but also by what God said. Obedience was part of life, not a hardship added to it.

At the center of this perfect setting, God would soon speak a warning Adam had never heard before. It would introduce a word Adam had never seen lived out. That word was death. And once spoken, it would shape every chapter of the human story that followed.

The Command and the Warning

God did not leave Adam without direction. He spoke clearly and simply. Adam was free to eat from every tree in the garden. Nothing was held back. God's goodness came first, and His command rested inside that goodness.

Only one tree was set apart. God told Adam not to eat from it. The command was easy to understand. There were no hidden meanings and no confusing rules. Adam knew exactly what God said and what God expected of him.

With the command came a warning. God said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Adam heard the words, but he had never seen death. He had no experience to help him understand what that warning truly meant. Death was real, but it was unknown.

The words "surely die" mean more than dying at some later time. They mean that death would begin its work at once. From that day forward, life would be marked by dying. Adam would still live, but death would now be part of life itself.

Adam believed God's warning, but he did not grasp its depth. He likely thought of death as something far away. God was speaking of a change that would begin immediately. The warning was true, complete, and certain, even if Adam could not yet understand all it contained.

The Gift God Gave Adam

God saw that Adam was alone, and He said it was not good. So God created Eve and gave her to Adam as a gift. She was not

taken from the ground like the animals, but from Adam himself. From the beginning, she was part of him in a way nothing else was.

Adam knew at once that Eve was different. He did not have to be taught to love her. His love was natural, clean, and right. Eve was not a temptation to Adam. She was God's gift to him, given in a world that was still perfect.

Before sin, love and obedience lived together without conflict. Adam did not see loving Eve as something that pulled him away from God. God was at the center of everything, and every relationship flowed from Him. There was peace because everything was in its proper place.

Adam had never been asked to choose between love and obedience. He had never faced a moment where holding on to what he loved would cost him obedience to God. Love had never demanded a price. It had only brought joy.

That would soon change. The gift God gave Adam would become the place where his loyalty was tested. Not because the gift was wrong, but because the human heart must always decide who comes first.

The Choice Adam Made

The moment came without noise or warning. Eve had eaten, and Adam stood before a choice he had never faced before. God's command had not changed, and neither had God's warning. Adam knew what God had said. Nothing about this moment was hidden

from him.

Adam was not tricked or confused. Scripture tells us plainly that Adam was not deceived. He understood that disobedience would bring death. What he did not understand was how far that death would reach or how deeply it would change everything. The warning was real, but the cost was beyond his experience.

Before Adam were two paths. Obedience to God would mean being separated from Eve, the one God had given him and the one he loved. Disobedience would mean staying with her and sharing her fate. Adam was not choosing fruit. He was choosing which relationship would come first.

Love pressed against obedience in a way Adam had never known. In that moment, Adam chose Eve over obedience to God. It was not careless or accidental. He knew he was crossing a line. He simply believed the cost would not be as great as God had said.

When Adam ate, the choice was sealed. Death began its work just as God had warned. The cup Adam faced was never empty at all, and the story of life under death began.

When Death Entered Life

The change did not take long to appear. Adam did not fall to the ground at once, but something inside him died immediately. The closeness he had known with God was gone. Peace was replaced by fear. Instead of walking toward God, Adam hid from Him.

Shame followed quickly. Adam and Eve became aware of

themselves in a way they had never known before. Innocence was lost, and they tried to cover what they now felt. Nothing outside them had changed yet, but everything inside them had. Death had entered life just as God had said it would.

This was the beginning of dying. Life continued, but it was no longer whole. From that moment on, decay would touch every part of human life. Bodies would grow tired. Strength would fade. Time would now move everything toward an ending.

Adam had believed God's warning, but now he began to understand it. Death was not only something that would happen later. It was something that had already begun. The sentence had been carried out exactly as God had spoken it.

What Adam started that day would not stop with him. Death had entered the human story, and it would pass to every life that followed. The world would never be the same again.

Life Outside the Garden

Adam and Eve did not remain in the garden. They were sent out from the place where they had once walked with God. The way back was closed. Life would now be lived outside Eden, in a world changed by sin and marked by death.

Outside the garden, life continued, but it was harder. Work became tiring. The ground resisted the hands that worked it. Joy was still possible, but it was now mixed with sorrow. Life required effort where it once flowed easily.

The greatest loss was not comfort, but closeness. Adam still knew God was real, but fellowship was no longer easy or open. The voice that once brought peace now brought fear. Life outside the garden meant living with a distance between man and God.

Yet God did not leave Adam and Eve without care. He clothed them, covering their shame in a way they could not do for themselves. Even in judgment, God showed mercy. Life east of Eden would be difficult, but it would not be hopeless.

From that day forward, every human life would be lived outside the garden. Eden became a memory, and the world became a place of waiting. Something had been lost, and mankind would now live longing for what could only be restored by God.

Hope Spoken in Judgment

Even as God judged what had happened, He did not leave Adam and Eve without hope. In the middle of loss and consequence, God spoke words that reached far beyond that moment. He spoke of a future that would undo what sin had begun.

God promised that a child would one day come from the woman. This One would face the enemy who had brought deception into the world. There would be suffering, but there would also be victory. Evil would wound Him, but it would not win. God made it clear that death would not have the final word.

Adam and Eve could not understand how this promise would be fulfilled. They did not know when it would happen or what it would cost. What they did know was that God had not abandoned

them. Judgment had fallen, but mercy had spoken alongside it.

From that moment on, mankind lived with expectation. Every generation would feel the weight of death and, at the same time, carry the hope of deliverance. Life outside the garden became a life of waiting for what God had promised.

The story was no longer only about what had been lost. It was now also about what God would one day restore. The cup Adam had faced would not be the final cup in the human story.

The Long Rule of Death

The promise spoken in the garden did not remove death at once. Life continued under its shadow. Generations were born, lived, and died, each one proving that God's warning had been true. Death became part of everyday life, shaping how people lived and how they feared the end.

Men tried many ways to escape its power. Some trusted their own strength. Others followed rules and laws. Some offered sacrifices and prayers, hoping to quiet the problem sin had created. But nothing stopped death. It ruled over kings and servants alike. No one was beyond its reach.

Even God's law could not remove it. The law showed what was right and what was wrong, but it could not give life. It revealed the problem, but it could not cure it. Death continued to work, reminding mankind that something more was needed.

Through all those years, God did not forget His promise. He spoke

through prophets and messengers, reminding His people that help was coming. The waiting was long, and the suffering was real, but God's word did not fail.

The world learned a hard truth during those years. Death was not just an event at the end of life. It was an enemy that ruled life itself. And until that enemy was defeated, mankind could not be free.

The Second Adam

When the One God promised finally came, He entered a world already shaped by death. He was born into weakness, sorrow, and loss. From the beginning of His life, He lived under the same shadow that had followed every son of Adam. Yet He was different in one important way. He was without sin.

Scripture calls Him the Second Adam because His life was meant to answer the failure of the first. Where Adam had been given a perfect world, this Man lived in a broken one. Where Adam had known ease, this Man knew hunger, rejection, and pain. Still, He obeyed God in every part of His life.

Unlike Adam, the Second Adam understood death fully. He knew what sin had done to the world. He knew the cost of obedience and the pain it would bring. Nothing about His mission surprised Him. He walked toward it willingly, step by step.

Every choice He made moved Him closer to the purpose God had given Him. He did not come only to teach truth or heal the sick. He came to obey where Adam had failed. The promise spoken in

the garden was now living among men, preparing to face the enemy that had ruled since Eden.

The Second Garden

The second garden was very different from the first. Eden was full of life and peace. Gethsemane was filled with sorrow and heaviness. The Second Adam entered this garden knowing exactly what lay ahead. Nothing was hidden from Him. Nothing came as a surprise.

In Gethsemane, the cup was placed clearly before Him. This cup held the full weight of sin, judgment, and separation. He understood it completely. His sorrow was deep, and His heart was troubled. This was not fear of pain alone, but the burden of bearing sin He had never committed.

He prayed honestly. He asked if there was any other way. Yet His prayer did not end there. He chose obedience. “Not My will, but Thine, be done.” Where Adam had chosen love over obedience, Christ chose obedience over everything.

The decision made in that garden changed the course of history. Obedience was chosen with full knowledge of the cost. The cup Adam had faced without understanding was now accepted fully and willingly. From that moment on, the path to the cross was set.

The Cup Fully Drunk

The choice made in the second garden was carried out at the cross. What Christ accepted in prayer, He completed in obedience. The

cup was no longer before Him; it was in His hands. He did not turn away from it or share it with another. He drank it fully.

The cross was not only a place of pain, but a place of purpose. Christ bore the sin of the world without becoming a sinner Himself. He experienced separation without ceasing to be the Son. Darkness covered the land as judgment fell. What death demanded was paid in full.

Adam had believed God's warning without understanding how deep it went. Christ understood it completely. Adam underestimated the cost of disobedience. Christ accepted the full cost of obedience. Where Adam brought death into the world, Christ faced death to remove its power.

When Christ cried, "It is finished," the work was done. Nothing remained unpaid. Nothing was left undone. The cup was empty. Judgment had been satisfied, and the hold of death was broken at its source.

The cross answered Eden. What was lost through one man's failure was now secured through one Man's obedience. Death had been faced, and its defeat had begun.

The Last Enemy

The cross did not remove death from the world at once. People still grow old, suffer, and die. At first glance, it may seem as if death is still winning. Scripture tells us otherwise. Death has been defeated, but it has not yet been destroyed.

The Bible calls death an enemy. It entered the world through Adam's disobedience, and it ruled human life for generations. Christ broke its power at the cross, but God has planned a final moment when death itself will be removed forever. Until then, death remains present, but it no longer has the final word.

The apostle Paul explains this clearly. He says that Christ must reign until every enemy is placed under His authority. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. This means death's end is certain, even if it has not yet happened. Its defeat is already decided.

One day, Christ will hand everything back to the Father. Sin will be finished. Death will be gone. Nothing will remain that harms, separates, or destroys. God will rule openly and fully, and life will no longer be lived under the shadow of dying.

What began in Eden will be completely undone. Death entered through one man. Death will be removed through One Man. The cup Adam faced began the story of dying. The cup Christ drank will end it forever.

The Cup Set Before You

The story that began in the garden does not end with history. It ends with a choice that every person must face. Eden shows us how death entered the world. The cross shows us how death was defeated. What remains is how each heart responds.

Adam faced a command he did not fully understand. Christ faced obedience, knowing exactly what it would cost. Where Adam chose wrongly and brought death, Christ chose rightly and

brought life. These two choices still stand before mankind. No one escapes the effects of Adam's failure, but no one is excluded from the offer made through Christ's obedience.

The gospel does not ask anyone to drink the cup Christ drank. That cup was His alone, and it has been emptied completely. What the gospel asks is whether we will receive what His obedience accomplished. Life is offered freely, but it must be received willingly.

To refuse this gift is not harmless. To delay is not neutral. As Adam's choice affected all who came after him, Christ's obedience now stands ready to affect all who will trust Him. The same God who warned Adam now invites fallen men to come and live.

The cup that once brought death has been answered by obedience that brings life. And now the choice is set before you.

This booklet was written with one hope: that this story of Adam and Christ would be clearer, simpler, and more meaningful to us all. Death is real, but it is not final. Christ obeyed where Adam failed, and His obedience still speaks today. May the LORD use these words to strengthen your faith and draw your heart closer to Him.

With love and prayers,
Dave Weeks

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