

## Chapter Three

### **The Result of Disobedience:**

The magnitude of Adam's disobedience was severe. He became separated from God, resulting in a sentence of death and a void within his heart. It was a void that only God could fill, and man needed to find a way back to God.

Moreover, the ripple-effect of Adam's sin filtered down to all humanity. Each individual person inherited a sin nature and each person thereby became accountable for their own particular sin along with its penalty.

Interestingly, the physical part of man did not die immediately because we find that Adam and Eve had sons and daughters, including Cain and Abel. Adam did not die until the ripe old age of 930 years.

Although God banished them from the garden, He still permitted them to replenish the earth. If Adam and Eve had died immediately after the fall, there would be no procreation, and thus, no more man. However, God did not want the creation that He produced to simply fall by the wayside. Therefore, He allowed man time to produce children. In this way, the plan He purposed from the beginning would develop just as He established it to happen.

### **No Children before the Fall:**

Another detail to keep in mind is this—there were no children born to Adam and Eve before the fall. Why is this important? Because a child born before the fall would have inherited Adam's sinless nature. Under those circumstances, one or more sinless offspring would have been available to produce even more sinless offspring. The sinless offspring would retain all the characteristics of Adam before his fall in the Garden of Eden.

The relevance is this: although the offspring of Adam would inherit death because of his disobedience, the offspring of the sinless children would not come under that curse. That is; unless they themselves also sinned. In that case; they, and any offspring produced by them, would come under the same curse of death as Adam and his descendants. Of course, this is all irrelevant now; but an interesting point to be aware of.

**God's True Concern and the Situation:**

One important factor to consider here: the creation was not God's total concern. He has a great love for man and a great desire for his fellowship. He loves man even more than we can imagine. Man is the only creature created in His own image and likeness. God wanted to share His Kingdom with someone like Himself. However, in the midst of creating a being like man, He also created another situation.

For man to love God in return, it was essential for man to have a *free will*. That was the only way it could be. If man did not have a *free will*, he would be as a robot, unable to make his own decisions, and forced to love God and obey His commandments. By employing a *free will*, man can choose to accept God's love and fellowship, or he can reject them. The choice is totally up to the man to make God cannot make the choice for him.