

ADAM IN THE GARDEN. – Elizabeth Jordaan

"And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The LAST ADAM became a life-giving spirit. THE FIRST MAN WAS OF THE EARTH, made of dust; THE SECOND MAN IS THE LORD from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne THE IMAGE OF THE MAN OF DUST, WE SHALL ALSO BEAR THE IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY MAN." (1 Cor.15:45-49)

THE FIRST ADAM AND THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

- *"Then God said, "Let us make MAN in our image, after our likeness. And let THEM have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created MAN in his own image, in the image of God he created him; MALE AND FEMALE he created them." (Gen.1:26-27)*
- *"then the LORD God FORMED THE MAN OF DUST from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed." (Gen.2:7-8)*
- *"And He has made FROM ONE BLOOD EVERY NATION OF MEN TO DWELL ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings," (Act.17:26)*
- *"The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But THE EARTH HE HAS GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN OF MEN." (Psalm 115:16)*

But there was someone else in the Garden of Eden. He was also a created being, but he was not earthly. He belonged in heaven. With other heavenly beings, he witnessed the creation of the earth. They also saw how God made a creature in His image and His likeness. All these heavenly beings, who were also created by God, are described as "morning stars", "sons of God", angels, cherubim and seraphim. They are described as powerful beings who surround God's throne. The cherubim and seraphim in particular are fearsome fiery creatures, with wings full of eyes, some with four heads and four faces. This creature that entered the Garden of Eden was a "morning star", a cherub, a fiery serpent (dragon) with seven heads... He had another thought in his heart.

- *"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding... When THE MORNING STARS sang together, and all THE SONS OF GOD shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4,7)*
- *"How you are fallen from heaven, O DAY STAR, SON OF DAWN! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I WILL MAKE MYSELF LIKE THE MOST HIGH.'" (Isa.14:12-14)*
- *"You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were AN ANOINTED GUARDIAN CHERUB. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you... "Your heart was proud because*

of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour. I cast you to the ground.” (Eze.28:13-15,17)

- *“behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems... And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.” (Rev.12:3,9)*
- *“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (Joh.8:44)*

This being had a change of heart. He was not content to just be who God created him to be. He wanted his throne to be raised above the other "stars" of God. He wanted to be equal with the Creator, the Most High. His character changed. He became a murderer, a liar, a deceiver and a seducer. He became the devil, the accuser of mankind. He became Satan, the adversary. He became evil and has no truth in him. This creature appeared in the Garden of Eden as the crafty serpent who deceived the woman and seduced her to disobey God's explicit command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, knowing good and evil."” (Gen.3:1-5)*

The woman and her husband ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. Their eyes opened to evil but their minds and hearts were blinded. Satan cast a thick veil over the whole world so that people can no longer see God's light. The minds of men became foolish, without knowledge of God; their hearts were darkened and hardened because of unbelief and wickedness. Death reigned over them and Satan has enslaved them through his lies and with the fear of death. And man was banished from the Garden of Eden.

- *“For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became FUTILE IN THEIR THINKING, and THEIR FOOLISH HEARTS WERE DARKENED.” (Rom.1:21)*
- *“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so DEATH SPREAD TO ALL MEN because all sinned—” (Rom.5:12)*
- *“Yet DEATH REIGNED from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.” (Rom. 5:14)*

Throughout the history of mankind this veil had closed tightly around them. They were trapped under the power of Satan, the power of sin and the power of death. The world was in deep darkness. People on earth were in the shadow of death. Even the Old Testament revelations of God could not remove the veil.

- *“But their MINDS WERE HARDENED. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, THAT SAME VEIL REMAINS UNLIFTED, because only through Christ is it taken away.” (2 Cor.3:14)*

Yet there were promises that one day the veil would be lifted and there would be light again. The light of the gospel was coming...

- *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, on them has light shone." (Isa.9:2)*
- *"And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, THE VEIL THAT IS SPREAD OVER ALL NATIONS. He will swallow up death forever." (Isa.25:7-8)*
- *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has BLINDED THE MINDS OF THE UNBELIEVERS, to KEEP THEM FROM SEEING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST, who is the image of God." (2 Cor.4:3-4)*

THE LAST ADAM AND THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

- *"The true light, WHICH GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE, was coming into the world." (Joh.1:9)*
- *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (Joh.1:14)*

That night He ate the Passover for the last time with His disciples. The next day He would fulfil the Feast of Passover. He would be the Lamb that was sacrificed. He would be breaking the power of Satan, the power of sin and the power of death. He announced a new feast - the celebration of the New Covenant. The meat of the Passover lamb was replaced with eating His body (bread) and drinking His blood (wine):

- *"He took the bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." (1 Cor.11:24-26)*

Later that night, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus struggled to lay down His own will so that His Father's will could be done. His Father's will was that He, the Son of God, the Son of man, should drink the cup of God's vengeance for sin and pay the penalty for sin - death. Here in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus as the last Adam, took the cup from God and drank it, on behalf of all mankind. He left the Garden and gave Himself up to be crucified.

- *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luk.23:34)*
- *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mar.15:34)*
- *"When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (Joh.19:30)*

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Mar.15:38)

With this one act of obedience, Jesus destroyed the sin of the first Adam and all mankind, settled the debt, served the death sentence, paid the ransom, destroyed the slavery of Satan, conquered death and lifted the veil. The light of the gospel had overcome the darkness. The human heart was freed to believe. It was possible that people could be the image of God again. And at last, we can look at God without the veil and see His glory. God's will for MAN has been restored.

- *"Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin*

reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom.5:18-21)

- *“Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.” (1 Cor.15:49)*
- *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor.3:18)*

“Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a Great Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” (Heb.10:18-23)

A wonderful promise waits for those who accept Jesus Christ:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” (Rev.2:7)