

Representation: In Adam or in Christ (Part 7)

Romans 5:12-21

Introduction

- 1. In our study of the book of Romans; we are presently considering Rom.5:12ff. where Paul addresses the two Adams**
- 2. The rebellion of the first representative Adam, resulted in,**
 1. Sin entering the world (Rom.5:12,17,19), and,
 2. Death through sin (Rom.5:12,14,17,21)
 3. Death came to all people (5:12,13-14,15,17,21) and “reigned” over humanity (5:14,17,21)
 4. The fall also gave us a sinful disposition—a bias toward evil (5:20), and,
 5. The ultimate consequence of sin (5:16,18; Gen.3:23-24)—banishment from the presence of God eternally
- 3. The perfect obedience of the second Representative, Adam (Jesus)**
 1. The will of the Father was that the Messiah/Christ should fulfil the covenant promises in Gen. 3:15 and 3:21
 2. Jesus was the perfect man/God of Gen.3:15 (demonstrated by His spectacular miracles/signs)
 3. Jesus was the promised “Seed” of the woman who triumphed over Satan (Gen.3:15)
 4. Jesus was the Ultimate sacrifice for sin--the promised culmination of all the pictures of animal substitution in the OT (Gen.3:21), and,
 5. Jesus as our Representative, was able to “fulfil all righteousness” and thereby reverse the curse that was on us
- 4. Ultimately there are only two groups of people in the world (Matt.7:13-14)**

1. Big picture of the Bible

2. Five important questions about the principle of representation

1. Did humanity choose Adam as our representative? (No)
Did humanity choose Jesus as our representative? (No)
2. Did humanity have any choice in whether we wanted to be involved in the principle of representation through Adam? (No)
Did humanity have any choice in whether we wanted to be involved in the principle of representation through Jesus? (No)
3. Did humanity have any choice as to what aspects of our lives would be represented in Adam (money, health, occupation, educational prospects etc.)? (No)
Did humanity have any choice as to what aspects of our lives would be represented in Jesus (money, health, occupation, educational prospects etc.)? (No)
4. Did we have any choice as to who would be represented in Adam-Jews/Gentiles; rich/poor; wise/simple; all of humanity or some of humanity? (No)
Did we have any choice as to who would be represented in Jesus-Jews/Gentiles; rich/poor; wise/simple; all of humanity or some of humanity? (No)
5. Did we have any knowledge that Adam was representing us? (No)
Did we have any knowledge that Jesus was representing us? (No)

3. The implications

1. The first representative, Adam

- “Trespass” (5:15,17,18); “sin” (5:16); “disobedience” (5:19)
- “Death” (5:15); and the “reign of death” (5:17,21)
- “Judgment” and “condemnation” (5:16,18) upon us

2. The second Representative, Jesus

- Because of His “Grace” (5:15,17,20,21), the,
- “Gift of God” (5:15,16,17); “Justification” (5:16,18); “Righteousness” (5:17,19,21)
- “Life” “eternal life” “reigning in life” (5:17,18,21)

3. The big question

4. The promised foundation of salvation (Gen.3:15,21)

1. God promised to deal with Satan
2. He would save a people by His grace, and through substitution (Gen.3:21)

5. The promised scope of salvation revealed to Abraham (Gen.12:1-3; 15:5-6)

1. All nations will be sovereignly blessed through God blessing Abraham (Gen.12:2-3)

2. The blessing will run through Abraham’s physical descendants (Gen.17:3-7)

3. The blessing of Abraham’s descendants would not include all of Abraham’s descendants

1. Distinctions between individuals

1. Abraham’s sons (Gen.17:19-21)
2. Isaac’s sons (Gen.25:23; Mal.1:21)

2. Distinction made between nations: Egypt and the making of a nation (Israel) (Gen. 15:13-14; Ex.3:7,8)

3. God’s covenant people alone, who received the means of salvation in the OT (Rom. 3:1-2; 9:4-5)

1. Rom.3:1-2
2. Romans 9:4-5

4. The Messiah and the nations (Is.11:10; 42:1-4,6-7; 49:6; 51:4-5; 52:15)

6. The NT perspective on representation, in summary form

1. Ephesians 1:3-14

2. Ephesians 2:11-12

3. Jn.17:2,6,8-9,24 (The High Priestly Prayer)

Conclusion