

Introduction

- In this teaching session, we will talk about the indestructible innate (natural) connection between the legal status of a being before God and its vital state (its nature, substance, essence, state, privileges or punishments).

Lucifer - The Legal Status and the Vital State

- We will analyze the legal status and vital state of Lucifer (Satan) before and after the fall from heaven in 2 passages: Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-15:

Ezekiel 28:11-19 (NASB)

¹¹ Again the word of the LORD came to me saying:

¹² "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him: 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

¹⁴ You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.

¹⁶ By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁷ Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.

¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you.

¹⁹ "All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrified and you will cease to be forever.""

Isaiah 14:12-15 (NASB)

¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

¹³ But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

¹⁵ Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.

- Why do I think that the first passage from Ezekiel refers to Lucifer or Satan? In Ezekiel 28, the first 10 verses of the chapter are dealing with a human leader. Then from verse 11 to 19, Lucifer is the focus of discussion because: the superlatives used to describe him don't seem to fit that of a normal being (full of wisdom, perfect in beauty, having the seal of perfection – v. 12); he has a different nature from man (he was a cherub – v. 14); he was in a different realm from man (on the holy mount of God - v. 13, 14); he had

a different position from man (he was blameless and sinless - v. 15); and he received a different judgment from man (he was cast out from the mountain of God and destroyed from the midst of the stones of fire – v. 16).

Lucifer BEFORE the fall

- LEGAL STATUS:
 - He was blameless in his ways (Ezekiel 28:15)
- VITAL STATE (the spirit's nature and privileges):
 - He had the seal of perfection, was full of wisdom and perfect beauty (Ezekiel 28:12)
 - He was located in the garden of God (Eden) and covered with all kinds of precious stones (Ezekiel 28:13)
 - He was anointed cherub placed on the holy mountain of God (Ezekiel 28:14)
 - He was the star of the morning, son of the dawn (Isaiah 14:12)
 - He was without sin and blameless in his spirit's nature as well since he was located on the holy mountain of God.
 - He was in a CONDITIONAL UNFIXED STATE of spiritual life. That means the moment he would commit sin, he would lose that state of spiritual life. He had the potential to sin.

Lucifer AFTER the fall

- LEGAL STATUS:
 - Guilty - Unrighteousness was found in him and he sinned (Ezekiel 28:15-16)
- VITAL STATE (the spirit's nature and punishments):
 - He was cast out from the mountain of God to the ground (Ezekiel 28:16-17)
 - God destroyed him from the midst of stones of fire (Ezekiel 28:16)
 - He was cut down to the earth (Isaiah 14:12)
 - He was thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit (Isaiah 14:15). The Hebrew term for the "place of the dead" is Sheol and the Greek term is Hades.
 - He became in his spirit's nature utterly evil, the complete opposite of God. He was filled INTERNALLY with violence (Ezekiel 28:16)
 - He entered into an UNCONDITIONAL FIXED (PERMANENT) STATE of spiritual death in the so-called "place of the dead" (under earth or underworld). This was the first death or the first stage of his punishment (Isaiah 14:15)
 - He became also unredeemable because of the following possible reasons (this is my personal opinion and not a doctrine):
 - Maybe he had more knowledge than Adam being on the holy mountain of God. He might even have had the knowledge of good and evil and he still sinned against God.
 - He was not tempted and deceived into sinning like Adam, but he sinned from his heart, from his own will.
 - Although all sin is still sin, his sin might have been way bigger than Adam's because he desired the worship that was reserved only for God Himself. He had pride and wanted to be greater than God Himself.
 - The second and final stage of Lucifer's punishment that awaits him at the end of this age, after the great judgment, is the second death, the lake of fire described in Revelation 20:14, where he will be

tormented forever. Death itself and Hades (the place of the death) will also be thrown into that lake of fire:

Revelation 20:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is **the second death**, the lake of fire.

Adam - The Legal Status and the Vital State

Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ God created man **in His own image, in the image of God** He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:7 (NASB)

⁷ Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.

Adam BEFORE the fall

- LEGAL STATUS:

- Since Adam was created in God's own image and likeness, he was legally in a state of holiness, without sin. We know this also from the fact that he was created very good or perfect as everything else in creation (Genesis 1:31) and he also enjoyed fellowship with God who cannot have fellowship with anything evil (Habakkuk 1:13).

Genesis 1:31 (NASB)

³¹ God saw all that He had made, and behold, **it was very good**.

Habakkuk 1:13 (NASB)

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor.

- VITAL STATE (his spirit's nature and privileges):

- According to Genesis 2:7, Adam received the breath of life, the life and nature of God Himself, meaning that he was also holy initially in his spirit's nature as God. However, Adam's holiness was not fixed and permanent as God's. He still had the potential to sin and do evil, while God can never do that.

Hebrews 6:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie...**

2 Timothy 2:13 (NASB)

¹³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for **He cannot deny Himself.**

James 1:13 (NASB)

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God "; for **God cannot be tempted by evil**, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

- As Lucifer, Adam was created in a CONDITIONAL UNFIXED STATE of spiritual life of God meaning that he would continue to live forever as long as he did not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But He could still experience death as we know he did. Maybe (and we don't know that for a fact from the Bible) if Adam had continued to obey God consistently and not eat from the forbidden tree for a period of time, at a certain point, God would have made him enter into an UNCONDITIONAL FIXED STATE of life, immortality, and righteousness. We can deduce this possible trajectory when we look at the heart of God and His final purpose for humans in salvation. He wanted people to come to a state of PERMANENT righteousness and eternal life.
- Before the fall, Adam did not have the knowledge of good and evil, but God had it without ever sinning or experiencing death (Genesis 3:22). When Adam was created in God's image and likeness, that knowledge of good and evil was not given to him. However, in God's wisdom and love, through the redemptive work of Christ, born again people live again forever having the knowledge of good and evil as well.

Genesis 3:22 (NASB)

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man **has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil;**

- Although Adam had the life of God in him (the breath of life), he didn't possess eternal life at that stage.

Genesis 3:22-24 (NASB)

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, **and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever "**

²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

²⁴ So **He drove the man out;** and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction **to guard the way to the tree of life.**

- The tree of life had eternal life. If Adam had eaten from that tree while he was fallen and in sin, the passage tells us that he would have lived forever. No matter what Adam would have done from that point on (good or bad), he would have never died again. That means, when a person has eternal life, he/she can never die again. That is the first distinction between the life that Adam had initially and eternal life.
- God gives this eternal life (that was coming from the tree of life) as a gift to people when they come into Christ and are born again. They don't go back to Adam's initial position, but they come to a much more elevated position, a superior position and nature in Christ, because a born again Christian has both the knowledge of good and evil and eternal life (he can never experience spiritual death and separation from God again):

John 11:25-26 (NASB)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me **will live** even if he dies (physically),

²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me **will never die**. Do you believe this?"

- The first Adam was just a living soul (having the life of God just for himself), while the last Adam became a life-giving spirit (not having just the life of God in himself, but being able to give life to others and create life). All who are in Christ (the last Adam) have become also life-giving spirits. This is the second distinction between the life that Adam had initially and eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:45 (NASB)

⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, **BECAME A LIVING SOUL**." The last Adam **became a life-giving spirit**.

- God told Adam that the day he will eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he will surely die (enter spiritual death) and he did:

Genesis 2:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it **you will surely die**."

- When Adam ate and died, his body was not annihilated on the spot, neither his soul with the mind, will, and emotions. Still something significant of him died. God says that HE (Adam) died, but only his spirit entered death. That means the real person (identity) of Adam was his spirit and not his body or soul. That does not mean the soul and the body are not important, or that they are sinful according to Gnosticism. The Gnostics philosophy claims that since the spirit is everything, then the body and the soul are sinful and without any value, so they can sin and do whatever, and get away with it. However, the soul and the body are an integral part of the human being together with the spirit. For example, in the whole electric system involved in bringing light in to our homes, there are roughly 3 components: the power plant, the transporting wires and connections, and the light bulb. Although the power plant, which actually generates the electricity, is the most complex and important part of the system, light would not reach our homes without the transporting wires or without the light bulb.
- Adam entered spiritual death not because of some evil property of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but because of disobedience and of breaking God's command. We know that because Genesis 3:22 tells us that God had the knowledge of good and evil without every sinning.
- When Adam died (meaning that death entered his spirit and was separated from the life of God – thus entered death), that affected his soul and body on the long-term. The training of the mind after his spirit that he had before dying, didn't change immediately. Progressively he discovered first that he was naked, then all of the sudden the animals began to act wild and he had to adjust to that new way of living. Also, he had to work hard now to make a living. He had to "renew" his mind to the new state and nature of his spirit, which was death.
- When people are born again and come out of their fallen state into Christ, the nature of their spirit changes instantly, but their minds need to be renewed and trained to catch up with what has taken place

in their spirit. They are no longer mere humans, but they receive the divine nature in themselves. The soul, the body, the environment needs to change according to the change in the spirit.

- Adam's body died progressively until he reached the age of 930 years (in less than 1000 years) and nobody on earth lived more than a 1000 years. The oldest person in the Bible (Methuselah) lived 969 years and then died.

Genesis 5:5 (NASB)

⁵ So all the days that Adam lived were **nine hundred and thirty years**, and **he died**.

Genesis 5:27 (NASB)

²⁷ So all the days of Methuselah were **nine hundred and sixty-nine years**, and **he died**.

- In 2 Peter 3:8, it says that to God 1 day = 1000 years and 1000 years = 1 day:

2 Peter 3:8 (NASB)

⁸ But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord **one day is like a thousand years**, and **a thousand years like one day**.

- According to the above verse, God was right when He said that Adam will die. Adam really died in that day: his spirit entered the realm of death immediately on the spot, and then the soul was renewed progressively to that death, and his physical body died in less than 1000 years, which to God is one day.

Adam AFTER the fall

- LEGAL STATUS:
 - Guilty
- VITAL STATE (his spirit's nature):
 - His nature and essence became sin. Sin was not just imputed on him, but he became sin in his very core nature and being. He didn't remain righteous in his nature, and God didn't just considered him sinful when He looked at him. He became sinful. By the same token, when people become born again, righteousness is not just imputed to them, but they are made righteousness in the nature of their spirit. God does not just consider them righteous when He looks at them, but they are righteous in their nature. They are no longer sinners.
 - Adam entered the realm of death. Adam became dead in his nature. Sin brought spiritual death with it.
 - All the sinful actions of Adam from that point forwards sprang from the sinful nature he got when he fell.
 - He entered a CONDITIONAL (REDEEMABLE) UNFIXED STATE OF DEATH – first death or first stage of punishment. He became subject to sickness, to all the attributes of spiritual death.
 - If Christ did not come, Adam was also going to experience the second death (the lake of fire – the second and final stage of punishment) - the unconditional (unredeemable) fixed state of death.

Memory verses

1 Corinthians 15:45 (NASB)

⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, **BECAME A LIVING SOUL.**" The last Adam **became a life-giving spirit.**

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

²³ For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If you have any questions from the Bible or from this teaching session, or you have a personal problem (in finances, in marriage, with children, with addictions, or with a sickness in your body, etc.) for which you need prayer, please don't hesitate to contact us at contact@eduardserediuc.org or directly from the website from the Contact section -> General Inquiry form. My wife and I will take the time to answer you and pray for you. May God bless you!