

# On the Beginning

## 7. Death

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 3:7-24

God had said that the consequence of sinning would be *death*.

*“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* (Genesis 2:17)

Death always is the consequence of sin. See this in Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23, and James 1:15. However when Adam disobeyed God, he did not immediately drop dead, that is physically dead! But something terrible did happen.

### 1. Spiritual Death!

Look at the changes in the man and the woman that resulted from their sinning.

- They who had once walked with God were now *afraid* of Him (v. 8).
- They who had been unashamed (Genesis 2:25) were now *filled with shame* (v. 7).
- They who had been innocent were now plagued with *guilt* (vs. 9-13).

The change that alienated sinful man from a holy God is called “spiritual death” (Read Ephesians 2:1-7). Sons of Adam are now born spiritually dead, cut off from God!

### 2. Earthly Consequences!

God sought fallen mankind (v. 9), and called for the confession of sin (vs. 11-13). Then He outlined the radical changes that had taken place in creation as a result of its master’s (Genesis 1:28) rebellion:

- Nature became hostile (vs. 14-19).
- Man became sinful and in need of an authority system (v. 16).
- Toil became man’s occupation (v. 19).
- Death overtook life (v. 19).

### 3. Physical Death.

Originally, death was not in the scheme of creation. Notice verses 19 and 22-24. Sin produced physical death. The theory of evolution demands that struggle and death be essential parts of nature for all times. The Bible presents death as the wages of sin. If Adam had not chosen the tree of knowledge, he could have had access to the tree of life, and would have lived physically for ever!

### 4. Eternal Life and Death!

But let’s not miss the message of Genesis 3 about eternity.

- Sin requires our banishment from God (vs. 22-24). If we die physically while we are dead spiritually we will die eternally away from God in Hell!
- God promised to undo the work of the Devil (v. 15). The Seed of the Woman is Jesus Christ, Who was bruised by Satan on the Cross, but will finally bruise and destroy the Devil.
- Life has been provided by God for man through the sacrifice of His Son (vs. 20-21). An innocent animal was sacrificed to cover the shame and nakedness of fallen man. This first sacrifice pictured the Lamb of God Who would take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Eve’s name spoke of

life, and life comes to man through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary!