

Sin and salvation

Fellowship broken and restored

In order for us to correctly understand how we can have a good relationship with God, it is essential that we understand who we are and who God is, what we are able to do and what God does. We must not deceive ourselves into thinking that we can somehow, on our very own, make ourselves right with God.

Fellowship with God . . .

There was a time when mankind and God were on good terms, a time when nothing hindered their relationship with each other.

When was this?

Was there a requirement at that time that had to be kept in order to keep this unhindered fellowship with God? What was it?

Was the requirement kept?

What happened as a result?

See Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

At that moment of disobedience, Adam and Eve died—they died spiritually. They were no longer close to God. There was an enormous divide between them. Not only had they died spiritually, but they would also die physically. They were cast out of the garden of Eden, cut off from the tree of life. The access to this tree was guarded by angels and a flaming sword that turned every way. No one could eat of the tree. If they had, they would have lived forever—in their sin.

Adam and Eve soon had children. And their children, just as they, were sinners. They were sinners by birth and by choice. They were born spiritually dead, and physically, there was

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nothing they could do to keep themselves from the grave.

They were lost sinners, and as lost sinners, they were naturally incapable of pleasing God, or making things right with Him.

Isaiah 64:6; Psalm 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18

With sin came death, but there was also a message of hope.

What provision was made in light of the sin that had broken the fellowship between God and man?

See Genesis 3:15; 3:21; 4:3-4; 8:20-22; Leviticus 6:1-7; Leviticus 16

The Old Testament saints were instructed to offer sacrifices so that there might be atonement for their sins. But the performance of the act in and of itself did not guarantee that the LORD would be pleased with the offering.

See Isaiah 1:10-20; 66:1-4; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:1-8

And the sacrifices, even if accepted by the LORD, never had the ability to take away sin. They acted only as a temporary covering of sins.

See Hebrews 9:6-15; 10:1-14

How were the Old Testament saints saved? Was it by something that they did (such as circumcision, or the offering of sacrifices)?

See Romans 4:1-12; Galatians 3:1-14

It is evident that salvation has never been gained through human works. It has always been given by grace through faith. And it could be no other way. Praise the Lord!

See Hebrews 11:1-6; Romans 14:23; Titus 1:15-16; 3:4-7; Ephesians 2:1-13

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