

RUINED BY ONE, SAVED BY ANOTHER

The Lord informed Adam in the Garden of Eden that in the day he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would **surely** die; but Satan told Eve, "Ye shall **not** surely die" (Gen. 2:16 & 3:4). Of course God told Adam the truth, and Satan told Eve a lie. Eve partook of the fruit of the forbidden tree and gave to Adam and he also ate. It is obvious that they did not die a physical death at that time, but they did immediately die a moral death and their bodies forthwith began the process of decay that would, and did, ultimately issue in corporeal death. They instantly became ashamed of their nakedness and became fearful of the presence of the Lord, both of which had not been the case prior to their transgression. Truly, they died to the peaceful, tranquil and delightful state and condition in which they had been created and fell into a dreadful and wretched state of corruption and depravity. And through Adam, who was the federal head of the human family, all his posterity fell into the same deplorable state. All the misery, suffering and death that this world has ever known is to be traced ultimately to the disobedience of Adam. What a

dreadful death he brought upon himself and mankind! The only reason any of the human race will ever see heaven is because an innumerable host of them were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and He took their sins upon Himself. "As by one man's (Adam's) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Christ) shall many be made righteous" (See Romans 5:19). How blest we are if we have been given the inward emotions and desires that are indicative of divine life in the soul, such as poverty of spirit and hunger for righteousness!

—Elder Ralph Harris