



Empowering People to Change the World

A Tale of Two Kings

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Road Declaration

A Tale of Two Kings

- Paul is showing us two *types* or patterns of things to come.
- He is, for the first time in Romans, showing us the patterns of Adam and Jesus and the result of their lives.
- Adam, the first man, was a king—he was given dominion of the garden and by implication, he was king over the earth and all future men and women.

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” (Genesis 1:26-28)

- Adam was the first king on the earth, but he lost it by his act of disobedience and it has affected us all.
- Through Adam’s sin, we are all naturally born sinners, and are born into condemnation and judgment.
- And then a second Adam, a new King, arose who came to set us free from sin and give us new life: King Jesus.
- We can be supernaturally born again into the abounding grace of God.

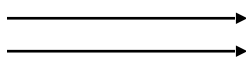
Romans 5:12-21

Look at “just as” in verse 12:

- The key phrase “just as” is the key to understanding verses 12-21. Paul is showing the parallels of Adam and Jesus.

King Adam

Sin entered the world
All declared sinners



King Jesus

Gift of grace entered the world
Gift of justification offered to all

Judgment and condemnation	—————>	Grace and righteousness
We are born sinners	—————>	We can be reborn in
righteousness		
Sins abound in our life	—————>	Grace abounds over sin
Sin always leads to death	—————>	Grace always leads to life
We are <i>in Adam</i> by birth	—————>	We are <i>in Christ</i> by the rebirth

Verse 12

Paul is saying that when Adam sinned, he sinned for the whole human race:

- Just as Adam became a sinful creature, spiritually dead and separated from God, so did his children.
- We are all Adam’s children.
- As C.S. Lewis calls the humans in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, we are “sons of Adam” and “daughters of Eve.”
- Adam and Eve could not pass on the deep fellowship they had had with God because they lost it.
- As Milton aptly called it, *Paradise Lost*.
- Adam’s sin has spread to all of us.
- Before knowing Christ, we were in rebellion, powerless, and an enemy of God: some of us directly, others of us indirectly, and He loved us!
- All of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory!
- This is not comfortable to talk about but until we understand just how lost we are, we cannot understand how wonderful God’s grace and salvation are.

Verses 13-14

- Physical death came as a result of spiritual death—even before the Law was given, sin was present in all men beginning with Adam.
 - The Jehovah Witnesses have a doctrine that Adam only sinned for himself —this view takes away the truth that Paul is bringing out in this passage.

- The doctrine that sin passed upon all of us is vitally important.
 - I have heard people say that “man is a sinner because he has sinned.” Such a concept implies that man could possibly live and die without sinning—and not need Christ.

 - This is found in Buddhism, Taoism, and Bahai.

 - But the biblical revelation tells us that we sin because we are sinners—and thus, we must have Christ to be set free!

Verse 15

- If one man makes us guilty, how much more can one Man can make us righteous.
- Christ died for the ungodly, sinners like you and me.
- Between verses 15-21 the words “gift” and “grace” are used six times each.
- It is free—you don’t have to earn it, pay for it, sacrifice for it, only receive it.
- But it is not cheap grace because it cost God His Son.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it “costly grace.”
- This so difficult for people to grasp: He didn’t die for good people but bad people. We were all bad compared to God.
- You certainly aren’t good enough to be a follower of Christ, but you are certainly bad enough! Jesus died for the ungodly, sinners!

- If Christ was willing to die for us as ungodly sinners, in rebellion to Him, how much more will He save us from the wrath to come.
- We have now received His abounding grace!!
 - All of you in this sanctuary and streaming from your homes, if you have received Christ by faith, you are a trophy of grace!
 - You made Jesus your new King and He has delivered you from your addictions.
 - He has set you free from your own selfishness and made you a selfless servant of the King and His Kingdom.

Verse 16

- Death reigned through Adam but life reigns from Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:22 “As in Adam all die; so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”
- When Adam committed one sin, the sentence of condemnation was passed to all of us.
 - God doesn’t take half measures toward sin like we do.
 - God’s full displeasure and condemnation came down because of one sin.
 - We have scales for sin—when you go to a prison there are sentences or scales of punishment based upon your sin.
 - Two years for stealing a car; ten years for manslaughter; life for murder.
 - Yet for one act of disobedience, the whole human race has received the death penalty—God believes in the death penalty and all of us have been under that sentence.
 - If you have not repented of your sin and believed in Christ and the cross at Calvary, you are still under a death sentence.
 - God hates all sin because all sin is from disobedience!
 - Listen: the dual nature of God was at war with itself—His love calls for mercy; His justice calls for condemnation.

- God did not have to send His Son—if He had not sent His Son, He would have been fully justified in letting us simply live and die in our sins.
- But His extravagant ravishing love came despite the “many offenses.”

Verse 17

- Make Jesus your King and you will reign in life!
- If Adam’s sin resulted in physical and spiritual death—how much more through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit have we received an “abundance of grace.”
- J.B. Phillips in his paraphrase of this text says: “For if one man’s offense meant that men should be slaves to death all their lives, it is a far greater thing that through another man, Jesus Christ, men by their acceptance of his more sufficient grace and righteousness should live all their lives like kings.”
- God is a great transformer of lives—he takes slaves and turns them into kings.
 - Two men each performed an act that resulted in something.
 - Both acts were based on lordship—who was lord of that life.
 - Adam chose disobedience to God and it resulted in lordship to sin.
 - Jesus chose obedience to His Father’s will and the Lordship of grace was the result.
 - Two choices of lordship: death or life? Which will it be in your life?
 1. If we choose sin, disobedience, and rebellion to God, we are choosing death, we are choosing slavery.
 2. If we choose obedience and love, we are choosing freedom and life.

Adam as King

Jesus as King

Circle with S on the throne

Circle with the cross on the throne

Below the circle reads:

Below the circle reads:

Self Reigns on the throne
Sin Reigns on the throne
Discord in one’s life

Jesus Reigns on the throne
Grace and Righteousnes
Order in one’s life

- Your free will died in Adam—before knowing Christ, you had no free will—it was in complete bondage to sin and death.
- Only when you get saved is your will set free by the grace of God.
- Donald Grey Barnhouse explains it this way, “The freedom provided by Christ is so great and wonderful because He reverses the positions of master and slave. We were the slaves of the dread master death; now we are the masters of life, and death is the slave of the Lord of life.”

Verses 18-19

- We have studied several aspects of justification the past month:
 - On the one hand we are justified from all sin (Romans 3).
 - On the other hand, we are justified and, by faith have received the impartation of God’s righteousness (Romans 4).
 - Now we read that our justification results in justification of life.
- Because the righteousness of Christ has been credited to your account, you can enter into life.
- We can fully experience the life of Christ.
 - John 10:10

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
 - Matthew 16:25

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. “
 - John 1:4

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”
- We have real life now in Christ: we can worship the Creator of the universe with freedom and joy.

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.

Verse 20-21

- There are texts in the Bible that arouse great feelings similar to a traveler who has stepped upon the ground of some great and historic place.
 - I have stood in the low ceiling prison where Paul died in Rome.
 - I have stood in the great coliseum in Rome where the Christians were fed to the lions.
 - I have stood in the catacombs in Rome where the early church fled persecution.
 - I have stood at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem where Christ rose on the third day.
- Romans 5:20 is John Bunyan's text—the writer of the classic work *Pilgrims Progress*.
- But he wrote another book, *Grace Abounding for the Chief of Sinners*.

Let me note three great truths about God's Grace:

- 1) God never withholds grace because of sin!
 - The great dams of the world: Hoover, Bonneville, or Shasta may hold back water but nothing can hold back God's grace toward the sinner.
 - The hound of heaven is on our trail...hunting us down.
- 2) God's grace is overflowing and generous.
 - a. The prodigal son was drawn back to his father by grace.
 - b. Adam hadn't gone far before the Lord killed an animal and clothed him.
 - c. Immediately after Adam's sin, God promised a Messiah would come from the seed of a woman.
- 3) God's grace is for rebels.
 - a. Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- Abraham was an idolater and God called him to be the father of our faith.
- Moses was a murderer and God called him by His grace.
- David committed adultery and murdered a man and he is remembered this way.

Because of God’s abounding grace, He looks at sin different than we do.

Acts 13:22

“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’”

- This is one thousand years after David! Did Paul really understand God’s heart? He didn’t do all of God’s will, did he? Look at the sin in his life. Yet in God’s editing process through His grace, he looks at the heart! A passionate heart is what God looks at.
- God looks at a passionate sincerity—God looks at the heart.
- Acts 13:36

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption.”

- Even after David’s sin and all the problems he had, God still says this about David! He did all of God’s will? Did God look at all of David’s life? The problem we have is that we don’t see things the way God does.
- God has an editing ability that we don’t have—because we don’t understand God’s heart and vision.
- In God’s editing He says—he did all of the will of God.
- Romans 4:20

“He [Abraham] did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God”.

- What, he never wavered? Do you know what Abraham did? Gave his wife to a king! Went into Hagar! In my house, that's wavering.

Amazing grace is the most loved, most sung, most recorded, and most loved hymn in the world.

- No other song, secular or spiritual, even comes close—it is estimated that Amazing Grace is sung over ten million times a year!
- But very few people know much about the author...The author of this great hymn was John Newton.
- John Newton, the notorious slave ship owner, turned preacher once said, "I am a great sinner and He is a great savior."
- Newton wrote Amazing Grace because that is how he felt about his salvation—never fully able to get out of his mind the thousands of slaves he captured, killed, and sold—he truly understood God's amazing grace toward him.

If you are in need of God's amazing grace, I invite you to come forward and give your issues to Christ today...