

**ROMANS**  
**5:12-17**



# **Death through Adam**

-

# **Life through Jesus Christ**

**Part 3:**  
**A Contrast of Epic  
Proportions**

# PROLOGUE

In order to demonstrate that the one who is righteous lives a life that is victorious over sin and death, Paul sets forth how sin and death came into this world and how they were overcome by Jesus Christ. This portion of Romans is the *sedes doctrinae* (the seat of doctrine) for original sin: *the sinful condition that all mankind inherits as the result of Adam's disobedience.*

Romans  
Chapter 5



# PROLOGUE

Even though Eve was also involved with the first sin, Paul focuses on Adam since he, as the *“head of the household,”* the man, Adam, is held responsible by God for the first sin, and all sin thereafter! This language also helps Paul shape the *“one man Adam”* and the *“one man Christ”* pattern.

Romans  
Chapter 5

# Romans

## 5:12-17



<sup>12</sup>On account of this, just as sin entered into the world through one person and death through sin, and thus death passed through to all people on this [reason], that all sinned. <sup>13</sup>Indeed, until the Law, sin was in [the] world, but sin is not being charged to ones' s account while the Law is not existing. <sup>14</sup>But death reigned from Adam until Moses even upon the ones who were not sinning upon the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one [who was] about to [come].



# Romans

## 5:12-17



<sup>15</sup>But not as the trespass, thus also [is] the gracious gift. Indeed, if by the trespass of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the undeserved gift in grace which is of the one person, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. <sup>16</sup>And not as through [the] one who sinned [is] the bestowed gift. For, on the one hand, the judgment from the one [is] to condemnation. But, on the other hand, from many trespasses the gracious gift [is] for a decree of righteousness. <sup>17</sup>For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned through that one, how much more will the ones who receive the overflow of grace and of the undeserved gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

# Romans

## 5:12



Adam, Sin,  
Death, and  
All!

*<sup>12</sup>On account of this, just as sin entered into the world through one person and death through sin, and thus death passed through to all people on this [reason], that all sinned.*

**So St. Paul begins in 5:12 by clearly and decidedly anchoring the origin of sin and death in Adam's disobedience! What does Gen 1:31 tell us?**

**No Sin! No Death! This verse clearly communicates that man (Adam) “disrupted” the “very good” existence! So sin has its origin in One Man:**



# Romans

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**To Paul, sin is a personal force that “entered into the world” through Adam.**

**But “into the world” should not be restricted to humanity. The ramifications of sin also permeates all of creation (cf. Rom 8:19-22).**

**Now the scene changes as...we read Gen. 2:16-17!**



# Romans

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**The Greek noun that Paul uses for death is a singular definite: ὁ θάνατος.**

**It's not just the “Grim Reaper” but a more deeper death...**

**A death that is Physical and Spiritual!**

**Paul will use death in this context another twenty times through chapter 8!**

**Please note, “death passed through to all people” and so Paul changes from “one” to “all” as death penetrates all of creation!**

# Romans

## 5:13-14



Adam  
and  
Moses

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**These two verses are seen as a parenthetical comment. Paul uses these verses to make an important clarification about the role of the Law!**

**Sin's presence apart from the Law is evident already (cf. 1:18-32); and explicitly so as in 2:12-16. People sin and are able to sin apart from the Law!**



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**Here, Paul is talking about “from Adam until Moses” and the reference to Moses confirms the definition of the Law as the Torah...the revealed Law at Mt. Sinai!**

**Paul clarifies exactly what he means as he has written in v.12 “death passed through to all people on this [reason], that all sinned” and that includes all from Adam to Moses!**



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**But what does he means by:** *“the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one [who was] about to [come].”*

**Adam is an opposite comparison to Jesus Christ! But before Paul begins his comparison and contrast, it is important for us to understand that the fulfillment or the “anti-type” is always greater than the type!**



# Romans

## 5:15-17



Adam  
and

Jesus Christ –  
Compare &  
Contrast

<sup>15</sup>But not as the trespass, thus also [is] the gracious gift. Indeed, if by the trespass of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the undeserved gift in grace which is of the one person, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. <sup>16</sup>And not as through [the] one who sinned [is] the bestowed gift. For, on the one hand, the judgment from the one [is] to condemnation. But, on the other hand, from many trespasses the gracious gift [is] for a decree of righteousness. <sup>17</sup>For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned through that one, how much more will the ones who receive the overflow of grace and of the undeserved gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

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**Paul refers to the first sin of Adam as “the trespass” and the Greek is even for forceful, since the verb, trespass is written with a definite article (τὸ παράπτωμα). Literally, any and all sin, the total fall of Adam and all men!**

**And the contrast: “the gracious gift” (τὸ χάρισμα) which is the complete opposite of sin, the total fall of Adam; since, in Christ, we receive the gracious gift of total salvation in its fullness!**



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**The compare and contrast continues in the last part of v.15: Via Adam's trespass, sin was inherited by all (note that under Jewish influence by using the word "many" can also be "all!").**

**Then to the greater:** "...how much more did the grace of God and the undeserved gift in grace which is of the one person, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many." **So to sum up: The trespass of Adam led to death; grace freely comes from Jesus Christ!**

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**Now the contrast in this verse isn't Adam and Jesus; but, rather Adam's one sin and the many trespasses which followed. And that which comes from Adam's sin is: "...the judgment from the one [is] to condemnation."**

**What is the condemnation?**  
**Let's read Gen 2:17.**



# Romans

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**So then we would expect Paul to describe a harsh sentence from God; but, instead, we hear:** *“But, on the other hand, from many trespasses the gracious gift [is] for a decree of righteousness.”* **Instead, God’s gracious gift leads to a “decree of righteousness.”** **The grace which is from Christ Jesus, that righteous decree, becomes a “judgment” of righteousness!**

# Romans

## 5:15-17



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Jesus Christ –  
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*<sup>17</sup>For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned through that one, how much more will the ones who receive the overflow of grace and of the undeserved gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.*

**In midst of the stark reality of death, Paul now reintroduces...LIFE! The ultimate goal of life is that those, by grace, will receive the undeserved gift of righteousness and will “reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.”**

**This future reign of life, which overpowers death, becomes yours only in His Life! Paul will explain further in v.21.**



# In Summary



**Paul has stated all that needs to be said concerning Adam and Christ Jesus. But two very important elements remain in Ch. 5, which we will discuss next week!**

**These two elements, both rooted in the Old Testament are:**

**1. Paul summarizes his thoughts in vv. 18-19 by utilizing Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus Christ in the Fourth Suffering Servant Song; and,**

**2. Paul will begin to discuss the Law, again, which has been absent since 4:16, and it's influence in relation to sin and death (vv.20-21).**

**ROMANS**  
**5:18-21**



**Next  
Week**

**Adam & Jesus**



**Impact of Law  
and Grace**

**Part 4:  
The Concluding  
Comparisons**