



March 24, 2024

## Romans: Rooted in Jesus Adam's Family

Romans 5:12-21

### Questions and Discussion:

1. The Apostle Paul says that sin came into the world through Adam, Romans 5:12. Does this verse hint at the presence of sin in the creation that had not yet corrupted the world? Had other created beings sinned? How would this affect our understanding of this verse? Isaiah 14:12-15; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6; Revelation 12:7-10
2. If Romans 5:12 indicates that sin existed in the creation before Adam's sin, what about death? Did death exist prior to Adam's sin? (Matthew 25:41) What does the word "spread" communicate?
3. Paul says, "death spread to all men (mankind) *because all sinned*," Romans 5:12. There is a two-fold understanding in this verse. Adam passed on his fallen nature to his children, but his children sinned because they were sinners. The apostle does not let us blame Adam for our sinning, but he does find the root for our sinning in Adam. Why does he make this clarification?
4. The Apostle Paul anticipates an argument from his audience: "How can God hold mankind liable if they don't know the law?" Notice he said that sin existed in the world before the law was given and that some sinned in a manner substantively different than Adam. His point is that Adam had the command of God not to eat the tree, and those who have the law have God's commandments. What does that say about those who lived between Adam and Moses? Were they still liable? What evidence does Paul give that God held those people who lived between Adam and Moses liable?
5. Get the progression Paul lays out in vv15-17. The trespass led to judgment which led to condemnation. That might seem an odd sequence. Shouldn't it be: trespass led to condemnation which led to judgment? Why is his order instructive?
6. Paul says the Law was given to "increase trespass...where sin increased," v20. This has a two-fold meaning: first, the law increases our awareness of sin; second, that it stimulates our rebellion, increasing sin. How do you see this in the culture? What about in your own life? How should we respond to our awareness of sin?
7. The apostle says that "death reigned" (v17) and "sin reigned in death" (v21). What is Paul communicating in the word "reign"? How does he view the human condition?
8. We're all part of this fallen race. What is the Paul saying to us about our world, our culture, and our hearts?