

4. We believe in the fall of man, who was created pure and upright, but fell by voluntary transgression.

the great epic of scripture is that in its most distilled form it is the narrative of a perfect creation corrupted and restored to perfection again. this narrative, and thus our whole faith is centred around mankind and his relationship with the Lord. But for this to be such an epic love story we need to know that we lost something so we can long for it's return.

In Genesis 1 we read a theological statement about the creation of the earth. In this statement, we read of the creation of man and woman, both created equal, and both created in God's image, to have dominion over all of the earth. then in chapters 2 and 3 of Genesis this headline news of Chapter 1 is expanded, and paradise lost is explained.

Mankind's creation in the image of God is a very misunderstood statement. Adam being the first man was not created to look like God, which many people think, because other than in type, we are never told what God looks like. This is important so that we do not look to create our own image of God to worship. when we do create our own image of the Lord, then sadly we always come short of His magnificent splendour because our imagination has limits which Jehovah does not have. Rather the meaning of the statement 'created in God's image' refers to his character.

In exodus 34: 6-7 we read of the Lord passing before Moses and explaining what His name, Jehovah means. In the language of the Middle East names are important because they reveal the Character of the person. The explanation in this verse, is very similar to another scripture found in Galatians 5:22-24. That scripture is often called the fruits of the Spirit and they are the revealed Character of one who walks in the power of the Holy Spirit. Man, was created to have the boundless Character of God, by being a vessel for the infilling of God. And to prove that this is true we need only to turn to John 13:34-35, the commandment of the new testament, to love one another as Christ loved us. But to be a vessel of the holy one of God, we need to be upright and blameless. Adam was created so, we must be recreated, born again into this original creation. This was what we had.

But then we read of the temptation and then fall of mankind and the subsequent curse which followed. Banished from paradise where they were eternal now death consumed them and their offspring. Man and woman were no longer to behave in equality towards one another and worst of all, they could no longer walk daily with the Lord.

The fall was terrible, and as Romans 6 tells us has affected every human being. Yet it was a choice that they made, tempted and miss-sold as they were, the choice was their own. Eve failed for she failed to care for her husband, Adam failed twice, for he failed to protect his wife and more importantly He failed to obey the Lord and consider the consequences of His actions. Now death reigns through the first Adam, but praise the Lord, righteousness apart from death in the Second.