

The great reversal

God gave Adam and Eve one single command while He dwelled among them in paradise. The majestic Garden of Eden would have contained many trees which would have produced the most amazing varieties of fruits that have long perished since then.



In [Genesis 2:16](#) we can read what God said to Adam and Eve: "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

We all know the rest of the story.

We know how this tragic event unfolded and how it resulted in the certain death of both Adam and Eve. God's word proved to be true in the end.

In [Romans 5:12](#) we can read how this tragic event has affected each and every one of us since then:

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned.

Death, so scripture tells us came as a result of disobedience, of disobedience to the word of God, to what God had said.

But what was the essence, what was at the heart of this disobedience?

It was the sin of 'unbelief'!

When God told Adam and Eve that they would surely die if they would taste of that forbidden fruit they did not believe Him. Their unbelief made God out to be a liar in their small little minds! So they choose believed Satan instead! ([Genesis 3:4](#) The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."...)

The sin of 'unbelief' resulted in death but it not only resulted in the death of Adam and Eve personally, it brought death into this world and it is this sin of 'unbelief' which is sending millions of people into an eternal darkness which knows only suffering and eternal remorse. It is the sin of 'unbelief' which has done more damage to men throughout the ages than anything else.

'Unbelief' or 'disbelief' does not mean that a person does not believe in anything at all, that a person does not have any 'faith'. It simply means that a person is believes in a lie.

Adam and Eve were believer from the day they were created.

Even when they were still living in fellowship with God they were believers in God and enjoyed His wonderful presence. On the day that this fellowship was broken and was completely destroyed they became believers in Satan for they had chosen to fallen for his lie and for his deception instead.

Rather than believing the word of God they believed and put their trust into the words of Satan!

They still believed but they had chosen the wrong person!

Unbelief always equals rebellion for it puts us back on the throne. Through unbelief it is us who will take up the reigns in order to cater for our own wishes and our fleshly desires. Whenever we sit on the throne and reign it is the flesh that will triumph but the spirit within us will die! Whenever we sit on the throne God will always be treated as our servant. But once that relationship with God is fully restored it is God who takes up the reign. He will sit on the throne and reign in and over our life and it is us who will become His servants instead.

When Adam and Eve were cast out of paradise humanity was lost in the spiritual (and physical) wilderness for a long time to come. Religion was always part of our fallen heritage but it is nothing more than a sophisticated form of manipulation as we try to control the spiritual reality, the unseen forces that surround us and make them act in our favor. But every religion will eventually turn us into slaves for we cannot control and manipulate what is beyond our control. We will be the ones who will end up being controlled just as Adam and Eve were manipulated by a subtle and deceptive lie.

Throughout the ages the rebellion of Adam and Eve's descendant's continued until God had enough and flooded the earth.

When God finally decided to interact with us again He picked an old man.

But this time the outcome was different!

Genesis 15:6 - God established a covenant with this man on one basis:

Abraham believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (Romans 4:3)

And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."...

This time Abraham did exactly the opposite to what Adam and Eve had done in the past.

Abraham believed what God had told him!

Ever since that day the concrete which holds the spiritual building together is our faith in what God has said.

For since that day God has decided to interact with His on the very same basis.

Nothing has changed since Adam and Eve.

God still expects us to respond in the same way. Faith is nothing else then believing that what He has spoken is true!

Faith is the belief that what God has spoken is truth.

There are millions of Christians today (people who either think they are Christians or who call themselves Christians) who have no such faith.

They have nothing in common with Abraham.

They might believe in a 'false' gospel (as is the case with the prosperity gospel which has countless followers especially in the 3. World where they get terribly exploited and abused by greedy, wicket affluent preachers) or they have denied or changed God's word altogether in order to suit themselves so they can believe what they like to believe.

Any attempt to change or to deny the word of God today equals the unbelief of Adam and Eve. A person who only believes parts of the Bible (those parts that suit him) is exactly like Adam and like Eve.

He has turned God into a liar, into someone whose word cannot be trusted, whose word cannot be believed.

Every modern critique of the Bible falls into this category.

It's an expression of great arrogance where a person thinks he knows better (or more) than God himself. His ultimate statement is always the same (even if he would never say so outright) "God cannot be truly believed nor can he be fully trusted".

A 'true' believer will always take God's word at face value and he will never attempt to change what God has said in His word. God's word will always be sacred to him.

Any attempt to distort or to change God's word is nothing else but an expression of 'unbelief' for this is exactly what Adam and Eve have done in the past.

Unbelief equals rebellion, belief equals submission.

The substance of Abraham's faith is still a reality today to anyone who believes that God's word is true.

Galatians 3:6-9 (KJV) Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

This 'faith' took Abraham away from a nice and comfortable existence at a rather old age.

Ur of the Chaldees was a vibrant commercial center during its day and Abraham would have enjoyed a secure old age life style until God spoke to him.



Death is still the result of 'disbelief' today just as it was the case with Adam and Eve. The sin of 'disbelief' will always lead us into a life of spiritual blindness just as it was the case for Adam and Eve.

John 3:36 explains that 'He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.'

True belief is always backed up by action.

Adam and Even were asked to show their belief through an action.

They did act but their action exposed their disbelief in God's word.

God's word never leaves us on neutral ground. It will always expose the true intentions of our heart.

We will either show our belief in God's word and act accordingly or we will expose our disbelief.

We will go one way or the other but we cannot remain neutral.

Adam and Even could not remain neutral after God had spoken to them.

God's word put them before a choice which required a response.

Abraham too was left with a choice. He could have remained in Ur and continue to live a life of comfort and security or he could believe Gods word and follow His instructions which meant that he had to get up and leave.

He did what Adam and Even did not do before him.

Unlike Adam and Even he made the right choice. He believed God and he was not fooled by the lies of the devil.

Because of that choice the world was ultimately blessed with the greatest gift of all.

It was blessed with the birth of Jesus, our savior.

Adams disobedience resulted in death.

Abrahams obedience laid the tracks for the arrival of the future Messiah who would conquer death and restore life to all those who would choose to belief in God's word in the future.

While Adams disobedience brought the curse of death into this world, Abrahams obedience laid the foundation for life which was to be fully revealed in the one who alone can give us eternal life, in Jesus our Lord.

The future has arrived. Now it is our time to choose.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23