

Vicarious Sacrifice: Position in Adam: Imputation of Adam's Sin Results in Spiritual Death at Selection, 1 Cor 15:22a; Eden's Lone Mandate, Gen 2:16–17; It's Penalty Clause: Qal Infinitive of *Moth*: Dying Spiritually Initiates the Qal Imperfect of ; *Tamuth*: the Process of Dying Physically; Grace Solution, John 3:16; Rom 8:1–2, Position in Christ: Retroactive & Current Positional Truth

6. **Position in Adam:** Since the fall of Adam, every person enters life physically alive but spiritually dead.

1 Corinthians 15:22a - For as in Adam all die ...

Evolution, a fable now elevated to gospel status in reeducation camps called public schools, runs afoul of divine revelation.

Evolutionists make the pretentious claim that man originated from one-celled amoebas that unwittingly worked their way through the arduous multibillion-year process of becoming Homo sapiens. Quite a chore considering the second law of thermodynamics.

So how is it that the alleged progression from dimwittedness to sagacity somehow acquired the congenital handicap of personal sin? The consensus among the anointed is that the human race continues to become more and more sophisticated while it is evident that the world around us has gone stark raving mad.

The truth of our flawed condition is found in Scripture and our primary predecessor was given fair warning about poor decisions limiting future options:

Genesis 2:16 - The Lord God commanded the man saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

v. 17 - 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 [Qal infinitive absolute of the verb מוֹת *mōth*: dying spiritually] die [Qal imperfect: תָּמוּת *ta-muth*: begin the process that will continue until you die physically]." (NASB [CTL])

Verse 17 ends with a penalty clause for violating the mandate, "you will surely die." However, this translation misses the impact of this dread consequence.

We get help from the Hebrew grammar of Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt:

The Qal infinitive absolute can be used with other verbs to express two verbal actions occurring at the same time, that is, contemporaneous action.¹

The doubling of the verb is designed for stress or to define more accurately the idea of the verb. The best English rendering of this Hebrew construct is, "dying you will die."

The stress is on the fact that two deaths were forecast for violating the prohibition. The Qal infinitive absolute, *mōth*, refers to spiritual death while the Qal imperfect, *ta-muth*, refers to physical death as the inevitable result.

By violating the prohibition, Adam and Ishah sinned and as a result experienced spiritual death. Adam did not die physically for another 900 years, so we may conclude that the emphasis from the infinitive absolute is on the sentence of spiritual death which then caused physical death.

This concept is brought out by the Qal imperfect: תָּמוּת *ta-muth*, "you will die." We return to Pratico and Van Pelt for further explanation:

¹ Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001), 131.

The Qal imperfect designates a verbal action for which the conclusion is not in view. The imperfect aspect denotes incomplete action, whether past present or future.²

The incomplete action of the Qal infinitive is further discussed in *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*:

The *imperfect* denotes the *beginning*, the *unfinished*, and the *continuing*, that which is just happening, which is conceived as in process of coming to pass, and hence, also, that which is yet future.³

Thus the Qal imperfect indicates that spiritual death, caused by sin, is the catalyst that initiates the process of physical death.

When Adam and Ishah sinned they died spiritual death immediately, but something else was *just* happening. Spiritual death started a *process* that would *continue unfinished* until a point *yet future*.

Adam's sin nature, now encoded in his DNA, was passed down genetically to his progeny: Cain, Able, and Seth. Adam through Seth began the process by which the sin nature has been passed down generation by generation in every person's ancestral line.

Each and every one of us possesses the problem of "position in Adam." It amounts to a curse on the entire human race for which there is no human solution.

The only cure for the condition is to respond positively to the grace provision supplied by the grace of God:

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (NASB)

Those who take the deal move from the status quo of condemnation to eternal salvation:

Romans 8:1 - There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

v. 2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (NASB)

This deliverance moves the believer from his position in Adam to his new position in Christ.

14. **Position in Christ:** This emphasizes two categories of the believer's identification with Christ: (1) retroactive positional truth and (2) current positional truth.

In the first category, the power of the sin nature has been broken and the believer is separated from good and evil.

The judicial imputation of our sins to Christ and their judgment in Him resulted in His efficacious substitutionary spiritual death.

² Ibid., 130.

³ Wilhelm Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, ed. E. Kautzsch, rev. A. E. Cowley. 2d English ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1910), 125n1.