

Last Adam/second man

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, "*The **first man Adam** became a living being.*" The **last Adam** became a life-giving spirit...

1Corinthians 15:47 The **first man** is of the earth, earthy: the **second man** is the Lord from heaven.

The writers of the Bible understood every scene in creation, and every circumstance in their lives, in connection with God.

David, in his psalms, looked at the stars, and was prompted to think of God's mindfulness of mankind. If he saw mountains, he thought immediately of God's strength and majesty. Animals, like the deer seeking the watering brook, reminded him of his own thirst for God. Wherever he looked in the natural world, He could 'see' God's attributes being revealed.

Likewise his circumstances. They were understood to be by sovereign design, to communicate God's deliverance, or compassion, or grace, or mercy.

When we read what David and the others have written, we have an advantage in that they have already cataloged for us so many names and symbols – especially those that represent Jesus. We've seen ourselves the past few weeks how that Jesus was and is called the **Lamb of God**. In that one name we have much of the history of God's work of redeeming sinful men.

In our devotions before communion in the coming months, I want to look briefly at some of these names and signs of Jesus. Our reading tonight presents Jesus as the **Last Adam** and the **Second Man**.

Adam was one of the earliest of the types of Jesus. One of the most important ways in which Adam was a type of Jesus, to teach us something important, was that Adam represented all other men who would follow in his line. Upon his conduct depended the welfare or woe of multitudes.

Adam's fall into sin involved the whole human race in sin.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Had Adam stood, we would have shared in the many advantages of his obedience: Dominion over the world, perhaps even nature itself; exemption from death and disease; growth in both knowledge and grace. Instead... Well, just look at the world, or look within yourself.

Think of Adam's test for a moment. Some feel as though God were unfair by tempting him. But God tempts no one. Adam had free will – a thing necessary if there was to be love.

It was a test – and a very simple one at that. It was not some toilsome burden which would have taxed Adam's strength to the utmost. It was an easy thing to avoid eating the fruit of just the one tree in all the magnificent Garden of Eden. It was the easiest test that could have been invented.

There is always the argument, that we should not be included with Adam; that he did not represent us because we had no say in the matter. Those who take issue with Adam's representation can be compared to a man hearing a medical diagnosis. The doctor tells you that you have cancer. He further tells you that there was nothing you could have done to avoid it, because it was inherited.

Do you argue with the physician, telling him it is unfair that you are sick simply by birth? Do you then refuse any recommended treatment – since you were not to blame for it?

Or do you seek the treatment – realizing that the disease is working to destroy you?

Instead of disputing with God, we ought to take His remedy. Thus, Jesus is [the last Adam](#). He, too, represented all of mankind, but not in a beautiful garden paradise, or with a simple test. No, His was a wilderness tempting, a severe test.

In one sense, Jesus' entire life on earth was a wilderness testing. Consider that He stepped out from eternity to become a man. He lived a mostly obscure life for some 30 years. And, even after His

testing in the wilderness that immediately followed His baptism, did He not continue to be tested – suffering greatly, as in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Adam was first of his kind, and he gave a name and a nature to all that belong to him. Jesus is the first of a new kind; and He gives His name and a new nature to all who follow Him. Jesus is called the **firstfruits** of the resurrection (First Corinthians 15:23). He was not the first person to ever be raised from the dead; He raised many before Himself. He is the first to be raised never to die again. We who trust in Him are His spiritual descendants – with a new name and nature. We are a new race, as it were.

In the end, we are thankful that Adam represented us, because then Jesus can also represent us:

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.