

Adam & Eve's first Sin caused more problems than I originally understood. I have always been aware of the death sentence for mankind because of Adam & Eve's failure to obey and trust God, but until recently I had never looked closely at the verse that tells us of the repercussions we would face for their decision.

*He told the Man: "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from, 'don't eat from this tree,' **the very ground is cursed because of you; getting food from the ground will be as painful as having babies is for your wife; you'll be working in pain all your life long. The ground will sprout thorns and weeds, you'll get your food the hard way, planting and tilling and harvesting, sweating in the fields from dawn to dusk, until you return to that ground yourself, dead and buried; you started out as dirt, you'll end up dirt.**"* Genesis 3:17 (MSG)

The earth's ecosystem was also impacted as a result of their actions. We have inherited an ecologically ruined planet. Much of our ecosystem is in chaos; partly because of our own inability to protect it and care for it, but also because of the first sin of Adam & Eve.

...for the creation was made subject to frustration — not willingly, but because of the one who subjected it. But it was given a reliable hope that it too would be set free from its bondage to decay and would enjoy the freedom accompanying the glory that God's children will have. We know that until now, the whole creation has been groaning as with the pains of childbirth; and not only it, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we continue waiting eagerly to be made sons — that is, to have our whole bodies redeemed and set free. Romans 8:20-23 (CJB)

For on that day thorns and thistles, sin, death, and decay—the things that overcame the world against its will at God's command—will all disappear, and the world around us will share in the glorious freedom from sin which God's children enjoy. Romans 8:20-21 (TLB)

In order to impress upon Adam and Eve the seriousness of their decision, God not only pronounced repercussions on them but also on the planet. The planet was subjected to frustration to help Adam & Eve understand their mistake of not trusting and obeying their creator.

Eden was perfect in every way before the fall. Everything was in perfect balance. The ground (adamah) was the perfect place for plants to grow and thrive and provide food. The air was pure and healthful to breathe. The light and dark times provided growth times and rest times for the plants. Animals were in perfect balance with their environment. Insects and microbes were also in perfect balance. Each element in Eden was perfectly suited to a full and abundant life. Adam & Eve had everything they needed – including total access to God. And God said: "**It was very good.**"

But God gave His crowning creation a free will; the ability to choose the direction and actions of their existence. This was a fantastic gift – not given to anything else in His creation. But this gift if not used properly would cause them to drift off in directions that would not be good for them and/or others. But God knew that it would ultimately be good and it was worth the effort and pain for them to learn to use it properly. But, after some time living in Eden, they made a wrong decision, with a little help from a serpent. But God in His wisdom had already foreseen the event and the history of mankind is what followed.

The plan was to provide a way to be redeemed by One who was able to show through His life that this need not be the end of life. But this physical life was to be only a training ground for event(s) we often call eternity. All that was necessary was for the individual to recognize and follow what had been taught in Eden – that is to believe God and follow His lead. When that was learned and internalized he/she is ready to spend eternity with God.

And as for the ruined planet...

*Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there. Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim [Jerusalem], coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "See! God's Sh'khinah [God's Glory and Presence] is with mankind, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, God-with-them, will be their God.* Revelation 21:1-3 (CJB)

Not a new planet and a new universe. God is not going to remove the planet earth and replace it with a new one. He is going to restore all things and the planet will have no sin and an ecosystem that is back in balance. It will be restored to its former glory when He first created Eden.