

Time Audit Chronicles: Death in Adam, Life in Christ *(Romans 5:12-21)*

Prologue: Contrasts of Adam and Jesus

The Presswood family sat together, reading **Romans 5:12-21**, where Paul explains how **sin** and **death** entered the world through Adam, but **grace** and **life** are offered through Jesus Christ. Ariel had been pondering the idea of Jesus as the “second Adam,” while Alice, hugging Mr. Fluffernutter, was imagining Adam in the garden and Jesus restoring what Adam had lost.

“Daddy,” Ariel began, “why does Paul compare Adam and Jesus? What’s the connection between them?”

Ryan smiled. “That’s a great question, Ariel. Adam was the first human, and his **disobedience** in the Garden of Eden brought **sin** and **death** into the world. Everyone born after Adam inherited that sinful nature. But Jesus, often called the ‘second Adam,’ came to undo what Adam had done. Through His **obedience**, Jesus brought **grace**, **righteousness**, and **eternal life** to those who believe in Him. Paul is showing us how Jesus came to **reverse** the effects of Adam’s sin.”

Ariel thought about this. “So, Adam’s disobedience started all the trouble, and Jesus’ obedience made it possible for us to be saved?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Adam’s sin affected **all humanity**, but Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross offers **redemption** and new life to everyone who believes. Let’s use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and see how this all connects.”

The Journey Begins: The Fall of Adam (*Romans 5:12-14*)

The **Time Audit Machine** hummed to life, and the family found themselves standing in a lush, beautiful garden—the **Garden of Eden**. They saw Adam and Eve walking through the garden, marveling at its beauty and enjoying perfect fellowship with God. But as the scene shifted, they saw the serpent, cunning and sly, tempting Eve to eat the fruit from the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**.

Ryan pointed to Adam and Eve. “This is where it all started. Adam and Eve lived in perfect harmony with God, but when they disobeyed His command not to eat from the tree, they brought **sin** and **death** into the world.”

Ariel watched as Adam took the fruit from Eve and ate it. The peaceful atmosphere of the garden shifted, and they saw Adam and Eve hiding from God, ashamed of what they had done. “So, Adam’s disobedience didn’t just affect him and Eve—it affected everyone born after them?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Paul explains this in **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.**’ Adam’s

sin introduced death—both physical and spiritual—into the world, and all humanity inherited a sinful nature as a result.”

Alice, hugging Mr. Fluffernutter tightly, asked, “So, that’s why everyone sins? Because of Adam?”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Adam’s sin broke the perfect relationship humanity had with God, and that’s why we all struggle with sin. But Paul also tells us that this isn’t the end of the story—Jesus came to **restore** what Adam had lost.”

Jesus as the Second Adam: Grace Abounds (*Romans 5:15-17*)

The scene shifted, and the family found themselves standing at the foot of the cross, where Jesus was hanging, His arms stretched wide in sacrifice. Ryan pointed to the scene, his voice filled with emotion. “Here is where everything changed. Paul explains that while Adam’s sin brought **death** to all, Jesus’ obedience brought **grace** and **life**. In **Romans 5:15**, Paul says, ‘**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.**’”

Ariel watched the cross, understanding the contrast. “So, Adam’s disobedience brought **death**, but Jesus’ obedience on the cross brings **life**?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Adam’s one act of **disobedience** brought condemnation to all, but Jesus’ one act of **righteousness**—His death on the cross—brings **justification** and new life to all who believe in Him.”

Alice looked up, her eyes wide. “So, Jesus was fixing what Adam broke?”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “Jesus is called the ‘second Adam’ because He came to undo the damage caused by the first Adam. Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. Adam brought **sin** and **death**, but Jesus brings **grace**, **righteousness**, and **eternal life**.”

The Gift of Righteousness: Contrasting Death and Life (*Romans 5:18-21*)

The family then saw a crowd of people standing before a great throne. Some were weighed down by the consequences of sin, while others stood joyfully, clothed in white robes. Ariel noticed how the crowd was divided—those who had rejected Jesus and those who had received His gift of grace.

Ryan explained, “Paul sums it up in **Romans 5:18-19**: ‘**Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**’ Through Adam, condemnation came to all. But through Jesus, the free gift of **righteousness** is offered to all.”

Ariel watched as the people who believed in Jesus were welcomed into the Kingdom of God. “So, it’s like Adam’s disobedience brought judgment, but Jesus’ obedience gives us a way to be **right with God** again.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Adam’s sin affected everyone—it was universal. But Jesus’ **gift of grace** is also universal—it’s available to everyone. Paul explains in **Romans 5:20** that where sin increased, grace increased all the more. God’s grace is greater than all our sin, and through Jesus, we are given the gift of **eternal life**.”

Key Teaching: Jesus Offers Redemption to Humanity

Back in the garage, the **Time Audit Machine** powered down, and the family sat in thoughtful silence. Ariel turned to her father, deeply moved by what she had seen. “So, Paul is saying that Jesus is the answer to all the problems that started with Adam. Because of Jesus, we can be free from sin and death and have eternal life.”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “Paul contrasts Adam and Jesus to show us the **big picture** of God’s plan for humanity. Adam’s sin brought **death**, but Jesus’ obedience brings **life**. And it’s all because of God’s amazing grace.”

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter and smiled. “Jesus is like the hero who saves everyone from the bad stuff that Adam started.”

Ryan laughed warmly. “That’s a great way to put it, Alice. Jesus is our **hero**—the one who came to rescue us from sin and death and give us **new life**.”

Takeaway: Death in Adam, Life in Christ

In **Romans 5:12-21**, Paul explains the profound contrast between **Adam** and **Jesus**. Through Adam, **sin** and **death** entered the world, affecting all humanity. But through Jesus, the second Adam, **grace**, **righteousness**, and **eternal life** are offered to all who believe. Adam’s disobedience brought **condemnation**, but Jesus’ obedience brings **justification** and the gift of **righteousness**. This passage teaches us that God’s grace is greater than all our sin, and through Jesus, we are invited into a restored relationship with God and the hope of eternal life.

The story of Adam and Jesus reminds us that even though sin brought brokenness into the world, God’s plan of **redemption** through Jesus Christ is far greater. Through faith in Jesus, we are no longer defined by the sin of Adam, but by the **righteousness** of Christ, who gives us new life and hope for eternity.