

Adam's Folly

“And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.” Luke 4:6

We all have looked at Adam's actions from the point of sin, for he did sin against God, but we can also call this Adam's folly because **his actions ended up being a costly undertaking having an absurd or ruinous outcome for the planet Earth and all those who live upon it.** For his actions resulted in him turning over his rulership of the earth over to Satan, the enemy of God.

In Luke 4 Satan stated to the Lord that the authority over all the kingdoms on the earth, all the political governing bodies that men have on earth, had been handed over to him, and that he can give it to whomever he wants. *“And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is **delivered unto me**; and to whomsoever I will I give it.” Luke 4:6*

That is to say, that **Satan controls the governments of the world at the higher levels and that he puts in power at those levels those whom he wants.** Obviously, to qualify for those levels of power, the individual must accept Satan's authority over them, and also accept Satan's general plan for ruling the earth.

Now the Bible says that Satan is the god of this age and the ruler of this world, and in this passage he states to the Lord that he presently has the authority over this world and all the national governments found on the inhabited earth; a statement that the Lord did not challenge. So we have a problem. **How is that Satan now is the ruler and authority over the earth,** and the people on the earth, when it was originally Adam who had this rulership and authority?

When we're dealing with authority, *exousias*, it means that one has the legal right to exercise power over others. The fact that **Satan can grant authority,** (and the granting of authority always comes from a superior party to an inferior party), which would have put in this case Christ in the inferior position to Satan if he had accepted the offer, which he didn't, is just a function of authority. But when we're dealing with the matter of authority, we're dealing with a legal matter, so we have questions.

I have thought about this many times over the years and have questions concerning the matter of Satan, not with the Lord, but with Adam. Who handed the authority to rule over the earth to Satan? How was it handed over to him? When was it handed over to him? By what legal device was it handed over to him? What conversation or act revealed that? Was there any legal documentation in the Word concerning that? Did Satan have it before man and get it back again? Where did the legal transference of this authority take place? What legal principle was involved in the matter? Is there an act found in antiquity that becomes the basis for this legal transference that we don't know about?

Over the centuries, both with the people of God and the people of the world, there have been a variety of concepts that have been employed where men enter into legally binding arrangements with each other. The signing of contracts, the shaking of hands, verbal contracts, covenants, blood covenants, swearing of oaths, making promises, promissory notes, etc.. But the one thing they all have in common, other than being legally binding obligations on both parties, is that both parties knew that they were entering into a legally binding arrangement.

But, in this matter of Adam transferring his authority and rule of the earth over to Satan, no such mention of a legal transference is made. No contracts signed, no promises made, no covenant, nothing is mentioned in so many words of this matter. But we know it happened! So we had to look elsewhere for evidence that this did happen.

There had to be something, an act of some kind, a legal procedure, or an established legal principle that was the vehicle for Adam to transfer his authority and rule of the earth over to Satan. **There had to be, if not in so many words, an act, a demonstration that Adam was giving Satan his authority**, and at the same time placing himself under Satan's authority, and it is found in Romans 6:16, "*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*"

Over the years conquerors have done that to those they have conquered, where a public act was involved whereby the conquered king would show that he is now subject to the conquering king. Sometimes the conquered king, or general, would surrender his sword; sometimes he would kneel before his conqueror; and sometimes the conquered king would be publicly humiliated by being a footstool for the one who conquered him. The type of act was not the issue in the matter, public humiliation was the issue in the surrendering of authority and being in subjection to the other party. But what was the issue is that **there had to be an act, a demonstration that this had occurred!**

Concerning Satan's offer to the Lord, which the Lord promptly rejected, the public act that would demonstrate that Christ would now be in subjection to Satan was brought out in the next verse by worshipping Satan. "*If thou therefore wilt **worship** me, all shall be thine.*" Luke 4:7 Now the word for worship here is *proskuneo* which really referred to **obeisance; it simply meant to obey someone**. Kneeling before someone simply was the public act stating that you were under that person's authority and would obey them.

Satan told the Lord that all the authority over the world's governments had been handed over to him, *paradidomi*, and he could give that authority to whomever he wanted. He was now offering this authority to the Lord, which would have put the Lord second to Satan's authority, and all that was needed was an act that this had happened. Of course Christ rejected this outright and remained under the authority of God the Father, who had already covenanted with him for the authority and rulership of the world. The word *paradidomi* meant to hand over, to give up, to surrender something. **And that was what Adam did, he surrendered his authority over the world, he gave it up and handed it over to the devil on that fateful day in the garden of Eden.**

Now we get to Romans 6:16 where it says, “to whom ye **yield** yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey,”. The word used here in the Greek is *paristano*, and in the Latin it's *exhibites*. We will use the legal definition of *paristano*, for Paul's context in Romans is a legal treatment of Biblical concepts. And the Latin definition is also helpful because it's the language of law.

Paristano meant to present documents to a court, to officially offer something, a demonstration of a fact, to offer up something or to demonstrate something as a legal fact. **To establish a legal fact there must be a presenting of documents, or a public act. The public act becomes the exhibit demonstrating that a legal concept has taken place.** It also meant to present oneself, to oneself at someone's disposal, to offer up yourself, to present yourself to someone to be under their authority.

When one wants to join the military they take the first step going down to the recruiting station to talk to somebody. They go down to the **location** where the recruiters are, who are the legal representatives of the US government. The volunteer is not offering a document but **presenting himself**. The next step comes at the induction center where they tell all those who are volunteering to **take one step forward**. This next step is the public demonstration or act, that is legally binding, that they are officially offering themselves in service to their country. The next step is where they publicly swear an oath. Now they are under the authority of the US military.

When Eve took Adam down to where Satan was in the garden, and he went voluntarily, this was his first step in offering himself to Satan. This was his *paristano* or *exhibetes*. When he first saw him he could have turned away and left the **location** where Satan was at that time, but he didn't; he took that next step forward to the actual place where Satan was. The second and most crucial step was that there had to be a gesture of some kind that he was putting himself under the authority of Satan, and this act was eating the fruit of the tree.

Jesus Christ told him not to eat the fruit of the tree, and to continue to do that would be saying that he was under the authority of Jesus Christ. Satan, on the other hand, was telling him to eat the fruit of the tree, and in doing that he would now be under Satan's authority. The proof, the act, *paristano*, that a legal act had taken place was demonstrated in Adam taking the first step to go down to the location where Satan was, the sphere of his activity. And the second step provided the convincing proof when he stepped forward once more and ate the fruit of the tree.

One does not need anything in writing, **for one's actions become the legal proof that a legal act had occurred**, and in that legal act the transfer of property and authority had also taken place. It was necessary for Satan to get Adam to do this not Eve, for Eve did not have any legal rights or authority over the earth. When Adam did this he not only surrendered his rule and authority of the world over to Satan, he also put himself under Satan's sphere of rule and authority. He gave to Satan what he once had, now Satan has the rule of the earth and Adam is under his authority. Adam's folly was that he gave up all that he had and cast his lot with the devil and got death and Hell in return.

And hell also, for the lot of mankind on earth instead of living in an earthly paradise, will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. You say, how can that be? It goes back to what occurred that day in the garden. When Adam stepped forward to take Satan's offer; he not only came under the condemnation of God; he gave away all his legal rights over the earth; he identified himself with Satan; he placed himself under the authority of Satan; and now he was going to be identified with Satan and what was going to happen to him.

And that includes the Lake of Fire. “*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:***” Matthew 25:41 When one is under the authority of someone, he is legally identified with that authority, and whatever legal matters may befall that authority later on, will fall upon those who are identified with it.

And that means the Lake of Fire. Satan's angels are legally identified with Satan and will share Satan's legal fate. And when man came under the rule of Satan, due to Adam's folly, then all of mankind will share in Satan's judgment, which is the Lake of Fire. That's what in Adam, *en Adam*, is all about. En plus the locative of sphere is a legal technical term for being legally identified with someone.

But there's another sphere of legal identification and that's being legally identified with Jesus Christ, *en Christo*, through faith in Christ. And because we're identified with Christ, we then share his legal blessings throughout eternity. Those under Satan will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. Those under Jesus Christ will spend eternity in heaven.

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