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A Biblical Case Study of the Leadership Failure of Adam

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Viewed through the lens of Genesis chapters 1-3:34, Biblical history provides a panoramic view of the creation of all living creatures, the formation of the finest garden in history, the Garden of Eden and the creation of the first human beings, Adam and his helpmate, Eve. When God formed every creature from the dust of the ground, He caused each to pass before Adam for him to name. Each had its own mate. When God decided that Adam needed a mate, He created one. Rather than create the woman from the dust of the ground, as Adam had been created, God put Adam to sleep and fashioned woman from a rib which He took from Adam's side. God chose to build the woman from the blood, flesh and bone of Adam. When God brought the woman that He had built to Adam, Adam acknowledged that she was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. The woman was actually more than just a mate for Adam she was a part of his very being, and became as it were a missing link to him. God made a place of and provision for the man that he had formed from the fine dust of the earth, a luscious garden paradise of perfect beauty with every kind of tree for food and plenty of anything that man could possibly need. To bring life to everything that God had caused to grow for man's provision, God placed a river in the middle of the garden. In the middle of the garden God placed two trees, one was the Tree of Life and the other the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil God commanded that Adam and Eve were not eat (Genesis 2:17).

In the narrative of Genesis 1: 26-28 God commissioned Adam to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. This gave Adam absolute authority over everything on the earth, including the sea and all that was in them, (Genesis 1:26). Thus, the Bible suggests the first example of leadership being given by God to man. The Garden of Eden and everything on the earth was intended to thrive under Adam's leadership. God had created Adam in His own image, unique with intrinsic characteristics. Bearing the image of God, Adam represented the authority of God.

In chapter 3, the serpent, Satan that had been lurking outside of the Garden of Eden slipped into the garden. This satanic intruder convinced the woman that God was holding back something from her by prohibiting her from eating of the forbidden tree. With the serpent's prompting and enticement, Eve becomes convinced of her need to know good and evil. She feels compelled to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree. The woman in turn convinces Adam, who is standing nearby, speechless, to eat of the forbidden tree also. After the condemning actions of eating of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve realize they are naked. As comes moves through the garden, they cover their naked bodies and hide. God searches for them and upon discovering their plight, His heart -wrenching question to the man is, "Adam, what Happened?" The man and woman are punished and exiled from the Garden of Eden. The serpent did not escape punishment either.

Adam's failure of Leadership (Genesis 3:1-6) initiated a downward spiral which has affected all of human history. Was it apathy that caused Adam to fail; did he become too comfortable in the

garden? The scripture narrative recounts that while the serpent spewed forth enticing words to the woman, Adam never spoke. Had Adam become complacent in his role as a leader? Why does Genesis 3:9 suggest that Adam exhibited fear when he heard God's voice seeking him out in? He had never known God as a punitive God, but had his new sin nature come with a conscience? Adam exhibited apathy, complacency, fear and, complete disobedience to God's word and Leadership, leadership failures that have reverberated down through the annals of history.

Questions

1. What factor about Adam's creation made him the ideal person to have dominion over the earth and the seas?
2. What outside influences had the greatest negative effect on Adam's leadership: Why or How?
3. How did God's word's to Adam, "Where are you?" resonate with you as a leader?