

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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ADAM AND EVE, A TYPE OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

John Isaac Edwards

In the Scriptures, Adam and Eve are pictured as representative of Christ and the church. Paul reached back to Genesis 2 when he said in Ephesians 5: “*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh*” (v. 31). He then declared, “*This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church*” (v. 32). Notice these common characteristics:

ADAM AND EVE	CHRIST AND THE CHURCH
1. Adam was put to sleep.	1. Christ was put to death.
2. Adam had his side opened.	2. Christ’s side was opened.
3. Adam gave up the price for the woman.	3. Christ paid the price for the church.
4. The woman was made.	4. The church was formed.
5. Eve became Adam’s wife.	5. The church became the bride of Christ.
6. Eve took Adam’s name.	6. The church wears the name of Christ.
7. Eve subject to Adam.	7. Church subject to Christ.
8. Eve was to bear children.	8. We should bring forth fruit.

First, Adam was put to sleep when Eve was formed. “*And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept...*” (Gen. 2:21). As Adam was put to sleep, Christ was put to sleep, the sleep of death. He “*...gave up the ghost*” (Jn. 19:30). **Second**, Adam’s side was opened. “*...he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof*” (Gen. 2:21). For his flesh to be “*closed up*”, it must have been opened up! As Adam’s side was opened, Christ’s side was opened. John 19:34 records, “*But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side....*” **Third**, Adam gave up the price for the woman — “*one of his ribs*” (Gen. 2:24). Likewise, Christ paid the price for the church, the price of His own blood, “*...forthwith came there out blood and water*” (Jn. 19:34). Acts 20:28 speaks of the church “*which he hath purchased with his own blood.*” As the rib of Adam was the price to form the woman, the blood of Christ was the price to form or purchase the church. **Fourth**, the woman was made. “*And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman...*” (Gen. 2:22). The church was thus built (Mt. 16:18) or formed. **Fifth**, Eve became Adam’s wife. The first ceremony was performed when God “*...brought her unto the man*” and she became “*his wife*” (Gen. 2:22-25). The church is represented as the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-33), married to Him who is raised from the dead (Rom. 7:4). **Sixth**, Eve took Adam’s name. “*...she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man*” (Gen. 2:23). “*...called their name Adam*” (Gen. 5:2). Likewise, we wear the name of Christ (Acts 11:26; Rom. 16:16). **Seventh**, Eve was made subject to Adam, as the husband is the head of the wife (Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:22-24). Thus, the church is subject to Christ in every thing. **Eighth**, Eve was to bear children (Gen. 1:28; 4:1-2). And “*...we should bring forth fruit unto God*” (Rom. 7:4). **Note:** If one has church established before the marriage, then illegitimate children!

THE KINGDOM IN DIFFERENT STAGES

John Isaac Edwards

Failure to realize the kingdom has existed in different stages has resulted in misunderstanding concerning the kingdom of God.

1) IN PURPOSE. The kingdom first existed in purpose, in the mind of God. Paul declared, *"According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Eph. 3:11).

2) IN PROMISE. Next, the kingdom existed in promise, as delivered unto the Patriarchs. The Lord promised Abraham, *"...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed"* (Gen. 12:3). The promise was repeated to his son, Isaac, in Genesis 26:4, and to his grandson, Jacob, in Genesis 28:14. The seed promise was fulfilled *"in Christ"* (Gal. 3:26-29), in whom are *"all spiritual blessings"* (Eph. 1:3). To be in Christ is to be in the kingdom (Col. 1:2, 13). On Pentecost, Peter mentioned the patriarch David and how *"God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins,*

according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne" (Acts 2:29-30), a reference to 2 Samuel 7:12-13. Thus, the kingdom in promise.

3) IN PROPHECY. The establishment of the kingdom was the subject of the prophets. Psalms 2, 16, 22, 24, 45, 72, 89, 110, and 132 are all kingdom pointers. Isaiah 2, Daniel 2, and Joel 2 all converge in the establishment of the kingdom in Acts 2. Isaiah, the Messianic prophet, often foretells of the Messianic kingdom. Chapter 9: The Prince of Peace upon the throne of David (vv. 6-7). Chapter 11: The king and his subjects, fulfilled in the day of Christ (Rom. 15:12). Chapter 22: One called *"my servant"* clothed with robe, government committed into his hand, the key of the house of David, a glorious throne (vv. 20-23). Chapter 32: A king shall reign in righteousness. That's the kingdom in prophecy.

4) IN PREPARATION. The kingdom was in preparation when John, the forerunner of Christ,

came on the scene and during the earthly ministry of Jesus. Their teaching and preaching was anticipatory and preparatory in nature. Statements like *"...the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Mt. 3:2; 4:17; Mk. 1:14-15) and *"thy kingdom come"* (Mt. 6:10) show the kingdom had not been established yet.

5) IN PERFECTION. The kingdom reached the stage of perfection when the New Testament went into effect (Heb. 9:15-17). The apostles preached Jesus having received the promise (Acts 2:29-36). The kingdom was received (Dan. 7:13-14; Lk. 19:12; Acts 1:9-11). Folks were said to be in the kingdom (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). The fact that Christ is priest now (Heb. 4:14) affirms Christ is king now (Zech. 6:13), and the kingdom is not on earth (Heb. 8:4). Thus, no earthly reign on literal throne in Jerusalem (Jer. 22:28-30).

At Christ's second coming, the Lord will *"deliver up"* the kingdom to the Father, and put down His reign (1 Cor. 15:23-28).

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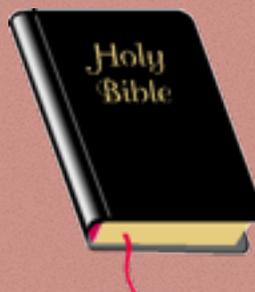
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