

The Tragic Consequences of Sin

by Bill Crews

For one taste of forbidden fruit, with disappointing results at that, Adam and Eve lost the approval of God, their close communion with God, access to the death-deferring tree of life, and their home in the perfect garden of Eden. God drove them out of the garden and cursed them, and they were now spiritually dead. **Genesis 3**.

For one forbidden look back at Sodom, her former home, Lot's wife lost her life, Lot lost his wife, and their two daughters lost their mother. **Genesis 19:16-26**. God turned her into a pillar of salt, and Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife." **Luke 17:32**.

For a single meal, which the Bible refers to as "*bread and pottage of lentils*," hungry Esau sold his birthright as the firstborn son of Isaac. **Genesis 25:29-34**. It is said that he "*despised his birthright*" (**Genesis 25:34**), and he is called a "*profane person*" (**Hebrews 12:16**).

For one visit with the idolatrous daughters of the land, Dinah, daughter of Jacob, brought shame and embarrassment to herself, created a problem that two of her brothers handled foolishly, and caused grief for her father. **Genesis 34**.

For a few rash actions, motivated by jealousy and hatred, the brothers of Joseph brought years of groundless grief to their father, years of suffering to Joseph, and years of guilty consciences to themselves. **Genesis 37:12-36**. Years later Joseph said, "*Ye meant evil against me, but God meant it for good*" (**Genesis 50:20**).

For one foolish and hasty act of idolatry, aided and abetted, by, of all people, Aaron, the Israelites incurred the great displeasure and wrath of God and caused the death of 3,000 of their own people. **Exodus 32**.

For one presumptuous, unauthorized act, offering "*strange fire before Jehovah*" as they burned the incense, the two oldest sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, lost their lives at the hand of an angry Jehovah and reduced the number of qualified priests from four to two. **Leviticus 10:1-2**. Nadab would have been the next high priest upon the death of Aaron.

For accepting the report and advice of the ten spies who forgot about the promises and the help of God, and rejecting the report and advice of the two spies (Joshua and Caleb) who trusted in God to give them victory, the Israelites aroused the anger of God, doomed themselves to forty years of wandering and suffering in a harsh wilderness, and forfeited their right to enter into the promised land of Canaan. **Numbers 13-14; Deuteronomy 1:22-46**.

For gathering sticks upon the Sabbath (rest) day in defiance of the prohibition against working on the rest and memorial day (**Deuteronomy 5:12-15**), an Israelite man forfeited his right to live. **Numbers 15:32-36**.

For one rash act of disobedience and a few foolish words of anger, Moses himself forfeited his right to go into the beautiful land of promise. **Numbers 20:1-13; 27:12-14; Deuteronomy 3:25-27**. From a high mountain in Moab, Moses was allowed to view the promised land, but he could not go in. **Deuteronomy 34:1-6**.

For one covetous act of disobedience to God, Achan, one of the Israelite soldiers who entered into the city of Jericho, after God brought down the walls, caused the death of himself and his family and caused his brethren to lose the next battle and the lives of many soldiers. **Joshua 7**.

Are we to learn anything from these Old Testament examples? For the answer see **1 Corinthians 10:1-12** and **Romans 15:4**. God always means what He says, and sin never pays. Its consequences are awful — here and hereafter.

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