



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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THE AGE OF NEGATIVE VOLITION

The age of negative volition began with the fall of man. Adam and the woman were now imperfect outside the Garden of Eden. Both were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who revealed Himself as the Seed of the woman [Genesis 3:15].¹

As a believer, the woman was called Eve, ("Living"), in recognition of woman's role in the coming of the promised Savior [Genesis 3:20, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:20-23, 1 Timothy 2:15a]. At the time of their original sin, Adam and Eve had lost the status of perfection. They had become spiritually dead –meaning separated from God and totally incapable of a relationship with Him [Genesis 2: 17, 3:8].

Originally trichotomous (with body, soul and human spirit, Adam and Eve had become dichotomous (only body and soul). Faith in Christ brought regeneration, which restored the human spirit, making them trichotomous again. The human spirit has always been essential for a relationship with God [1 Corinthians 2:12-14].

Throughout human history, with the humanity of Christ as the only exception, every descendant of Adam and Eve is born dichotomous and remains spiritually dead until he personally believes in Christ [John 3:18]. In all dispensations, everyone who believes in Christ becomes at that moment regenerate and trichotomous possessing body, soul and human spirit [1 Thessalonians 5:23].

No Canon of Scripture existed in the age of negative volition. God revealed Himself to man through dreams, visions, angelic appearances, and, (as in the Garden of Eden) through direct, physical manifestations in the form of theophanies entirely different from (preincarnate appearances of Jesus Christ).

Spiritual authority was vested in the head of the family, who helps the family priesthood. Through this system of authority, God's revealed truth was communicated to the human race orally and visually in rituals that included holy days and animal sacrifices [Genesis 3:21, 4:4, 8:20].

No human missionary agency was required apart from individual believers carrying the Word of God to people in their periphery. The Gospel existed in the form of promises of the coming Messiah [Genesis 3:15], who was depicted in the animal sacrifices.

Since the fall of man, the means of salvation in every dispensation has always been faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as He revealed in that era [Romans 4:1-16, Galatians 3:6-9].

¹ See figure 7 –page 133

The period of negative volition began with one language, one race and one culture, but none of these anthropological unities solved in human relationships or in man's relationship with God.

Evil ran rampant during the age of negative volition [Genesis 6:1-7], and God took severe measures to prevent the human race from destroying itself. The universal flood spared only the family of Noah, the only family of believers that had remained true to God's plan.

From Noah's sons sprang three groups of Gentiles, the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, which eventually became differentiated nations and races [Genesis 9:1, 1:28]. There, we see another instance of change against the background of continuity.

From Noah came differentiated nations and races [Genesis 10:32]. This is the perfect designed of God: nationalism not ecumenicalism. (Please see Book 1 – p. 36 and 57). The national entity is divine protection against self-destruction. Anthropological and social unities cannot solve human problems but rather has created more problems.