

**Genesis 2:7**

**“The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being.”**

**Genesis 3:6-7**

**“Eve also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened.”**

**Genesis 3:15**

**“I will put enmity between you and woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel,”**

Dear children of Adam,

If I was to say that you are “chip off the old block”, would that be good thing or a bad thing? Truthfully it could go both ways. The little saying, “a chip off the old block” is meant to convey the idea that a child resembles or has some of the same characteristics of their parents. This can be a complement both to the parents and to the children of those parents when it is a good thing. For instance when a child shows some wonderful act of kindness or is a good athlete, they might say that he or she is “a chip off the old block” meaning that they learned how to be kind or are athletic just like their parents. On the other, if the child does something wrong like has a short temper, they might say that you are “a chip off the old block”, which would mean that you inherited a bad characteristic from your parents.

Keep this thought in mind as we mediate this Advent Season on the Theme: “Men of the Old Testament and the Coming Savior.” We will be looking at important men from the Old Testament and seeing how similar we are to them, and also seeing what we can learn from them as we wait for the coming our Lord and Savior. The three men we are going to look at are Adam, Abraham and Judah. Tonight, for the first of our three Advent services we are going to look a little closer at the life of Adam to see that we indeed are “a chip off the old block” – both in a positive way and in a negative way. Our theme for tonight will be:

**Theme: We Are a “chip off the old block” of Adam!**

- 1. Our beginnings are the same**
- 2. Our hearts are the same**
- 3. Our way to heaven is the same**

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** Those are the first words from the first book written down for us by Moses through the inspiration by God the Holy Spirit. They might not seem like words that are all the enlightening or amazing, but these words mark the beginning of something very special. These words mark the beginning of God’s plan for the people living on earth -- a place that God created just the way he wanted. Everything was perfect and without flaw. It had just the right plants trees, animals and last but not least it had God’s people. Today, we are going to take a closer look at the first man that was created – a man that God formed out of his love and mercy. A man that was created just the way that his heavenly Father wanted him formed – down to the smallest detail.

God tells us how special Adam was., **“The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being.”** (Genesis

2:7) When you look at the creation of Adam and Eve, you notice that it was different from any of the other things that he created. He did not just say, “Let there be.” It tells us that God formed him personally from the dust of the ground, and he breathed into him the breath of life. It doesn’t tell us that anything else was created in this way, and it doesn’t tell us that God breathed into anything else in all creation the breath of life. He gave Adam and also Eve a soul – a soul that God would one day need to save from sin. (we will talk a little more about that later). Adam along with Eve was unique. He and Eve were the peak of God’s creation. We know from the rest of Genesis that Eve was formed from the rib of Adam. God took a very active part in the creation of people and that was not by accident.

As we look at the world around us in the year 2009, we also can take notice that God has formed each and every one of us just the way he wanted. He does this through the miracle of conception and birth. We are born into this world with both a body and a soul. Our bodies are formed from the genes of our parents, and we come into this world very special. We are just as special as Adam and Eve were back in the Garden of Eden. Each birth is a miracle and a blessing from our good and gracious God. Each soul is known and watched over personally by God. Everything we are is by God’s perfect design. In this way, we are in a positive way, “a chip off the old block” of Adam. We are not a second class person when compared to Adam who was the first of God’s people on this earth. We are very special to our God who created us.

As we know so well, God gave Adam one command, **“You are free to eat from any tree in the Garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)** It sounds pretty simple, doesn’t it? How hard would it be to stay away from the one tree that is in the middle of the garden? How hard would it be to eat from all the other perfect fruit trees from the rest of the garden? Not so hard I would think, but we know how the story goes. The Devil came and tempted Adam and Eve. The Devil made it sound like the fruit was the best fruit in the whole Garden and Eve ate, and so did Adam, **“Eve also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened.” (Genesis 3:6-7)**

As we live our lives in this sinful world, it would be so easy to point our fingers at Adam and say, How could you? What were you thinking Adam? You wrecked it for all of us! But wait a minute! When was the last day that you and I have gone without sinning? When was the last day that our hearts and lives were perfect in following all of God’s will? When was the last time that we failed to love God more than anything else in the whole world? When was the last time that we failed to come to church or read God’s Word and keep his Sabbath Day holy? When was the last time that we failed to honor our parents or others in authority such as our teachers or bosses? When was the last time that we hated someone? When was the last time that we looked lustfully at someone or had sexual relations before we were married? When was the last time that we were greedy or said false and hurtful things about our neighbors?

Before we get our fingers read to point at Adam, we need to look at ourselves. We indeed are “a chip off the old block” of Adam. More than we really want to admit. Just like Adam we have failed to follow God’s commands and have followed the Devil and all his evil and wicked ways. But what does God want us to do after we sin? After Adam sinned in the Garden, what did he do? Did he realize his sinfulness and run to God and ask for full and complete forgiveness? Did he get down on his knees and confess his sins to his heavenly Father? Not quite! It tells us, **“They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the Garden. But the LORD God called out to the man, ‘Where are you?’ Adam answered, ‘I heard you in the garden and I was afraid ... so I hid. And God said,.... ‘Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to eat from? Then the man said ‘The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’ (Genesis 3:8-12)** Adam in his sinfulness tried to hide, cover up and blame some else for his sins. God kept giving him chances to confess his sins, but Adam was running the other way. He was lost in his sin and by himself he couldn’t find a way out. In fact, he was digging a deeper and deeper spiritual hole.

As we noted before, we are “a chip off the old block” from Adam, and it is no different when it comes to confessing our sins to our heavenly Father. If we are truthful, what Adam did sounds rather familiar to our way of handling sin. If we are truthful we have many times tried to cover up our sin. We have tried to hide from God. We have blamed others for the sins which we did. It is so hard for our sinful nature to stand before God and humbly admit that we have fallen in to sin and deserve to be punished. It is so hard to be a man and take the blame for the sins which I have committed, rather than trying to blame someone else for my sins. As we prepare our hearts during another Advent season, we recognize that the words that John the Baptist preached so loudly and clearly apply to us, **“Repent for the kingdom of God is near.”** Repent means to admit our sins and trust in God’s promise to forgive them. God’s Law will lead us to see we have failed miserably and we deserve God’s wrath and punishment, but the Advent message is also about God’s love and forgiveness.

This is where we can recognize again that we are “a chip off the old block” when it comes to Adam. When Adam sinned, his life and the life of everyone else was turned upside down. But thank goodness the final things where we and Adam are the same is our salvation. After God confronted Adam and Eve in their sin, he did not send a huge fireball to destroy Adam and Eve and the whole Garden of Eden. God didn’t throw his hands up in the air in rage and despair for his perfect world crumbling under the weight of sin. No, instead God gave the first gospel promise of a Savior who would free sinners like Adam and Eve from the destruction of their sin, **“I will put enmity between you and woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel,” (Genesis 3:15)** This little verse was the first look at the plan that God had made in eternity to save mankind from their sin. You might say that it was the blueprint of God’s perfect plan of salvation. It was the outline of God’s love and mercy for people who have strayed so far from his requirement of perfection.

At first glance, this passage might be a little difficult to understand, but as we break it down, we realize that it is talking about an Offspring of Eve who would come into this world and crush the head of Satan. The Offspring was Jesus himself, and he crushed the Devil’s head on the cross of Calvary when he died and rose again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. This first promise to Adam and Eve doesn’t give every tiny little detail for Adam and his descendants on how this would happen, but this promise gave Adam the hope and peace that he needed for his sinful heart.

Some people are confused on how Adam and all the people of the Old Testament were saved, since Jesus didn’t come into this world for a long time. The answer is simple. Adam was saved the same way that we are saved who live thousands of years later. Adam trusted in the Offspring who would come and crush the head of Satan, and we believe and trust in the Offspring who came and crushed the head of Satan. The key point is that God worked a faith in Adam’s heart that trusted in this simple promise, even though he didn’t truly understand every detail of it. God told him it was true and Adam believed it.

As we jump head first into to another Christmas season and march ever so quickly through another Advent Season, I pray that we recognize what this time of the Christian Church is all about. I pray that today through our study of the life of Adam, we have seen what it is all about. Advent is all about sin and grace. And its simplest form that is exactly what it was all about for Adam who lived long before the first Christmas was ever celebrated and long before the first Advent season was celebrated. Adam was a very special person who was formed by God, loved by God and saved by God. In the same way as we again make the journey to the manger Bethlehem, I pray that we recognize that each one of us here today is a very special person, who was created by God, loved by God and saved by God. May the Lord lead us to recognize what an example we can find in Adam as we realize that we are truly “a chip off the old block.”  
Amen