
ADAM AND MOSES

BUNYAN is trying to teach us some good theology in this very instructive conversation between Christian and his companion Faithful. Here we are introduced to Adam the First from the town of Deceit. Of course Bunyan is very likely thinking of, among other passages, Romans 5:12–14 (NKJV):

Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—for until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law; nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

We are sinners by choice because we are sinful by nature. This is the awful indictment visited upon everyone who is born of man. There is a disposition and a principle planted in each one of us named sin, and it is passed on to each of us through Adam because of his disobedience. This is commonly referred to as *original sin* or the *old nature*. Our allegory dubs this old nature as a very aged man named “Adam the First.”

As ancient as this old man is, he is anything but feeble and decrepit. In fact, he is very active, continually soliciting husbands for his three daughters, the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes and the Pride of Life (1 John 2:16).

Frequently Bunyan will revisit an old theme mentioned earlier. In this case, he once again deals with the difference between the Law and grace. Faithful’s first inclination was to go with the old man, but after he turned his back on Adam the First, there came one running after him, “as swift as the wind,” who continued to knock him over to the ground. This is Moses, representing the Law and bringing conviction to the conscience, showing no mercy, but hammering it home again and again.

There is a “Last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45), a life-giving spirit by whom comes a new nature. His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who repairs the awful damage done by the “First Adam,” and who becomes the Father of a new race in a new heaven and Earth where righteousness dwells.

The Apostle Paul encourages us with, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:9–10, NKJV).