

1 Corinthians 15:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Analysis

For as in Adam all die (ὡσπερ γὰρ ἐν τῷ Αδὰμ πάντες ἀποθνήσκουσιν)—The phrase *en tō Adam* ("in Adam") indicates federal headship and representative union. All humanity is in Adam—connected to him as branches to root, represented by him as citizens by ruler. His sin becomes ours; his death penalty we inherit. The present tense *apothnēskousin* (ἀποθνήσκουσιν, "die, are dying") indicates ongoing process—we are all under death sentence because we are "in Adam."

Even so in Christ shall all be made alive (οὕτως καὶ ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ πάντες ζωοποιηθήσονται)—The phrase *en tō Christō* ("in Christ") indicates new federal headship. Through faith-union with Christ, believers are transferred from Adam's headship to Christ's. The future passive verb *zōopoiēthēsontai* (ζωοποιηθήσονται, "will be made alive") indicates God's action—resurrection is gift, not achievement. The "all" here is qualified by "in Christ"—not universal salvation, but all united to Christ will be resurrected.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures understood corporate personality—the king represented the nation, the patriarch represented the family. Paul applies this to Adam and Christ as representative heads of two humanities: old creation in Adam, new creation in Christ. This was revolutionary theology, grounding individual salvation in corporate realities.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'in Adam' or 'in Christ'—how are these representative unions formed?
2. Why is federal headship necessary—why can't we each simply be responsible for our own actions?
3. How does being 'made alive in Christ' involve more than just going to heaven when we die?

Interlinear Text

ἄσπερ γὰρ ἐν τῷ Ἀδὰμ πάντες ἀποθνήσκουσιν οὕτως
as For in G3588 Adam all die so
G5618 G1063 G1722 G76 G3956 G599 G3779

καὶ ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ πάντες ζωοποιηθήσονται
even in G3588 Christ all be made alive
G2532 G1722 G5547 G3956 G2227

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 3:19 (Parallel theme): In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 2:17 (Parallel theme): But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:6 (Parallel theme): And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one

wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org