

1 Corinthians 15:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The first man is of the earth, earthly: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Analysis

The first man is of the earth, earthly (ὁ πρῶτος ἄνθρωπος ἐκ γῆς χοϊκός)—The word choikos (χοϊκός, "dusty, made of dust") echoes Genesis 2:7: Adam formed from aphan (רָפָع, "dust"). Ek gēs (ἐκ γῆς, "from earth") indicates Adam's origin and nature—earthly, terrestrial, mortal. Humans in Adam share his earthly nature: mortal, subject to decay, limited to earthly sphere.

The second man is the Lord from heaven (ὁ δεύτερος ἄνθρωπος ἐξ οὐρανοῦ)—Christ is ho deuteros anthrōpos (ὁ δεύτερος ἄνθρωπος, "the second man"), though some manuscripts read "the second man, the Lord from heaven." Ex ouranou (ἐξ οὐρανοῦ, "from heaven") indicates Christ's origin and nature. Though incarnated in flesh, Christ's true origin is heavenly—the eternal Son who became human (John 1:14, Philippians 2:6-7). In His resurrection, Christ's human nature is glorified, suited for the heavenly realm.

Historical Context

Paul's Adam-Christ typology is covenantal, not merely biological. Adam is federal head of old humanity under the covenant of works; Christ is federal head of new humanity under the covenant of grace. Adam's earthly origin means all "in Adam" are earthly/mortal. Christ's heavenly origin means all "in Christ" will be heavenly/glorified.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Adam's 'earthy' nature explain universal human mortality and limitation?
2. What does Christ being 'from heaven' indicate about His person and mission?
3. How are believers transferred from Adamic headship to Christic headship?

Interlinear Text

ο	πρῶτος	ἄνθρωπος	ἐξ	γῆς	χοϊκός	ο	δεύτερος
G3588	The first	man	from	the earth	earthy	G3588	the second
	G4413	G444	G1537	G1093	G5517		G1208
ἄνθρωπος	ο	Κύριος	ἐξ	οὐρανοῦ			
man	G3588	is the Lord	from	heaven			
G444		G2962	G1537	G3772			

Additional Cross-References

John 3:31 (Parallel theme): He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

Genesis 2:7 (References Lord): And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

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.

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

1 Corinthians 15:45 (Parallel theme): And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (Parallel theme): For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Luke 2:11 (References Lord): For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

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