

## To Whom Did Death Spread Through Adam's Sin?

### If God Created Carnivores, There Would Have Been Animal Deaths Before the Fall<sup>1</sup>

Gen 1:25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

### There was the Death of Vegetation Before the Fall Because It was Food for All Living Things<sup>2</sup>

Gen 1:29-30 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

### In the Garden the Curse of Death was Directed Only Toward Man<sup>3</sup>

**(If there had been no previous deaths, Adam would not have known the meaning of "death")**

Gen 2:16-17 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it **you will surely die.**"

### It is the Human Realm, Not the Animal Realm, That Receives the Curse of Death<sup>4</sup>

Gen 3:19 "By the sweat of your face  
**You** will eat bread,  
Till **you** return to the ground,  
Because from it **you** were taken;  
For **you** are dust,  
And to dust **you** shall return."

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through **one man** sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to **all men, because all sinned--**

<sup>1</sup> Bruce K. Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007), 184. It is not at all clear, however, that God did initially create any animals as carnivores. In the millennium, which is pictured as a partial return to the garden of Eden, "...the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And **the lion will eat straw like the ox**" (Isa 11:6-7).

<sup>2</sup> Waltke, *Theology*, 184.

<sup>3</sup> Waltke, *Theology*, 184.

<sup>4</sup> Waltke, *Theology*, 184.