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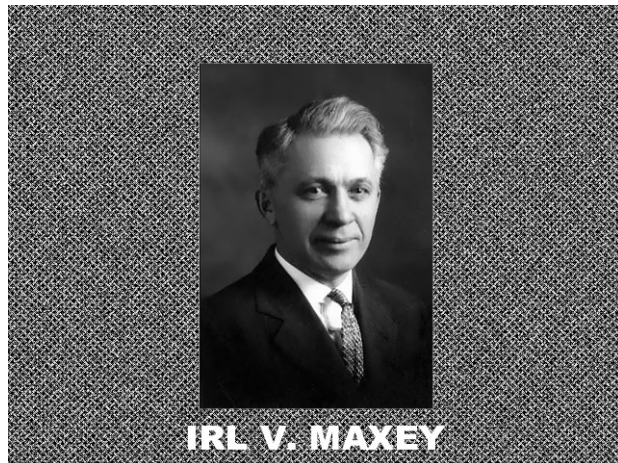
**A SECOND SERMON FROM GENESIS 3:9
By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited
By Duane V. Maxey**

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

This sermon was dated as October 25, 1913, and my father recorded that it was written in Imbler, Oregon. There was no title shown it, but the contents make it clear that "Where Art Thou?" would be an appropriate title. However, I have already completed work on a sermon with that title, which was probably written by papa in either 1906 or 1907. Thus, I have titled it as above: "A Second Sermon From Genesis 3:9." -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, Thursday, January 26, 2006.

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Out text will be found in the 9th verse of the 3rd chapter of Genesis.

SERMON TEXT: -- Genesis 3:9 -- "And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"

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The scenes of the text are clear in your mind, so we will not stop to explain but proceed at once to our text. As we said before, man is somewhere -- either in the kingdom of God -- or somewhere on the outside. To the man who is outside, we wish for your consideration to answer the real question -- "Where art thou?"

The naturally pure man is gone. Through Adam's choice, the purity of his soul fled and disobedience reigned. Surely not quickly, though, did he forget God in his practice, and slowly his outward life became ungodly. God could no longer love and respect his ways and intimacy between them grew less and less. But worst of all, the Garden of Eden must be closed forever, and no one could enter there again. Eternal life ceased when evil entered, and by transgression Adam has ushered in physical death to himself.

The eyes must cease to see, the brain to think, and the body to move. Soul and body must separate. Oh, Adam and Eve, by means of inheritance you must hand down to your posterity an evil tendency! Oh, the awful results of a single act of Eve! "Where art thou?"

Where are we?

We come into this world with that Adamic nature, and so we transgress the perfect law of life and absolute perfection. Not knowing that we do, we go about the same things Adam and Eve did and so bring physical death upon ourselves. Death has passed upon all men, that all have sinned.

Let me illustrate:-- There are perfect laws of electricity which children do not know and understand. I read of a girl who was walking along the street and touched a live wire that was dangling down, and death followed. She transgressed the law of electricity. We transgress God's law and die a physical death. We say, poor thing! she did not know that touching the wire would mean death, and so we do not blame her, of course.

God says, poor children, they do not know the law of sin and death, but nevertheless when they sin death follows -- even before accountability, but God does not condemn those who are unaccountable and the grace of Jesus reaches and saves them.

I think surely the time has come in this land of ours when we should fashion our laws after God's laws, and let ignorance of a law excuse transgressions.

Her soul was not involved in the transgression of the girl who was electrocuted, because she did not know. But had she been told that to come in contact with that wire would mean death, and then, fully aware of this, gone ahead and deliberately touched the wire, this would have been suicide and her soul would have been condemned also.

So, when the child reaches the place where he or she discerns the Truth of God's Word, then transgression of God's law brings guilt and the soul is in danger of death. Paul said, "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7). Here is transgression of known law, and "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

Now, as I said, the tendency that causes transgression can only become sin as it knows God's law. But, once conscious of this, when we transgress that known law we are guilty -- Prevenient Grace departs and Saving Grace becomes necessary.

We may become parties to handing down ignorance to our posterity, and hence transgression through that ignorance. God grant that we may become sanctified* and educated so as not to do that in any great degree.

[Here papa speaks collectively, and not individually for himself.]

Oh, Adam's posterity! Where art thou?!

After the Fall, God loved Adam's soul still, and knew full-well the way to bring him back was by loving him and promised His love should bring redemption to the world, even through the medium of Adam's posterity.

Oh, that promise was truly verified, and sinner, that is our great relief in our awful condition. Where art thou? -- not so far away that God's love can't reach you, and His redeeming love was meant for you.

Adam and Eve passed out of the Garden forever. The Paradise of earth has passed away, and now they confront new conditions in the earth. In place of the earth naturally bringing forth food for them and their posterity, it was cursed. The plants that were to be food for man must now meet enemies -- something to infect the apple, the wheat, and the corn -- and if man does not fight these enemies and till the soil his good will be cut off. There shall be scarcity, and floods of rain, and man must dig and sweat to make the earth produce, and kill the weeds, and fight insects.

Jesus said, "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Luke 12:27). But man has lost his purity with God and cannot see what this pure Christ meant; they do not know how to depend on God. Where art thou?

The earth has become sordid and vile. Often, it is not tilled right, because men are not in holy relations with God -- fields are passing into disuse -- greed and lust control the fields of earth, and huge forests are slain. Oh man, where art thou?

The once paradise has become the home of the palmer-worm, the cut-worm, the Hessian fly, the bark-beetle and locusts. There are cyclones and tornadoes, and earthquakes shake the earth! Oh, back to God, for He still loves us! Back to Him, till all the earth takes on new beauty for our eyes. Behold, the King. Then we shall understand the lilies of the field, and the way the swallows fly.

After man's Fall, the animal world partook of the same evil spirit. They had loved man and had often come and played with each other at his feet. They all ate the vegetation of the field, but their gentleness fled and their love of man departed. Hatred and fear of man came into the animals in their place. The lion, tiger, or leopard, will wait in dark places to prey upon man, or flee from him. Many animals fear and always flee from man. The animals now also quarrel among themselves and many of them do not eat the vegetation of the field, but eat each other and become vicious.

Oh man, where art thou? -- alone, and without God in the world! -- impure and ignorant of thy best good! -- the earth is cursed, and the wild animals flee from thy presence, seek thy life, or they fight each other.

Oh, the Light is dawning upon us, and men are learning. Through listening to God's law, the length of life is greater -- now being from 70-80. The earth is gaining new beauty and brings forth abundantly. Oh, the Day-Spring from on High is visiting us, and through the grace of Jesus the time is coming when souls shall be blessed and "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isaiah 11:6-9).*

[*In his closing paragraph to this sermon, quite apparently papa reflects the views of Post-Millennialists: -- That there would come a great, world-wide revival, a Golden, Millennial Age during which the Gospel would prevail and set the stage for Christ's Return. However, papa wrote this when both the 20th Century and he himself were young, and I think it quite possible, if not probable, that during his older years papa abandoned this theory. He wrote this sermon when he was 31, shortly before the birth of their second child with his first wife, Jesse (Caldwell) Maxey. After her passing, he married my mother when he was 53. By that time, world conditions had worsened, and as I recall, my mother told me that papa leaned toward Amillennial views -- views more similar to my own. I think perhaps many godly students of prophecy, who had at first accepted Post-Millennial doctrine, later

changed their views when, instead of the arrival of the supposed Golden-Age Millennium that was to usher in Christ's Return, they saw that, in fact, things were getting worse and worse!]

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