

Study of Westminster Shorter Catechism  
Question 12  
Led by Steven Anderson

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

Gen. 2:15-17.

Lev. 26:3-13.

Lev. 18:5; Ezek. 20:11, 13, 21; Rom. 10:5.

Gal. 3:10,12.

Eccl. 7:29.

Rom. 2:12-16.

Luke 17:10.

*Pastoral application:*

*Excursis: If God ordains all that comes to pass, how can He not be responsible for Adam's sin? It is not our job as theologians to answer this question logically; however, it **is** our job to discover whether both clauses of this question are biblical:*

Ps. 145:16-20.

Eph. 1:11, 12.

James 1:13, 14.

*The Heidelberg Catechism does not directly address the doctrine of the covenant of life, but it does describe the results of the faithful keeping of that covenant:*

Q. 6. Q. Did God, then, create man so wicked and perverse?

A. No, on the contrary, God created man good and in his image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love him, and live with him in eternal blessedness to praise and glorify him.