

Biblical Perspectives from God's Word

The Fall of Adam – Our Need for Salvation

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I. Introductory Remarks.

In the first lesson the goal was to outline in our thinking that God has created a beautiful world in which He desires us to worship Him as the creator of all things. In this lesson we will be looking at man who God has created in His image and how man fell in disobedience to God. We shall also see the wonderful provision and restoration God has made available to us through the various covenants He has established with mankind since the days of Adam.

- **Created in God's Image.**

***Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

- **Two Messages are emphasized in this passage:**

(1) Man was created to have dominion. God shared His authority with man and, in the sharing, God gave man the privilege of responsibility. In His plan we have been shaped to have dominion over all.

(2) We are created in God's image. God had the ability to give man the gift of dominion because man was shaped in the image of God. God's image is eternal.

As a reflection of the Creator, each person is precious to God. As a bearer of God's image, each person is worth even the price of redemption. We bear the image of God and we are important to Him.

- **Sin has robbed us of the full experience of dominion.**

Even though sin has robbed us of the full experience of dominion, we have been freed through God's redemptive powers to taste again, in our personal experience, the meaning of dominion.

II. The Creation of Man & Free Will.

***Genesis 2:7-9** 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 being. {8}The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. {9}And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15-17 *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. {16}And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; {17}"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

1. God's own personality was mirrored in Adam.

- Adam shared a capacity to appreciate, so the plantings of Eden include all trees "that were pleasing to the eye." (vs 9)
- God knew that man would be dissatisfied without **work**, so in the Garden God let Adam "work it and take care of it. (vs15)
- God knew man's need for opportunity to use his **intellectual** capacities so God brought all the animals to the man "to see what he would name them and whatever the man called each living creature that was its name." (vs19)
- God knew man's need for freedom to **choose**, so He placed a forbidden tree in the Garden and commanded man not to eat the fruit from it.
- God knew man's need for **intimacy** with others of his kind, so God gave Adam and Eve to each other.
- And finally God knew man's need for **fellowship** with Him. So God gave Adam and Eve His own presence as evenings fell. (Genesis 3:8)

Each of these actions show how deeply concerned God was that man's needs be met, and how special man was to Him. In the design of Eden, God continued to reveal the fact that His own nature is one of love.

2. What God's Relationship to Adam Teaches Us.

- **We can take comfort in the fact that God whose care we see exhibited here still cares for you and me today.**

Psalms 8:4 *What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?*

- **God still designs experiences as loving gifts to those whom He holds dear.**

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

- **We can take heart in the fact, that if God be for us, who can be against us.**

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

III. Adam's Fall.

In the same way that God's creation stands as a source of God in us, we must also face the evil that came as a result of the fall.

1. The Source of Evil.

- **Satan** - Scripture portrays a host of living, intelligent beings with individuality and personality called angels. Some of these rebelled against God, from which is the origin of evil.

Isaiah 14:13-14 *For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; {14}I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'*

- **This rebellion against God's established order brought divine judgment.**

With this judgement, Lucifer, with a great number of angelic beings were judged. Lucifer's name was changed to Satan, and from his arrogance was born an unending hatred of God.

Luke 10:18 *And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. It was this being, this great adversary of God and His people, who came in the dawning of the world in the guise of a serpent to tempt Eve.*

2. The Temptation and Satan's Strategies - Genesis 3:1-6.

■ **Isolation - vs 1 - "he said to the woman..."**

He first isolated Eve from Adam. He gave them no opportunity to strengthen each others' resolve to choose the good.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 *Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. **But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.** Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

■ **He questioned God's Word & motive - vs 1&3 - "Has God indeed said..."**

He then cast doubt on God's word and motives. Did God have a selfish motive for restriction? God has warned of death. Satan cried, "you will not surely die."

With the questioning of God's word and motive, two opposing views now stood in contrast to one another. A choice had to be made.

■ **He also focused Eve's attention on desirable ends - vs. 6 ... a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.**

This is very similar to what we call "situation ethics." Never mind the fact that the means to an end involves disobedience to God. Act only on examination of the supposed results.

■ **Satan also proposed a mixed good as the end: vs. 5** (TLB) *"you will become like Him, for your eyes will be opened--you will be able to distinguish good from evil!"*

How could becoming more like God be wrong? What he is really doing is appealing to her sense of pride.

■ **The appeal of the senses - vs. 6 ... that it was pleasant to the eyes.**

How could anything that looked and smelled so pleasant be bad?

3. The Choice and the Sin.

Genesis 3:6 *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.***

Led along by the tempter, Eve made her choice. She rejected trust in God and confidence in His wisdom and, as Satan himself had before her, Eve determined to follow her own will and reject God's. Then she offered the fruit to Adam, and he too ate.

■ **What does sin mean.** There are three primary words for "sin" in the Hebrew language. Each of them implies the existence of a standard of righteousness established by God.

(1) *hata'* means to miss the **mark**," or to "fall short of the divine standard."

(2) *Pesa'* is usually rendered by "**rebellion**" or "transgression," and indicates revolt against the standard.

(3) *'Awon*, translated by "**iniquity**" or "guilt," is a "twisting of the standard or deviation from it."

Sin not only blinds us and leaves the good beyond our grasp, but sin also twists our will, moving us to desire and to choose what we know is wrong.

Adam and Eve fell short of God's requirements. They did so by obeying rationalized desire rather than obeying the command of God.

4. **The Consequences of Sin.**

■ **Death** - When God set that single tree to stand as a testimony to man's freedom, He warned, "*When you eat of it you will surely die*" - Genesis 2:17.

Death in Scripture involves not only a return of the body to dust, but also a terrible distortion of the divine order. Death involves a warping of the human personality, a twisting of relationships, and alienation from God and God's ways. Ephesians describes man's state apart from Christ as "dead in your transgressions and sins.

■ **Adam's death and sin were spread throughout the world.**

Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned;*

Q. Were we created to be eternal beings?

Adam had been created in God's image. Then came the choice and, with it death. The history of human kind is a dark record of the rule of death, and stands as a grim testimony to the truth of God.

■ **Death was demonstrated in the following ways:**

1. The shame that spread as Adam and Eve recognized their nakedness - Genesis. 3:7.
2. Their plight from God - vss. 8-9.
3. Adam's refusal to accept responsibility for his choice - vs 12.
4. Judgement on earth for man's sake - vss 17-19.
5. In the anger of Cain, whose bitterness led him to murder his brother - Genesis 4:8.
6. In the civilization that sprang up as the family of man multiplied.

■ **Paradise was lost.**

Genesis 3:23-24 *therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. {24} So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*¹

IV. The Recovery of Hope.

Even though Genesis 3 and 4 share the tragedy of fallen man, God does not leave us without hope. We find hope in God's action. He atones or covers our sins.

■ **God clothes Adam and Eve with animal skins.**

Genesis 3:21 *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

This is the first implication that for redemption, blood must be shed. This first blood spoke of sacrifice, and sacrifice speaks of Christ. Because the life of the flesh is in the blood, blood is therefore the atoning agent for man's sin.

¹For further study on the subject of sin and repentance see, <http://kenbirks.com/repentance.html>

Leviticus 17:11 *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*

Hebrews 9:22 *And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

Just as God atoned for Adam and Eve's sin with garments of clothing from a sacrificial animal, He clothes us with the garments of salvation, a robe of righteousness from the sacrificial offering of His Son.

Isaiah 61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, MY soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

■ **Hope was found in the fact that God sought out the sinning pair.**

God came into the Garden seeking Adam, just as Jesus came into the world to seek and to save those who were lost. God always initiates the action. Eg. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love Him, because He first loved us.

■ **Hope was found in the promise of God that an Offspring of the woman would destroy the serpent.**

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

V. Concluding Remarks.

In tracing the story of sin through Scripture we find the ultimate solution. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" - Romans 3:23.

The Blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse us from all sin. Just as God used the blood of the animal to make atonement for Adam & Eve's sin, He has chosen to use the blood of His only begotten Son to make atonement for our sins.

The day is coming when creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Romans 8:19-21 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. {20}For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; {21}because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

This is our destiny, and this is our hope. One day the fullness of the image of God will be fully restored.

VI. Homework.

1. Understanding that you were created in God's image, write down at least one thing that you really like about yourself. _____

2. Think of a couple of successes you have experienced at sometime in your life and show how that success was the result of some ability given by God, but found first in Hm.

3. Think of a time when you were tempted. Get the incident clearly in mind, and then answer these questions about it:

- Was I alone, or with other Christians? _____
- Did what I was tempted by seem desirable? _____
- Did what I was tempted by seem to lead to something good?
- Did what I was tempted by not seem so bad, even though I knew it was not God's will? _____

4. Read and meditate on Psalm 51. Make David's prayer you own, as you seek to be come sensitive to sin and to God's great remedy in Christ. Write your thoughts below:
