

LESSON **12**: God's Provision and Judgment; The Birth of Cain and Abel

REVIEW questions from Lesson 11.

1. Did God call Adam because God didn't know where Adam and Eve were? **No, God knew where they were. God wanted them to voluntarily come to Him and admit their sin.**
2. Can anyone hide from God? **No, God sees us at all times, no matter where we are.**
3. Why did God have the right to call Adam and question him?
 - a. **God was Adam's Creator.**
 - b. **Adam and Eve belonged to God.**
 - c. **God made Adam to love and obey Him.**
4. Why does God have the right to demand obedience? **Because He gave life to everyone.**
5. What was God's curse on the snake? **From that time, it was to move by crawling on its belly.**
6. What can Satan and the spirits hide from God? **They cannot hide anything from God. He knows their every thought.**
7. Whom did God promise to send? **God promised to send a Deliverer.**
8. How was this Deliverer to come? **Through the seed of the woman.**
9. What did God say that the virgin's Son would do? **He would over-come Satan and deliver man from death and Satan's power.**
10. Why did God promise to send a Deliverer for man? **Because God loves all people.**
11. Did Adam and Eve deserve God's love and His promise of a Deliverer? **No, they deserved to go to everlasting punishment.**
12. How would you describe to someone else the meaning of grace? **Grace is giving what is needed rather than what is deserved.**
13. Why didn't we talk about God's grace and mercy during the first lessons on creation? **Grace and mercy are God's responses to man's sin and were not needed by man before he sinned.**
14. What evidence is there in the world today of God's curse on Adam and Eve? **Sickness, sorrow, birth pains, death, hard work, thorns and weeds, droughts, devastating storms, poisonous plants, animal and insect pests. These are all signs of God's curse.**

16. Who were the first parents of all people? **Adam and Eve.**

17. Why do all people die? **Because Adam disobeyed God, all Adam's descendants die.**

A. Introduction

The Bible is true history. The events recorded in Genesis 3 affected **all** mankind—every person today—you and me. God had these things recorded in His Word so we could read them and gain understanding.

God communicated these things to us because He wants us to know Him. As we continue to read, let's give special consideration to what **God** was doing in this critical passage of the history of mankind.

B. God refused the clothing which Adam and Eve had made.

Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

Theme: Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan.

Genesis 3:21 (NLT)

²¹ And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

Let's read again what Adam and Eve had done to try to cover their nakedness.

Genesis 3:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

⁷ At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

- They made themselves coverings of leaves.
- Because they had disobeyed God, they were embarrassed to have God see them naked.

But God refused to accept the clothes which Adam and Eve had made.

- Why?

He wanted to teach them that they couldn't do **anything** to make themselves acceptable to God. God will not accept anything that is done according to man's ideas. God only accepts whatever is done according to His way.

No one can make himself acceptable to God by what he does. People today still do many things to try to make themselves acceptable to God; they try to "cover" for their sins, just as Adam and Eve did.

Example:

Some people think that if they go to church or do a lot of good deeds, it will help to make up for the wrongs they have done. You can probably think of lots of other examples of this kind of "do-it-yourself" covering for sin. God sees right through it, and it is completely unacceptable to Him. We must instead come to God and find His way to make us acceptable to Him. He simply

won't accept anything we could ever do. No matter how thoughtful or religious or costly our efforts might seem to us, they will never cover our sins in such a way that God will not see them and require the death payment.

Reference: Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8,9

C. God killed animals.

Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

The first death in the world was brought about by sin.

- God killed animals.

The animals' blood was shed. God then took the skins off the animals.

- Adam and Eve did not do this; God killed the animals, and He took the skins off.
- God was reminding Adam and Eve that disobedience to Him brought death into the world.

D. God provided clothing for Adam and Eve.

Theme: God is loving, merciful, and gracious.

Why did God kill the animals?

To provide clothing for guilty Adam and Eve.

- God provided them with clothing made from the skins of the animals which He had killed.
- God did this for Adam and Eve, even though they did not deserve it.

Only God could supply them with clothing which would make them acceptable to Him.

E. God put coats of skin on Adam and Eve.

God put coats of skin on Adam and Eve.

- He didn't just give them clothing and tell them to put it on.
- God put the clothing, which He made, on Adam and Eve.

F. God put Adam and Eve out of the garden, away from the tree of life.

Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

Genesis 3:22-23 (NLT)

²² Then the LORD God said, "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!"

²³ So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit said this.

- They were talking about Adam and Eve.
- When God first made Adam and Eve, they didn't know anything evil or bad.
- They only knew what was good.

Everything God made and gave to them was good.
Everything God told them to do was good.

- But when they disobeyed God their Creator, they found that not everything was good. Satan had deceived Eve so she thought the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would be good for food. But as soon as Adam and Eve ate that fruit:

- They were filled with shame and fear.

Someone may ask, “If God created everything perfect, how could anything be bad?” You might remind them that Satan had chosen to disobey God. He was evil. ☐

- They now knew that not everything was good but that some things were evil.

Adam and Eve should have trusted God.

- God knew what was good and what was evil.
- Adam and Eve should have trusted Him to tell them instead of finding out for themselves.

God had given them every good thing to eat—He had even offered to them the opportunity to eat from the tree of life.

But they had chosen to disobey God and to eat, instead, from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—the one tree from which God had forbidden them to eat.

Now, because they had disobeyed God, He would not allow them to eat of the tree of life.

Consider:

Genesis 3:22 says that the reason God put them out of the garden was so that they would not eat of the tree of life and live forever. This was actually an act of God’s mercy.

- God did not want men to physically live forever as sinners.

(Can you imagine what the world would be like if all the evil men that ever lived were still alive now?)

- *By putting man outside of the garden, God allowed the consequence of sin to take its eventual toll—that is, death.*

Because they were separated from God, they would also have to die physically.

Therefore, God put Adam and Eve, the father and mother of us all, out of the garden, away from the tree of life.

Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.

- God had put them in the garden and told them they could eat of the tree of life.
- Now that they were sinful before Him, God put them out of the garden, away from the tree of life so they would die.

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Compare:

When Satan sinned, God put him out of his wonderful position in Heaven. Now, because of God’s hatred for sin, He also put Adam and Eve out of the garden.

God doesn’t ask anyone what He should do; He is the supreme one in the whole universe.

- No one can fight against God and win.
- We cannot trick or deceive Him.

God hates disobedience to His commands and will not allow any disobedient person to live with Him.

G. God put cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life.

Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

Genesis 3:24 (NLT)

²⁴ After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

At the east of the garden of Eden, God put some of His good angels called cherubim and a sword of fire which turned every way to make sure that Adam and Eve could not return and eat the fruit from the tree of life.

- If they had tried to go back, the good angels of God would have seen them, and they would have been killed by the sword of fire.
- There was nothing they could do.³
- When God put them out of the garden, that was the end.
- There was absolutely no way they could get back to the tree of life.

They would now grow old and die.

H. God is the giver of life.

Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.

Genesis 4:1 (NLT)

¹ Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the LORD's help, I have produced a man!"

Eve said this because she knew that God is the giver of all life.

- God made Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into him to give him life.
- God made Eve from Adam's rib.
- Every person is given life by God.
- Your life was given to you by God.

- Psalm 100:3 says, "*Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves....*"

CHRONOLOGICAL CHART: POINT TO THE NAMES, "CAIN AND ABEL"

I. Cain and Abel were both born outside of the garden.

Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

Genesis 4:2 (NLT)

² Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground.

Because Adam and Eve had sinned against God, they were put outside of the garden, away from the tree of life.

- Cain and Abel were born outside of the garden, away from the tree of life, because Adam their father was outside of the garden.
- Cain and Abel were born sinners because their father Adam was a sinner.

Had Adam not sinned, Cain and Abel would have been born with the ability to know, love, and obey God.

Psalm 100:3; Acts 17:25

Instead, they were born under Satan's control. When God created Adam and Eve, they were perfect before God, and He loved and accepted them.

- If they had obeyed Him, then they would have continued to live

in the garden and eat of the tree of life.

- Their children would have been born perfect and would also have lived in the garden.
- They, too, would have loved God and been fully accepted by Him.

But because of Adam's sin in eating the forbidden fruit, Cain and Abel were born sinners, separated from God, outside of the garden, and away from the tree of life.

Not only was Adam the father of Cain and Abel, but he was also the father of the whole human race.

- Adam was your forefather.
- He was my forefather.
- He was everyone's forefather.

Therefore, because Adam disobeyed God and was separated from Him, all people in this world are born sinners, cut off from God and with Satan as their father.

Explain:

We do not like to think of being born with a disposition to sin. But think for a moment about children. Have you ever seen a little child who is totally unselfish? No. Children must be taught to share and to care about others. Children are not born with a nature to obey; they must be taught. Have you ever heard a tiny child learn to say "yes" before he learned to say "no"? Have you ever seen a little child who wanted to do everything that his parents asked him to do, just when his parents asked him to do it?

No. Children are self-willed (some more than others) and must be taught to submit themselves to their parents' authority and to God's authority.

Both our heredity and our environment strongly influence our development. We are, in many ways, a product of our parents, and of their parents, and of their parents' parents, and so on, all the way back to Adam. We have inherited not only genetic characteristics and behavioral and cultural patterns from our forebears; we have also inherited the disposition to sin. We are the product of sinners; and the line of sin can be traced through every generation right back to Adam, the father of the human race.

God is the one who gives life to all people, but we are not born in friendship or oneness with God.

What Does This Mean?

It means that we, too, just like Cain and Abel, were born unable to know, love, and obey God. From birth we are under Satan's control.

- It is important that we realize we were born sinners.
- We were born separated from God, with Satan as our father, just as every other human being was born separated from God.

We must also remember that, even though we are born sinners, it is God who has given us life.

- All life comes from God.
- All life is owned by God.
- He created everyone and everything.

Contrast:

Some people like to think that we are "all God's children." This is a very comforting thought and sounds very loving and religious. In a very subtle way, people are using this idea to relieve their minds of considering the possibility that God would ever reject them.

But this kind of thinking is totally unscriptural. Yes, God created us. But as we have just discussed, Adam's sin put all men into Satan's family. So we are not born "God's children," but Satan's children, cut off from God.

J. Conclusion

What we are reading from the Bible is true history.

- Adam and Eve were real people, and we are their descendants.
- God mentions their story and their names even in the New Testament.
- Adam and Eve's sin affected all of us.

God has written these things for us so we can know Him.

Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.

God has not changed; He sees and knows everything we do.

- There is no place where we can hide from Him.
- It is impossible to deceive or trick God.
- Darkness and light are the same to God.
- There is never a time when we are out of His sight.
- He even knows our every thought.

In our next lesson we will study about God's dealings with the children of Adam and Eve.

GOD ADAM and ALL Adam's Descendants

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW:

1. Why did God refuse the clothes which Adam and Eve made?
Because God wanted to teach Adam and Eve that they couldn't do anything to make themselves acceptable to God.
2. Can a person make himself acceptable to God by putting on good

- clothes or by anything that he does? *No.*
3. What are some of the things you can think of that men do to try to make themselves acceptable to God?
4. Will God accept any of these things? *No.*
5. Who is the only one who could make Adam and Eve acceptable to God? *God.*
6. Why did God kill animals to make clothing for Adam and Eve? *Because God was reminding Adam and Eve that the punishment for sin is death.*
7. Why did God make them clothes? *Because, even though they had sinned, He still loved them, and He wanted to show them that He was the only one who could make them acceptable to Him.*
8. In what way did Adam and Eve become like God after they ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? *They now knew that there was evil as well as good.*
9. Why did God put Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden? *So that they wouldn't be able to eat the fruit from the tree of life and live forever in sin.*
10. How did God make sure they wouldn't be able to return? *He placed angels called cherubim and a sword of fire flashing every direction to keep them away.*
11. Can anyone trick or deceive God? *No.*
12. Who gives every person his life? *God.*
13. Where were Cain and Abel born? *Outside of the garden of Eden.*
14. Why were Cain and Abel born sinners and separated from God? *Because of their father, Adam.*
15. Why were we all born sinners and separated from God? *Because Adam is also our father.*

Lesson 13: God's Dealings with the Children of Adam & Eve