

Bi121 Old Testament

Lesson Bi121- 3 Disobedience (Genesis 3)

In today's lesson, you will learn how people first turned away from God. They believed the lies that Satan told them and failed to obey their loving Creator. But in the middle of their failure, they received God's first promise about the coming of Jesus.

Everything was going so well. God had created Adam and Eve and provided all they needed in the Garden of Eden. He would come and walk with them in the beautiful Garden in the cool of the day. One of the creatures also living there was the snake, the most clever of all the animals. Now Satan was an angelic being who served God in the heavenly realms until his heart became evil. One day Satan used the snake to speak to Eve, "Is it true God will not let you eat from all the trees in the garden?"

Eve answered, "Oh, we can eat from all the trees. That is, except for the one in the middle. God said that we are not to eat that fruit, or even to touch it. He says if we do, we will die."

"It is not true!" the snake responded. "You will not die. God told you that because He knows if you eat that fruit, you will be like Him—knowing good, as well as evil."

The woman saw that the fruit was beautiful and looked delicious and was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she picked the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it too. Immediately they realized they were naked. So they sewed some fig leaves together to make coverings for themselves.

As evening approached, they heard God walking in the garden. They realized they were afraid of God, so they hid among the trees. "Adam, where are you?"

Adam knew he had to answer. "Lord, I heard you walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid."

"Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat of the tree from which I told you not to eat?"

"It was the woman you gave me. She gave me the fruit, and...yes, I ate it."

God turned to Eve, "Why did you do this?"

"The snake, the snake tricked me into eating it!" she cried.

God turned to the snake and said, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the animals. From now on, you will crawl on your belly and eat dust. There will be hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and hers. He will crush your head, and you will only bruise his heel." By saying this God was actually referring to the battle between Satan

and Jesus, who was a descendant both of Eve and of God. By dying on the cross for the sins of all mankind, Jesus would ensure Satan's ultimate defeat. Satan brought about Christ's crucifixion "bruising his heel." However, Satan did not realize God would raise Jesus from the dead. This promise in the Garden is the first mention of God's plan of salvation.

Looking back at the woman God said, "Your pain will be great when you give birth to children. You will desire a relationship with your husband despite risking pregnancy and death, and he will dominate you. From now on there will be a power struggle between husbands and wives. This was not My plan, but I am telling you how life will be since sin has entered the world.

God said to Adam, "I made it very clear that you were not to eat from that tree. Because you have disobeyed, the ground is cursed. From now on your work will be hard and the ground will sprout thorns and weeds. You will be able to grow plants to feed your family, but painful labor will mark your life. Today you are beginning to die. Eventually your body will return to the soil from which I made you."

God killed some animals and dressed the man and his wife in clothes made out of their skins. This act foreshadowed Christ shedding His blood to make possible a covering for our sin.

God said, "Mankind has become like us, knowing evil as well as good. They will try to get to the Tree of Life so they can live forever." So God put Adam and Eve out of the Garden. God put Cherubim, who are angelic beings, with a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the Tree of Life. Adam and Eve found a place to live and to grow food from the soil. There they began their family.

This story is important because it shows how our first parents responded to the choice that God gave them. He allowed them to choose between following their own desires or obeying God's plan for them. It is also significant in helping us to understand that God had a plan from the very beginning to provide salvation through Jesus.

The main truth this story teaches is that although the first man and woman were given a perfect world, they chose to sin against God and go their own way. The rest of God's Word shows us how our loving God has been working to bring people back into relationship and fellowship with himself.

Let's review this lesson—

1. What was the response of Adam and Eve to God after they sinned?
 - A. [Pause for 8 seconds.] If you said, "Adam was afraid (because he was naked) so he hid from God," you are correct.
2. What was the promise God made about the seed of the woman, about the coming of Jesus?
 - A. [Pause for 8 seconds.] If you said, "He will crush the head of the serpent, and you will bruise his heel," you are correct.
3. Why do you think the killing of animals to give coverings to Adam and his wife is important?

- A. [Pause for 8 seconds.] If you said, “It is a picture of Christ’s death and the blood He shed to cover our sins,” you are correct.
- 4. How did God punish Adam and Eve?
 - A. [Pause for 8 seconds.] If you said, “He put them out of the Garden and set Cherubim to guard the entrance,” you are correct.

Your assignment for this lesson is to listen to the story at least three times. As you hear the story each time, imagine how it happened; see the events in your mind. Then tell the story in your own words as you remember it. Then listen to the story again and retell it until you feel sure you are repeating the circumstances and actions correctly. You should spend at least 45 minutes in learning the story. You may need to have someone check that you are telling the story correctly.

This story shows us that though mankind disobeyed and sinned, God provided for them. He already had a plan to defeat Satan and provide a way of salvation for all who will believe in Jesus. He wants to give hope in the middle of defeat and failure. Find someone you know who may be in such a situation and tell them this story about the first man and the first woman. Ask them if you can pray for them to be set free from the power of Satan in their lives.