

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-22 The Fall of Man

In our previous lessons we learned that God created the earth in that part of the universe which was under Satan's authority. After creating the sun, the moon, and the visible stars He created all of the plants and animals. He then planted a garden in the east called the Garden of Eden. God planted in the garden the Tree of Life. In the middle of the garden He planted the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God then fulfilled His purpose for creation, by creating Adam and Eve. They were the first of His children. Now Satan and his angels watched all of this intently. God was doing something special and unique on this planet and if it was important to God, then it would be important to Satan. Perhaps there would be an opportunity for Satan to get revenge against God.

The Garden of Eden was the perfect place for Adam and Eve to live. It was not too hot in the day or too cold in the evening. The weather was perfect. Adam and Eve were completely naïve and innocent. Although created in adult bodies, their minds and souls were young and childlike. Each day was an adventure as they explored God's amazing garden. There was fruit growing on many of the trees within easy reach, so meals were nothing more than deciding what to pick. The animals in the garden were not dangerous either, so Adam's and Eve's life in the garden was easy. The weather was perfect, food was plentiful, and there were no dangers. Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed as they were pure and innocent.

Things were perfect for God as well. He had created Adam and Eve to be His children. He had created them in His likeness and image. Built within them were many of His qualities and characteristics. His children had great potential. And just like He was love, God had created within Adam and Eve the ability to love.

Each day God would appear in the Garden and walk with Adam and Eve. Although He knew everything they did, including their thoughts, this was the time for them to be in His presence. And like a Father with His young children, God had begun the process of revealing himself to them. Each day He would express His love to Adam and Eve through His presence. The only thing that God sought in return was for them to love Him. The time would soon come when they would learn about His holiness and perfection. That time was rapidly approaching.

Now Satan had watched all of this closely. These human creatures were so small and insignificant compared to him. What was so special about them? Why was God spending so much time on them? What was God's purpose in all of this? Satan watched intently day after day until he understood that these frail humans had been created for the purpose of love and relationship with God. Once Satan understood their purpose, he then understood how he could use them for his revenge. God wanted them for love and relationship. Simple. Satan just had to find a way to break the relationship. This would be easy for this great cherub. He was billions of years old and had experiences beyond comprehension. Adam and Eve would be no match for him. And God had created the very tool for Satan's revenge. God had planted in the middle of the Garden the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and had commanded them not to eat of

it. Satan understood God's holiness. He knew firsthand what would happen if Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Now it was just a matter of finding the best approach.

Adam had been created first. From the beginning he had relationship with God. Then Eve had been created. She had been created for Adam as a suitable partner. Was this something Satan could exploit? Slowly, with great planning, Satan prepared his revenge. First, he would need a disguise.

One day Adam and Eve were in the middle of the Garden. Satan had entered into a snake to disguise his presence. As they walked past the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, Satan was there hanging from one of the branches. He called out to Eve.

"Hello, Eve." Satan hissed from the snake.

"Hello, serpent," Eve replied.

"What are you doing, Eve?" Satan asked.

"I am gathering fruit to eat," she answered.

"Did not God say that you were not permitted to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" Satan asked slyly.

"Oh no, that is not what God said. He said that we could eat from any tree we wanted; only we were not to eat from this tree here in the middle of the Garden. We are not even to touch it or we will die!" Eve said as she pointed to the very tree that the snake was hanging from.

"Really? Hmm. You will die if you touch this tree?" The snake said as he twisted his head to look back at his long body wrapped around one of the tree's branches. "You surely won't die if you touch this tree or if you eat its fruit. The fruit of this tree gives wisdom to those who eat it. I think that God knows that when you eat from this tree that your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good from evil."

Eve looked at the tree and its fruit very closely. The fruit was beautiful and enticing. Plus it would make them very wise. Why did God not want them to eat of this fruit? Now Eve was innocent and naïve. No one had ever lied or deceived her. She accepted everything that she was told as being true. What the serpent, that is Satan, had told her had to be true. Surely she and her husband would not die if they ate the fruit, rather they would become like God, having wisdom and knowing good from evil. This would be a good thing. Satan deceived her and convinced her that a lie was the truth. So the Bible says Eve picked some fruit and ate it. "She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it" (Gen 3:6). Perhaps Adam wanted to please God, but he also wanted to please Eve, so he ate the fruit too.

Suddenly an uneasy feeling came upon them. It was something they had never felt before. This feeling gnawed at their minds and then overwhelmed their emotions. Even their stomachs began to turn and feel discomfort. In that moment they suddenly experienced guilt and

shame for the first time. They looked at each other with great sadness. Their innocence was gone. They had chosen to love themselves and their own opinion rather than to first love and obey God. They would never be the same. And for the first time they recognized that they were naked, and they were ashamed. So Adam and Eve picked leaves and wove them into coverings to wrap around their waists to cover their nakedness. And then they heard the sound of footsteps in the garden. It was that time of the day when God would spend time with them. But they were so ashamed they hid.

Now God already knew what had happened. He had foreseen the events of this day even before He had created the universe. It was going to be a day of great pain and sorrow.

The lesson is **important** because it explains how evil came into the Garden and how Satan was the agent behind the temptation and fall of our first parents.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that because Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered the world. For the first time they experienced guilt and shame and they hid from God.

Let's **review** what you learned in this lesson.

1. What was the name of the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said, "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," you are correct.
2. Who deceived Eve into eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
[Pause]
A. If you said Satan, disguised as a serpent, you answered correctly.
3. What did Adam and Eve feel after they ate the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? [Pause]
A. If you said that Adam and Eve felt guilt and shame, you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to review it until you are able to repeat the story to someone else. Then, tell someone this story about mankind's first sin.