

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-25 God's Laws

In our previous lessons we learned about the creation of Adam and Eve and how Satan, disguised as a serpent, deceived them. Mankind was created with the instincts for self-preservation, self-gratification, and selfishness or greed. These instincts were necessary for humans to survive, but were designed to be balanced by a relationship with God. When Adam and Eve sinned their relationship with their Father God was broken and thus, without God to balance them, there was nothing left but self. This is our sinful nature.

God is not a God of confusion but is a God of order. The Bible tells us that God does not change; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This is His nature. It is the way He is. You could say that He is a God of laws, or rules and principles. All of nature reflects this. Scientists have studied nature for thousands of years and have defined some of the laws of nature. Gravity is one of these. Things on the earth always fall down and never fall up. Gravity pulls everything downward. The Law of Gravity is used to explain many things in God's creation. Scientists use gravity to explain why the earth circles the sun and why the moon circles the earth. It has always been this way.

God's laws not only govern how the universe works, but also govern the spirit world. All living beings, including angels, are subject to God's laws and rules. Anyone or anything that would defy God and break His laws would be subject to His judgment. The story of Adam and Eve is the first record of His law being broken. And we know that there was a dire and severe judgment. Their relationship with God was broken and they were expelled from the Garden of Eden, which led to their deaths.

Most people believe that Satan breaks God's laws every day. But this is not accurate. Satan is actually very careful not to break the law. Remember, he was expelled from the presence of God, not for something that he had done, but rather because of the sin that was in his heart. He has seen what happens to those who break God's laws. First, he saw what happened to Adam and Eve. Then later he saw what happened to some of his own angels.

Anything that is created directly by an act of God is called a son of God. We find in the Bible that Adam was called the son of God. This is because God directly created him. We also know that Jesus was called the Son of God. Luke was a follower of Christ who wrote an account of Jesus' life and ministry. Luke wrote in his Gospel that the messenger angel Gabriel said this to Mary who would become the mother of Jesus: "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God**" (Luke 1:35). So Jesus, who was completely God, was also completely man. The man Jesus was called the Son of God not based on His being God, but rather because His physical body came into being as the direct act of God. Finally, we know that all of the angels were directly created by God. In the Old Testament the angels are also called the sons of God. We must be careful to understand that Jesus is God, whereas Adam and the angels are merely God's creations. You will learn more about Jesus as God in a later theology course.

Here is what the Bible says happened to some of Satan's angels. We read about this in the books of Genesis and Jude. It was during the time before God would destroy the world with the great flood. The descendants of Adam and Eve were increasing in number. God had created in man the power to create human life. Human sexuality was designed by God not only to create children but also to bring great joy and pleasure. This is why God created marriage. It is God's plan that through a marriage a man and a woman will enjoy sexual relations and have children. Sexuality outside of marriage is disobedience to God's laws.

Sexuality like this did not exist in the spirit world among the angels. Satan's fallen angels watched this with keen interest. Some of them decided to break one of God's laws. They crossed over into the physical universe and had sexual relationships with the beautiful daughters of mankind. This was in direct defiance to God. They had abandoned the spirit world where they were supposed to live and had entered the physical universe to dwell among mankind. And for their disobedience they were bound in chains and locked in a prison of darkness. They are there to this very day as they await their final judgment.

Of course Satan watched these events transpire. He has seen firsthand that God will not allow anyone or anything to break His law and go unpunished. Satan would have to be very careful in his affairs with mankind. He would have to obey the rules or he too would become condemned. One of Eve's descendants would one day destroy his power and authority. He would have to be very careful in his attacks upon mankind.

We find a few brief stories in the Bible that demonstrate how careful Satan is to obey the limitations placed upon him by God. There was a great man named Job, who loved and obeyed God. He was very wealthy and had a large family with many sons and daughters. One day the sons of God, that is, all of the angels, went to present themselves before God. Satan went too.

"Where have you been, Satan?" God asked.

"I have been walking to and fro across the earth." Satan replied.

"Have you seen my servant Job?" God asked.

"Of course Job serves you," Satan answered. "Why wouldn't he? You have blessed him greatly. But, take away his blessing and I am sure he will curse you."

"Satan, you may attack everything he owns but you are not allowed to touch the man himself." God said, giving Satan permission to interfere in Job's life.

And so the story of Job and all of his troubles began. Satan would attack Job, his possessions, his children, and finally Job's health. He would do all this with permission from God. But he was very careful to never exceed what he was allowed to do. Satan knew that to break God's commands would result in extreme punishment. For Job, the good news is that at the end of his trials, God blessed him again and he became greater than before (Job 42:10-13).

Another example of Satan testing people is in the New Testament. He also did this with permission. Jesus had gathered His twelve disciples to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover. This would be Jesus' last supper. Later that evening Jesus would be arrested, which would lead to His crucifixion. During this supper Jesus was talking with his disciple Peter. Jesus said to him, "Peter, Satan has asked permission to test you. But I have prayed for you that your faith does not fail" (Luke 22:31). So yet again we see that Satan is following rules and that he cannot just do anything that he wants. If he is going to destroy mankind, he must do it in such a way that mankind chooses to destroy themselves. We will learn more about this in our next lesson.

This lesson is **important** because it illustrates how Satan works within God's limitations, to cause people to follow him and not God. God sustains His children in the midst of their trials.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God has absolute laws that rule His universe. No one, not even Satan or his angels, can break God's laws without being punished.

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

1. What happened to the fallen angels who left the spirit world to have sex with humans? [Pause]
A. If you said that they were bound in chains and locked in darkness awaiting their judgment, you answered correctly.
2. Does Satan have to obey God's laws? [Pause]
A. If you said that Satan must obey God's laws, then you are correct.
3. Human sexuality was created by God, but was only to be used in what way? [Pause]
A. If you said in a marriage between a man and woman, you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to review it as many times as is necessary to understand the principle of God and His absolute laws that even Satan must obey. Think about how God's laws govern nature and how man should obey His laws as well. Then, discuss these truths with someone.