

God's Redemptive Plan

Lesson 4

The Fall

In the first three studies we have focused on man's purpose and place in the world, prior to his fall into sin. This is important because the goal of redemption, is not to scrap God's original plans, but to restore them. Man's work and position in the world remains the same, but has been greatly complicated by the presence of sin and death. Before we can undertake the study of how God has gone about putting the world shattered by the first Adam back together in the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, we need to look at what the Bible teaches about the consequences of Adam's sin.

I. Opening Discussion Questions:

- A. What major thoughts that came to mind as you read this material?
- B. Adam & Eve's attempt to hide from God is ridiculous, but what things do you or others do to try to hide from God?

II. What does hiding from God indicate about a change in man's heart?

- A. Man in his sin hate's God, fears God's judgment, and desires to eliminate God from his thinking (though this is not possible).
- B. Rom 1:28-32

III. Is Adam willing to take responsibility for his sin?

- A. He tries to blame Eve, who tries to blame the serpent.
- B. In both cases, the blame is really passing to God!

IV. Cursed on account of sin (Gen 3:14-19)

- A. *V. 14-15 So the LORD God said **to the serpent**: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust all the days of your life. 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."*

- 1. What might this imply about the serpents mode of movement before the curse?
- 2. Do you hear the first promise of redemption in these words?

- B. *V.16 **To the woman** He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*

- 1. This is a synecdoche (one instance represents a much larger category). The point is that woman is cursed in relation to her primary sphere which is her relationship to her family. Because of sins presence in our lives, the joy of her home will be frustrated and tinged with pain and strife.
- 2. To properly interpret the third clause, "your desire shall be..." look at the parallel language of Gen 4:7.

- C. *V.17 Then **to Adam** He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19*

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

1. Whereas Eve's curse related to the domestic sphere, Adam's curse focuses on his orientation toward the world and the work he would perform in it.
 2. Endless complications and frustrations are the lot of man whether he labors as a farmer, engineer, scientist or businessman.
 3. At the end of his hard and often vexing life, he will die and sink into the earth, over which he was created to be the master.
- V. The cursing of the earth and human relationships on account of man's sin is a hard thing for humanity to bear. However, creation was subjected to this for benevolent reasons.
- A. Ecclesiastes 1:12-15; 3:9-14 speak of God subjecting the world to futility for reasons known only to Him, but he adds that the futility of life causes men to revere God.
 - B. The promise of redemption through the work of the second Adam is major theme in scripture:
 1. Rom 5:12-21
 2. 1 Cor 15:21-26
 3. Rom 8:19-25
- VI. What did God provide for Adam and Eve to cover their shame? What does this imply?
- A. Man always thinks he can fix his mistakes and is quite ingenious at cooking up ways to cover his guilt and shame, but God alone can provide adequate cover for sin.
 - B. This sacrifice is the first foreshadowing of the blood of Christ that would take away our sin.
- VII. Why did God banish them from the garden?
- A. To go on living in his fallen state would have been a terrible outcome for man.
 - B. Temporary banishment from the tree of life is act of grace.
- VIII. What was placed where to keep man from entering the garden?
- A. We see Cherubim as the guardians of holy space elsewhere in scripture
 1. Ex 25:19f - cover the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant.
 2. Ex 26:1f - the veil of the tabernacle had cherubim woven into it.
 - B. Adam had been given the task of "keeping" the garden, but having failed at the task and becoming sinful himself, he is now driven from the garden and new angelic guardians replace him as its "keeper."
 - C. What side of the garden was the gate? This is the same orientation that we will find with the tabernacle.

Summing up, the goal of creation was for man to fill and rule over God's creation. Sin has interrupted and complicated this goal, but the work of redemption should be understood as putting God's original purposes back on track and not an abandonment of His original intent for creation. God hasn't settled for plan "B" but through Christ the second Adam God fixes what the first Adam ruined.

At creation, "God put everything under man...Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor..." (Heb 2:8-9).