LESSON 4

The Creation of Man and the Beginning of Sin

Read: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-9, 15-18, 21-25; 3:1-21

1. Q. Did God create our first parents with a sinful nature?

   A. No, God created them good and in His own image.
2. Q. What does it mean that they were created in the image of God?

   A. It means that they were created with a true knowledge of God and in righteousness and holiness. See Colossians 3:10 & Ephesians 4:24.
3. Q. Why, then, is mankind so sinful?

   A. It is through the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
4. Q. What was their disobedience?

   A. They ate of the fruit of the tree which God had forbidden them.
5. Q. Who tempted Adam and Eve to sin?

   A. Satan, a wicked angel, who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven.

In the last two lessons we have learned much about the sinfulness of man. In this lesson we shall learn how sin came into the world and who is to blame for it.

I. The Creation of Man

1. Q. Out of what did God form man?

   A. Of the _ _ _ _ of the _ _ _ _ _ _ (Genesis 2:7a).
2. Q. Out of what did God make Eve?

   A. Of one of Adam's _ _ _ _ (Genesis 2:22).
3. Q. How did God make man?

   A. God made man in His own _ _ _ _ _ (Genesis 1:27).
4. God breathed into his nostrils the _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ and man became a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Genesis 2:7b).

5. God gave man _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ over the _ _ _ _ of the sea, and over the _ _ _ _ of the air, and over every living _ _ _ _ _ that moveth upon the _ _ _ _ _ (Genesis 1:28b).
6. God tested Adam to see if he would:

   (a) willingly obey Him.

   (b) sin against Him.

   Underline the correct answer.
7. Q. What was the promise if Adam obeyed?

   A. L _ _ _ f _ _ _ _ _ _ (Genesis 2:16; 3:22).
8. Q. What was expected?

   A. Perfect and unconditional o_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .
9. Q. What was the penalty if he disobeyed?

   A. He would s _ _ _ _ _ d_ _ (Genesis 2:17c).
10. Man was created with a free will. Therefore, before the fall he was:

    (a) able to sin.

    (b) able not to sin.

    (c) unable to sin.

    Underline the two correct answers.

II. The Origin of Sin

God created the universe in harmony with Himself. Perfect peace existed between heaven and earth. Man delighted in giving glory to God in accordance with His sovereign will. Adam and Eve lived in unity and happiness. Holiness was the hallmark of God's creation. Alas, Eden's peace and bliss have disappeared. Stealthily, Satan came in between God and man. He drew the divine image bearer away from His Maker. Using the serpent as his instrument, he attempted and succeeded to disrupt the harmony between heaven and earth – between God and man – between Adam and Eve. When the subtle seducer approached the woman, he hid his evil intentions and pretended to seek her best interests. He did not begin with a direct denial of the truth of the Word of God. Instead, he posed a question expressing surprise. His aim was to sow doubt and so to weaken the strength of God's command.

From Genesis 3, we learn that the evil one who seduced Adam and Eve did not begin by immediately suggesting that they should sin, but he misled them step by step.

(1) The tempter tried to sow doubt by just asking a so-called innocent question. What was that question?

"Yea, _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , Ye _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of every _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _?"

See Genesis 3:1

(2) He tempted to unbelief by saying that God's Word was not true. What was the first lie ever spoken here on earth?

"Ye _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ." See Genesis 3:4.

(3) He made a real Satanic attempt to make her proud, by saying, "For _ , then _ _ _ _ eyes _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , and ye shall _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , knowing _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ ." See Genesis 3:5.

(4) The seducer succeeded in impressing on Eve that the forbidden fruit was desirable and attractive. Eve "saw that the tree was good for food, and it was pleasant to the eyes, and _ _ _ _ _ to be _." See Genesis 3:6.

The eager hand of Eve touched and took the forbidden fruit. Eve ate and presented the fruit to Adam. Adam approved and ate with Eve. The seducer had reached his satanic goal. Adam and Eve were fallen creatures. Sadness reigned in the Garden of Eden. The harmony between heaven and earth, between God and man, between Adam and Eve, had been broken. God's creation was marred. Man, created as God's image bearer, no longer bore His Maker's likeness. Adam and Eve became immediately aware of Satan's deception. They felt a cruel discomfort and tried to find a way of hiding from the all-seeing eye of God. However, no attempt to escape could provide the desired relief.

1. From the following verses in Genesis 3, what were the results of the sin of our first parents?
   (a) From verse 7 we learn that the guilty pair was troubled by sh _ _ _ .
   (b) From verse 10 we learn that they were troubled by _ _ _ _ . They were afraid of God and tried to hide from Him.
   (c) From verse 16 we learn that the woman would have _ _ _ _ _ _ in childbearing.
   (d) From verse 19 we learn that Adam would have h _ _ d w_ _ k.
2. Did Adam die, as God said he would, the day he ate of the tree?
   (a) Yes, he did.
   (b) No, he did not.

   Underline the correct answer.

3. Q. What death did Adam die at the time when he sinned?

   A. At that time Adam died physically, spiritually or eternally. *Underline the correct answer.*

4. Q. Whom did Adam blame for his sin?

   A. Adam blamed _ _ _ and _ _ _ also. See Genesis 3:12.

5. Q. Whom did Eve blame for her sin?

   A. Eve blamed _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . See Genesis 3:13b.

6. Q. Whom do we blame when we say, "I cannot help it if I sin, I was made that way.

   A. Then we blame _ _ _ our M _ _ _ _ .

III. The Grievous Consequences of the Fall

What have we to do with the fall of Adam and Eve? The grievous consequences of the fall extended to the entire human race. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). The first sin is the root of all other sins. 'In Adam's fall we sinned all.' Adam, and in Adam the entire human race, fell away from God. Tempted by the evil one, man chose voluntarily the side of Satan and thus became an enemy of God. Terrible and awful are the consequences of the fall of man. The Garden of Eden, once so safe and secure, lost all its harmony and peace. Our first parents and we in them are by nature no longer fit nor worthy of the fellowship of God. God could have justly glorified Himself in the condemnation of all mankind. The great wonder is that God has spoken in this dark and fearsome night. Our offended Maker spoke of an amazing divine compassion. He promised to deliver from sin, the worst of all evils. See Genesis 3:15. In contrast to what they deserved, Adam and Eve received the promise of a most gracious rescue. We can never fully comprehend the richness of God's grace. Divine justice requires that transgressors must be punished. Therefore, God never grants mercy if His justice is not satisfied. Jesus, the gracious Saviour, came to save His people from their sins. As perfectly righteous, Jesus took the place of guilty sinners. He willingly suffered and died an atoning death. He paid the great ransom price to rescue hell-worthy sinners. So, He satisfied divine justice and reconciled a holy God and fallen sinners. When a sinner comes to true repentance, he learns to own his sin and guilt. He mourns, he grieves, he sees his sin, his fall in Adam and his daily transgressions. Like Adam and Eve, he discovers that fig leaves do not cover. No escape is found until the eye of faith, by grace, may look to and rest in Christ. He is the Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness (Zechariah 13:1). In Him, heaven and earth, God and man are reunited.

Evaluator: _____