

Lesson 3

MAN: DISCOVERING OUR PURPOSE

Why am I here?

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It is quite natural that man would seek to understand his origin.

Man's origin is revealed in the first chapter of God's written revelation to man: the Bible.

Those choosing to disbelieve God's revelation are left to explain man's origin apart from the only source of complete and accurate information.

One such explanation is the theory of evolution.

Evolution basically states that man's origin was the result of a cosmic accident.

When considering the awesome complexity and design of man, evolution is an unthinkable explanation of man's origin.

INTRODUCTION

Finding himself in the midst of an incredible universe, and being the highest order of its physical creatures, man quite naturally seeks to understand his own origin, as well as the origin of everything in existence. This is why men in every generation who disregard God's record of man's creation have been forced to live their lives in search of answers to the fundamental questions, WHO am I? WHERE did I come from? WHY am I here? WHERE am I going?

Because NATURE is incapable of revealing the origin of man, and because HISTORY has proven that tradition is not a reliable source of information, we would expect that our CREATOR would provide us with the essential facts of man's creation in His written revelation to us – the BIBLE. In the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, God did just that.

Obviously, not all people choose to believe God's account of the creation of man and the universe. Those who do not, however, are left to explain man's origin apart from the only source of COMPLETE and ACCURATE information in existence. For this reason, there *have been* and *are* many conflicting speculations and theories concerning the origin of man.

One of the most popular views which has arisen in contradiction to God's account of creation is, of course, the theory of evolution.

Simply stated, evolution is the theory that somehow a living cell came into existence; and from this living cell, man evolved by a process of natural selection. Evolution attempts to explain all of the complicated forms of life in the world by this, so called, "natural" process. In effect, evolution proposes that "nothing plus nobody equals everything." It attempts to explain man's existence as nothing but a cosmic ACCIDENT! Does it not take more FAITH to believe that man in his unbelievably complex body, existing in an unbelievably ordered universe is a result of an accident than to believe that there is a God who made all of this happen?

Key quote:

Think of a piano. Where did it come from?

Did it always exist? Give me a big break.

Is it the result of random, catastrophic atmospheric conditions?

Perhaps. Let me paint a possible scenario.

In the midst of a terrific storm a tree is knocked down. As it falls it hits some rocks and pieces of the log are knocked off and caught up in a tornado-like funnel. The wood bumps and grinds as it flies through the air, being shaped by the debris carried with it.

While that is happening, volcanic action forces molten metal through various-sized fissure in the ground and the strands are chopped off by another falling tree. These wires are caught up in the air with the wood.

About that time some little spinners come from somewhere (I don't have that figured out yet) and implant themselves into the wood. That's when some wood stain comes flying by which is followed by some steel wool.

It is then that an elephant walks by and loses his tusks in the force of the wind and the ivories get tickled as the keys are fashioned, formed, and laid down.

As the cataclysm continues, lightning flashes and thunder roars. After a while we have deposited on the ground ... taaaaa dummmmm ... a piano!

What do you think?

What's interesting is that I can't prove it didn't happen that way. But let me give you an option that's infinitely more probable.

I have never seen him, touched him, or smelled him. I wouldn't recognize him if I saw him on the street. But my guess is that there is a piano maker. Why? Because there is a piano and it's a whole lot easier to believe that somebody made it than to believe it happened by chance.

There must be a people maker. His name is God.

– Jay Carty

The purpose of this lesson is not to present a defense for creation, but rather to present a biblical explanation for why God placed each of us on this planet.

This lesson is designed to reveal God's purpose in creating man.

God had a plan when He designed the universe in which we live. He also had a plan when He designed you. The most wonderful experience you can have is to discover and participate in God's plan for your life. – Thomas Ray

The most wonderful experience of life is discovering and participating in God's plan.

The Creation of the Earth

Section A

- ❑ In **Lesson 1** we learned that all things were good as they were originally made because they were made by a perfect and holy God who used Himself as a pattern by which He created all things (Romans 1:20). When the spirit beings called “SONS of God” beheld the EARTH which God created (Genesis 1:1), they sang and shouted for joy because of God's incredible creative power.

Romans 1:20; Genesis 1:1; Job 38:4, 7

In the beginning God created a perfect earth that was so glorious it caused the spirit beings called “sons of God” to sing God's praise.

- ❑ In **Lesson 2** we learned that “the anointed cherub,” Lucifer, enthroned by God on the EARTH as the worship leader of the “sons of God” was lifted up with pride because of his beauty. He was no longer content to simply be God's worship leader or to simply have a throne on the earth. He wanted to make himself EQUAL with God and he wanted to sit in the position for which only God Himself is worthy.

Ezekiel 28:15,17; Isaiah 14:12-14

Lucifer, God's worship leader over the “sons of God,” was lifted up with pride, wanting to make himself equal with God.

- ❑ Because of Lucifer's diabolical rebellion, God not only judged Lucifer; but He also JUDGED the EARTH from which Lucifer had exalted himself. Peter said “...the world that then was (the world upon which Lucifer had his throne) being overflowed with water, perished” (II Peter 3:6). That is why following God's perfect creation of the earth in Genesis 1:1, the earth was without form and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep (Genesis 1:2). God's perfect original earth DIED and lay submerged in water and complete darkness.

Genesis 1:2 a,b; II Peter 3:6

Note: In Isaiah 45:18, God lets us know that the condition of the earth in Genesis 1:2 is not how it had been created!

Because of Lucifer's rebellion, God not only judged him, but the earth from which he had exalted himself. The original earth perished, being submerged in water and darkness.

Section B The Re-creation of the Earth

God's judgment remained on the earth until He moved to continue His plan.

God was moving to continue His plan on the earth through human beings. The original earth that "perished" was re-created in Genesis 1:3-25.

- It is uncertain how long the original earth remained submerged in the waters and darkness of God's judgment, but there came a day when God moved to enact the continuation of His PLAN from the capital of the universe; planet earth. Genesis 1:2c says, "*And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*"
- Because the original earth "perished" (II Peter 3:6), it needed to be RE-CREATED. The remainder of Genesis chapter one (Genesis 1:3-25) is the record of God's re-creation of the earth, preparing it to be used for the fulfillment of His plan through HUMAN BEINGS.

Genesis 1:3-25

Section C The Creation of Man

God created the first man.

Genesis 1:26 records that God gave him three key things: he possessed God's **image**, God's **likeness**, and **dominion** over God's earth.

- After speaking into existence all of the physical aspects of the earth and the universe in the first five days, the three persons of the Godhead on the sixth day engaged Themselves in a conversation with each other whereby God made a tremendous prophecy. The prophecy concerned the CREATION of the one through whom God would fulfill His plan, MAN !

Genesis 1:26 says,

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...over all the earth."

Three Key Truths Concerning The First Man (Genesis 1:26)

1. The first man possessed the IMAGE of God.
2. The first man possessed the LIKENESS of God.
3. The first man possessed DOMINION over God's earth.

1. What is the significance of man's possessing the image of God?

It made him a "son of God."

Biblically, for a human being to be a "son of God," he must possess the image of God.

1. What is the significance of man's possessing the image of God?

- Because man (Adam) possessed the image of God, he has a very special title. **Read Luke 3:38.**
 - ❖ What is that title? "SON of God"
 - ❖ If Adam was the "son of God," God was Adam's FATHER.
- Biblically, for a human being to possess the title "son of God," he must possess the "IMAGE of God." As we learned in **Lesson 1**, Jesus Christ (God in a human body) who possessed the title "Son of God," possessed the "IMAGE" of God.

Hebrews 1:2-3 – "His Son... the express image of His Person."

Colossians 1:13-15 – "His dear Son...who is the image of the invisible God."

II Corinthians 4:4 – "Christ, who is the image of God."

2. What is the significance of man's possessing the likeness of God?

- To answer that question, we must first determine, "What is God LIKE?" As we learned in **Lesson 1** and see revealed in Genesis 1:26, God is THREE, and yet He is ONE.

"And God (singular) said, Let us (plural) make man in our (plural) image, after our (plural) likeness..."

In other words, God said, "When we make man, we'll make him LIKE us." (i.e. "We'll make him THREE, and yet ONE.")

- In Genesis 2:7, God records the fulfillment of His prophecy to make man "like" Himself.

Genesis 2:7

- ◇ From the "**dust of the ground**" God made the "shell" that we call a "BODY" in which man would carry out his physical existence.
- ◇ Into that shell (body) God "**breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life.**" The word "breath" in Genesis 2:7 is sometimes translated "spirit." In other words, God placed into man's body a "SPIRIT."
- ◇ Genesis 2:7 goes on to say that "**man became a living SOUL.**" See *I Thessalonians 5:23* in the margin.
- ◇ God created man, then, in His likeness; having three parts, and yet is one.

MAN IS A TRIUNE (3 Part) BEING	GOD IS A TRIUNE (3 Part) BEING
Man has a <u>BODY</u> →	God has a <u>BODY</u> , revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
Man has a <u>SPIRIT</u> →	God has a <u>SPIRIT</u> , revealed in the Holy Spirit.
Man has a <u>SOUL</u> →	God has a <u>SOUL</u> , revealed in God the Father.

- Keep in mind that Lucifer's desire which led to his rebellion was the desire to "be LIKE the most High."



What do you think Satan's reaction would have been to God's giving man His "likeness"?

3. What is the significance of man's possessing dominion over the earth?

- As we saw from Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 in **Lesson 2**, before Adam was ever taken from the dust of the ground in Eden, there was another being through whom God was working to fulfill His plan on the earth. That one possessed DOMINION from a throne in Eden. He was none other than Lucifer who became "that old serpent" called the Devil and Satan.

2. What is the significance of man's possessing the likeness of God?

We must first answer the question, "What is God like?" God is three, and yet He is one.

God said he would make man "like" that: three, and yet one.

Genesis 2:7 records how God actually made man...

From the dust of the ground God made man's **body**.

God breathed into man's nostrils his **spirit**.

Man became a living **soul**.

*"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

I Thessalonians 5:23

The three parts of man are "like" the three persons of the Godhead.

By making man "like" Himself, God gave to him what Lucifer wanted!

3. What is the significance of man's possessing dominion over the earth?

The significance can only be understood by remembering that Lucifer once held dominion over the earth from his throne in Eden.

It was certainly no coincidence that God chose to create the man to whom He was now giving dominion over the earth from the very ground where Lucifer possessed his throne and dominion.

As soon as God pulled Adam from Eden's ground man became Satan's sworn enemy.

Man not only possessed God's **image**, and **likeness**, and **dominion** over the earth; he also possessed an **intimate, personal, love relationship** with God.

4. What is the significance of man's possessing an intimate, personal, love relationship with God?

God's desire for this kind of relationship with man is demonstrated in at least four ways:

a. The special consideration with which God created him.

God didn't just speak man into existence. He personally came into Eden, and with His own hands, molded man into His image.

b. The spontaneous communion in which God entered with him.

God's plan included coming into Eden daily for the purpose of communing with man.

- By creating man from the very ground in Eden where Lucifer once had his throne and once held dominion, God was making a major STATEMENT to Satan and all the spirit-world about this new "being" whom He was placing on the earth to carry out His plan.



What do you think Satan's reaction would have been to this new "king" in Eden?

- As soon as God pulled Adam from Eden's ground, man would have immediately and automatically become the sworn ENEMY of Satan.
- As you can already see, the man God had taken from the dust of the ground was an unbelievably PRIVILEGED being. He possessed God's image, God's likeness, and he had dominion over God's earth. But there is a fourth thing that the first man possessed that gave him even greater SIGNIFICANCE and PURPOSE.

A Fourth Key Truth Concerning The First Man

1. The first man possessed the image of God.
2. The first man possessed the likeness of God.
3. The first man possessed dominion over God's earth.
- * 4. The first man possessed an INTIMATE, PERSONAL LOVE RELATIONSHIP with God.

4. What is the significance of man's possessing an intimate, personal, love relationship with God?

The significance is revealed in at least four key ways that God demonstrated His desire to have an intimate, personal, love relationship with man:

a. The special consideration with which God created him.

- On each of the other days in the creative week (Genesis 1:3-25), God simply spoke the universe into existence from a distance. The creation of man, however, was something completely different (Genesis 2:7). God Himself left heaven, came down into the Garden of Eden, and with His own hands reached into the dust of the ground to form man. God's own hands gently and purposefully touched every part of man as He tenderly molded Adam's shape into perfection. God left His divine fingerprints on every fiber of man's being. God gave special consideration to the creation of man because of the RELATIONSHIP He intended to share with Him.

b. The spontaneous communion into which God entered with him.

- God did not only make His way into the Garden for the purpose of CREATING man. It is apparent that God intended to make His way back into the Garden on a daily basis for the purpose of FELLOWSHIP or COMMUNING with him! Genesis 3:8 says that Adam "heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..." God's desire was to walk and talk with His creation in perfect harmony and fellowship.

- As we learned in **Lesson 1**, God doesn't just love. I John 4:16 says, "God is love." He created man to be the object of His love and affection.



What do you think Satan's reaction would have been as he listened to God walking and talking with man as they shared the intimacy of their relationship together in the cool of the day?

c. The specific choice that God presented to him.

- One of the most beautiful ways God demonstrated His desire to have an intimate, personal, love relationship with man was the fact that man was created with a WILL – or the ability to choose. God did not make man a robot, preprogrammed only to fulfill God's purposes and desires. Certainly, God wanted to receive glory and worship from the man He had created. Yes, God desired to be the recipient of man's love and affection. But God's desires could never have been satisfied if man hadn't had any choice in the matter. For that purpose, God gave man a bona fide CHOICE. That choice was represented in one specific TREE God placed in the midst of the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:16-17

- Simply stated, man had the choice to continue the love relationship he was created to have with God, or he could choose to SEVER the relationship by eating the fruit of the tree that represented the exact OPPOSITE of all that God is. I John 1:5 says that "God is light (holy) and in Him is no darkness (evil) at all."
- As we learned in **Lesson 1**, God's perfect holiness demands that all ungodliness and unrighteousness be recompensed. God made very clear to Adam in Genesis 2:17 that eating of the forbidden tree would separate him from his RELATIONSHIP with his holy, loving, Creator and Father.

Read Genesis 2:17 again and answer:

- ❖ What did God say would happen to Adam if he ate of the tree?
"Thou shalt surely DIE."
- ❖ When did God say it would happen?
"In the DAY that thou EATEST thereof."

d. The spectacular commission for which God designed him.

- Keep in mind that prior to Adam's creation, Lucifer reigned on earth from his throne in Eden as he led the spirit beings called "sons of God" to love, worship, and glorify God. As we have seen, the consequences of Lucifer's rebellion against God were that he lost his name, his throne in Eden, and his position on the earth as the anointed cherub. Now that God had placed Adam as the new "king" in Eden, along with all of the other tremendous ways God had blessed him, God gave to Adam the privilege of all privileges! God gave to him the spectacular commission to "be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH the earth" (Genesis 1:28) with "SONS of God" who would love, worship, and glorify God. Like Adam, they would possess God's image and likeness, and they would know the same intimacy of a personal, love relationship that he shared with God.

Man was created to be the object of God's love and affection.

c. The specific choice that God presented to him.

God didn't make man a robot, preprogrammed only to love and serve Him. He wanted man to choose to love Him.

For that purpose, God created man with the ability to choose and gave him a choice.

The choice was represented in the tree from which God had forbidden them to eat.

Man could choose to continue his relationship with God, walking with Him in holiness, or choose evil, severing his relationship with his holy Creator.

God made clear that eating of the forbidden tree would result in death the day they ate from it.

d. The spectacular commission for which God designed him.

God gave to man the commission to replenish the earth with "sons of God" who would love, worship, and glorify Him.

Adam was unable to fulfill his commission, however, because he was alone.

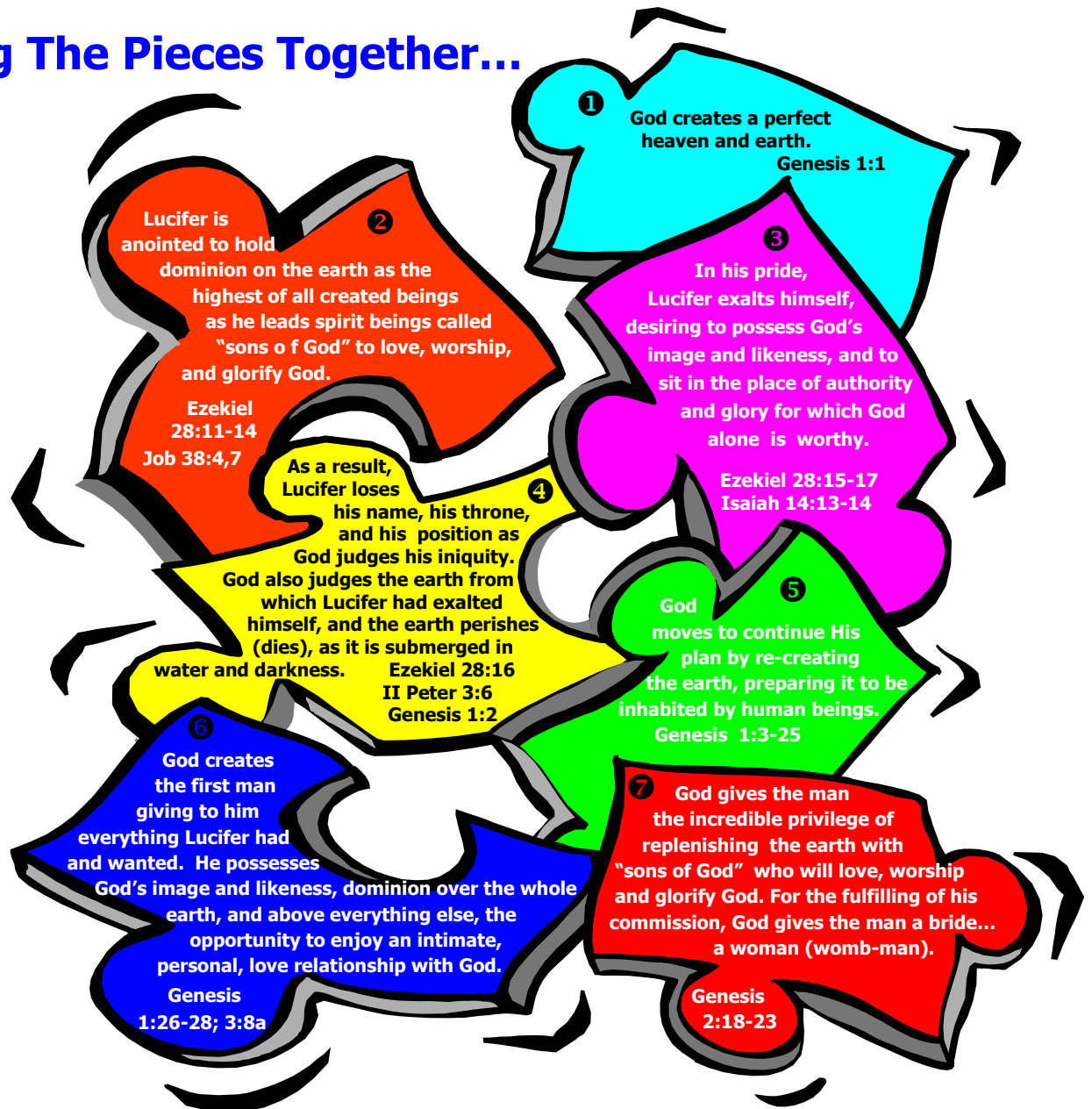
God took a rib from Adam's side and fashioned it into a woman. God created her to be Adam's bride so that together they might fulfill God's plan of replenishing the earth with "sons of God."

- There was just one problem Adam faced in the fulfillment of the commission he had received. **Read Genesis 2:18.**
 - ❖ What was Adam's problem? *He was ALONE!*
- Adam was alone and therefore incapable of fulfilling his commission. For this purpose, God gave to man the divine anesthetic, took from his side a rib and fashioned it into a bride for Adam. Her name was Woman. She was a man with a womb. A "womb-man" if you will. She was given a womb because she was given to Adam to "help meet" the demands of God's commission to POPULATE the earth with "SONS of God."



What do you think Satan's reaction would have been as he considered the prospect of the earth's being filled once again with "sons of God" loving, worshipping, and glorifying God?

Pulling The Pieces Together...



The Fall of Man

- ❑ We have seen how all of the pieces fit together to bring us through the first two chapters of Genesis. Adam and his bride stood perfectly poised to carry out God’s plan on the earth. Based on what we have already learned about God’s enemy, you might expect that Satan would not sit idly by. Satan had a very calculated AGENDA.

SATAN’S DIABOLICAL AGENDA AGAINST THE FIRST MAN

1. He wanted to cause man to lose the IMAGE of God.
2. He wanted to cause man to lose the LIKENESS of God.
3. He wanted to cause man to lose his RELATIONSHIP with God.
4. He wanted to cause man to lose his ability to REPLENISH the earth with “SONS of God.”

- ❑ Satan knew that there was only one way to be successful in carrying out his agenda. He would have to find a way to get the man and his bride to DEFY God by EATING of the forbidden tree.
- ❑ As Genesis 3 begins, “that old SERPENT” (Rev. 12:9) has made his way back into Eden and has engaged himself in a conversation with Adam’s bride about the forbidden tree.

Genesis 3:1-6, I Timothy 2:14

- ❑ As Genesis 3:6 details, the only thing God forbade Adam and the Woman to do, they did!
 - ❖ Do you remember what God said would happen when they ate of the fruit of the tree?
God said they would DIE!
 - ❖ And when did God say that would happen?
God said it would be “in the DAY” they ate of it.
- ❑ What is interesting is that after they ate the fruit in Genesis 3:6, the remainder of the chapter recorded the rest of the events of that day. The day came to a close as did the chapter. As Genesis chapter 4 begins, the Bible says, “*And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain...*”
 - ❖ For Eve to have conceived and actually given birth, what is the minimum amount of time that had to have taken place between Genesis chapter 3 and Genesis chapter 4?
At least NINE MONTHS!

How could this be, when God clearly said, “... in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die?”

- ❑ But do you remember how God created the man? He was created a three-part being: He has a body, a spirit, and a soul. The fact is, as soon as the fruit of “the

Section D

As Adam and his bride stood poised to carry out their commission, Satan had his own calculated agenda.

Satan wanted to cause man to lose...
 the **image** of God...
 the **likeness** of God...
 his **relationship** with God...
 his ability to **replenish** the earth with “sons of God.”

To accomplish his agenda, Satan knew he must find a way to get Adam and his bride to eat of the forbidden tree.

Satan, “that old serpent,” made the woman his point of attack.

Both Adam and his bride ate of the tree God had forbidden.

Though God said they would die the day they ate of the tree, Genesis 4:1 lets us know at least nine months passed, and they still were not dead!

Adam and his bride did not die physically the day they ate of the tree, but they did in fact die, just as God had said, as soon as the fruit touched their lips.

Adam and the woman died spiritually.

tree of the knowledge of good and evil” touched the lips of Adam and his wife in Genesis 3:6, they DIED ! They didn’t die PHYSICALLY on that day, (though physical death would be the ultimate result) but they most certainly died just as God said they would! They died SPIRITUALLY . And the spirit is the part of man that God breathed into him for the purpose of FELLOWSHIPING with Him. As a result of man’s sin against God, he was left with a body, a soul that would forever exist, but inside of that soul and body lay a SPIRIT that was DEAD !

☐ Note the result of Adam and Eve’s spiritual death in Genesis 3:7-13. **Read Genesis 3:7-13 and consider the following questions:**

- ❖ What were Adam and Eve actually seeking to do in verse 7 by sewing fig leaves together to make themselves aprons?
They were seeking to COVER their SIN .
- ❖ Why were Adam and Eve hiding from God in verse 8 rather than walking and talking with Him in the cool of the day?
They were SEPARATED from God because they were spiritually DEAD .
- ❖ Since God is omnipresent, why do you think He called to Adam in verse 9, “Where art thou?”
He KNEW where Adam was, but wanted Adam to ADMIT where he was. (Where was Adam? He was SEPARATED from God.)
- ❖ Since God is omniscient, why do you think He asks Adam at the end of verse 11, “Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”
He KNEW what Adam had done but was giving Adam the opportunity to CONFESS his sin.
- ❖ Rather than take ownership for his sin, what did Adam do in verse 12?
He SHIFTED the BLAME .
- ❖ At first glance it appears that Adam was actually shifting the blame to the woman, but whom was he actually blaming in verse 12?
He was blaming GOD !
- ❖ God also gave the woman the opportunity to confess her sin in verse 13 when He asked her, “What is this that thou hast done?” What did she do in response to God’s question?
She also SHIFTED the BLAME .
- ❖ Whom does the woman blame?
The SERPENT .

In which of the following statements are you able to see that mankind still responds to sin the way Adam and Eve did? Check your response.

- Men still seek to cover their sin.
- Men still seek to hide from God.
- Men still have difficulty admitting “where they are” with God.
- Men still have difficulty confessing their sin to God.
- Men still shift the blame for their sin to God, to the Devil, and/or to someone else.

What an unbelievable tragedy! Satan actually did it! He was SUCCESSFUL in carrying out exactly what he had set out to do.

Satan had been successful in carrying out his agenda.

- Man no longer bore the IMAGE of God because sin had separated him from his Father. He could no longer rightfully claim the title, “SON of God.”
- Man no longer had the intimate, personal, love relationship with God he was created to have because the SPIRIT which God gave to him for the purpose of fellowshiping with Him was DEAD.
- Man could still reproduce children, but they would not be BORN into this world the way Adam had been CREATED. Read Genesis 5:1-3.

Man lost the image of God.

Man lost his relationship with God.

Man can still reproduce children, but they will not be born like Adam was created.

- 1) Adam’s children were not born in GOD’S image, (as “sons of GOD”) but in ADAM’S image (a fallen image... they were “sons of ADAM.”)
- 2) Adam’s children were not born in GOD’S likeness, but ADAM’S likeness... What was Adam “like” after his sin? He had a body, a soul that would forever exist, but a spirit that was DEAD.
Read Romans 5:12 in the margin.
- 3) Adam’s children were not born into this world possessing an intimate, personal, love relationship with God, but they were born spiritually dead, desperately needing their spirits to be BORN AGAIN.

Adam’s children were not born in God’s likeness, but Adam’s likeness. They were born spiritually dead.

Adam’s children were not born possessing an intimate, personal, love relationship with God. They were born into the world needing to be “born again” spiritually.

John 3:3



Do you understand that you are a descendant of Adam? Yes No

Because you are a descendant of Adam, mark the following statements as T (true) or F (false)?

- T 1. I was born in Adam’s fallen image.
- T 2. I was not born a “son of God,” but a “son of Adam.”
- T 3. I was born in Adam’s likeness, having a body, a soul, but a spirit that was dead.
- T 4. I was separated from God from my very birth with no way to fellowship with Him because there is no way humanly possible to bring my dead spirit to life.

“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

It is a very harsh reality, but by the time Genesis chapter 3 came to a close, the entire human race had been plunged into spiritual DARKNESS and DEATH. Mankind was left with no way to overcome our SEPARATION from our holy Creator and with no way to re-establish the RELATIONSHIP we were created to have with Him.

Because we are all descendants of Adam we are all sinners, separated from God, and have no way to re-establish our relationship with Him.

Romans 3:10-12; 6:23a; Isaiah 59:2,12; 64:6

God is so HOLY, and sin is so SINFUL, the only just recompense for our sinfulness is ETERNAL SEPARATION from God in the place of torment prepared for Satan and his angels.

The only just recompense for our sin is eternal separation from God in the place of torment prepared for Satan and his angels.

Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:11-15

Section E The Re-creation of Man

Because God is holy, sin separated Him from man. God did not, however, stop loving man. But how could God remain holy and just, and not recompense man's sin?

To remain loving and just, the penalty for man's sin would need to be paid by God Himself.

God's plan...

1. God gave over 350 prophecies in the Old Testament so we could recognize who Christ was.

2. Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Ghost in the womb of a virgin so He could be born into the world without sin.

3. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

4. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life for 33½ years.

5. Jesus Christ became sin for us on the cross so we could have God's righteousness restored to us.

□ Though God's holiness and justice demanded that sin bear such an awful consequence, God did not, however, stop LOVING man because he had become a sinner. But what an incredible dilemma! Because God is LOVE, how could He remain SEPARATED from those created to be the objects of His love and affection? Because God is HOLY, how could He remain holy and just, and not RECOMPENSE man's sin? Praise the Lord, "What is impossible with man is possible with God!" (Luke 18:27)

□ God had a plan. It is the most beautiful demonstration of perfect love the world could ever know. God Himself became a man in the person of Jesus Christ for the purpose of PAYING the PENALTY for our sin, and of RESTORING to us that which we had lost through Adam's sin in the Garden. God could remain just in doing so because He Himself became the justifier of man's sin.

John 1:14; Luke 19:10; Romans 3:24-26

THE UNFOLDING OF GOD'S INCREDIBLE PLAN

1. God gives over 350 specific prophecies in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled in the One who would be born into this world of miraculous birth as "Immanuel," which means, "God with us" (i.e. God in a human body). God gave us these prophecies so we would know beyond any shadow of a doubt when He had come to the earth. (All 350 prophecies were precisely fulfilled in Jesus Christ.)

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:21-23

2. In the fullness of time, God caused a young Jewish virgin by the name of Mary to conceive. Do you remember the teaching of Romans 5:12? Sin passed upon all men because Adam is our father. This One conceived in Mary's womb, however, was conceived of the Holy Ghost, having no earthly father. He would, therefore, be born spiritually alive without sin, and thus possessing both the image and likeness of God. He was the "Son of God!"

Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:18-20; Hebrews 1:3

3. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. For the first time in human history, God was made visible.

Luke 2:1-7; John 1:18

4. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life for 33½ years, though He faced every temptation within the realm of humanness.

Hebrews 4:14-15

5. Though Jesus Christ had never sinned, in the fulfillment of God's plan, He was nailed to a cross to pay for the sin of every man. God placed all of our iniquities upon Him, as He was literally made sin for us, that we might have God's righteousness restored to us.

Acts 2:22-23; Isaiah 53:4-6; II Corinthians 5:21

6. Jesus Christ died for our sin. He was placed in the grave, and just as He had prophesied, He rose from the dead the third day. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is proof positive that sin, death, hell and the grave have been defeated. He rose victorious over all of them! The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is identified in I Corinthians 15:1-4 as the “gospel,” which means “good news.” It is “good news” because Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection is the only thing that can save us from the incredibly “bad news” of our helpless, hopeless, Christless, Godless condition as sinners!

Ephesians 2:11-22; I Corinthians 15:1-4

7. God brings the light of the glorious gospel of Christ to shine into men’s darkness so they will be convicted of their sin, of God’s righteousness, and of the judgment to come, and will repent. (i.e. Turn from their own way to the Lord Jesus Christ)

II Corinthians 4:4; John 16:8; Acts 17:30

Key Quote –

When we come out of our darkness into the light of Jesus Christ, we become broken by our sins. The light shows us that we are not whole but shattered...not worthy, but guilty... not rich, but bankrupt... not confident, but desperate... not mighty but lowly... not holy but unclean. The light leaves us totally exposed – we see ourselves as God sees us, and the revelation breaks our hearts and shatters our pride. We don’t seek to be patched or fixed up but to be made new. We realize we have no covering to hide in... no offering to hope in... no works to glory in. We are undone. We are sinners.

Our sorrow for our sins may bring remorse, but our repentance is more than remorse; our sorrow for sins may lead us to restitution; but our repentance is more than restitution; our sorrow for our sins may create a desire to make resolutions, but repentance is more than resolutions.

Repentance means being sorry enough for our sin to stop; convicted enough by our sin to turn from it; broken enough by our sin to be willing to change. It is our repentance that turns us toward the Light. It is our need of Him that draws us to the light. It is our faith in Him that clothes us in the light. Our only covering is His righteousness... our only hope is His mercy... our only glory is the light of His holy love.

– Roy Lessin

8. When sinners call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to save them, God graciously imparts to man the gift of eternal life by removing his sin, and by bringing his dead spirit to life by His Spirit.

Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10, 13; John 3:1-6

6. Jesus Christ paid the penalty of our sin through His death, burial, and resurrection. It is the “good news” (gospel) that delivers us from the “bad news” of our sinful condition

7. God brings the gospel to us along with conviction concerning our sinful condition so we will repent, or turn from our way to His.

Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I know that there is absolutely nothing I can do to remove my sin, or to cause my dead spirit to come to life. I want to receive the forgiveness of sin offered through Your death, burial and resurrection. I invite You to come into my life to be my Lord. I confess that I am no longer my own. I am forever Yours! Amen.

The incredible results of salvation:

1. You are now a "son of God" because you have had God's image restored to you.
2. You can now love, worship, and glorify God.
3. Your dead spirit has been brought to life.
4. You are now able to experience the fellowship with God you were created to have.
5. You are now able to fulfill the commission of replenishing the earth with "sons of God."



The Question of ALL Questions...

We saw that God's first question to man after he had become a sinner was, "Adam where art thou?" (Genesis 3:9). After coming through the truth of the Word of God presented in this lesson, God's question to Adam is an appropriate one: Where are you?

In II Corinthians 13:5; God admonishes us to "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.*"

Are you completely sure that you have been brought out of the darkness of your sin into the glorious light and life of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you know for sure that your dead spirit has been brought to life by the Spirit of God?

Yes No

If yes, when were you born again?

Date(or approximate date): _____

If no, is there any reason today could not be the day of your salvation?



The Joy of ALL Joys...

Do you understand what actually happened to you the moment you called upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save you?

1. You had restored to you the IMAGE of God that was lost through the Fall. You have had restored to you the title, "son of God."

John 1:12

2. You had restored to you the ability to LOVE, WORSHIP, and GLORIFY God that was lost through the Fall.

Mark 12:30; John 4:23; Revelation 4:11

3. You had restored to you the LIKENESS of God that was lost through the Fall. You are now a body, a soul, and a spirit that is very much ALIVE. The Spirit of the living God has taken up residence in your dead spirit!

I Corinthians 6:20; Colossians 2:9-10a

4. You had restored to you the RELATIONSHIP with God you were created to have but lost through the Fall. God not only walks *with* you as He did with Adam (Genesis 3:8), He walks *in* you!

II Corinthians 6:16-18

5. You had restored to you the ability to fulfill the COMMISSION of replenishing the earth with "sons of God." What was to be fulfilled through Adam physically, can now be fulfilled through you spiritually. (We will learn more about the fulfillment of our commission as discipleship continues.)

John 1:12; John 15:16

How it all ties together...

THE CREATION AND RE-CREATION OF THE EARTH	THE CREATION AND "RE-CREATION" OF MAN
<p>God created a perfect <u>EARTH</u> to reflect His glory and attributes.</p> <p><i>(Romans 1:20; Genesis 1:1)</i></p>	<p>God created a perfect <u>MAN</u> to reflect His image and likeness.</p> <p><i>(Genesis 1:26)</i></p>
<p>Because of <u>INIQUITY</u>, the earth became without form and void and submerged in darkness and death.</p> <p><i>(Genesis 1:2 a, b, II Peter 3:6)</i></p>	<p>Because of <u>SIN</u>, man spiritually became without form and void and submerged in spiritual darkness and death.</p> <p><i>(Romans 5:12; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 2:1)</i></p>
<p>The Spirit of God moved to <u>RE-CREATE</u> the fallen state of the earth.</p> <p><i>(Genesis 1:2c)</i></p>	<p>The Spirit of God moved to make us <u>NEW CREATURES</u> to redeem the fallen state of man.</p> <p><i>(II Corinthians 5:17)</i></p>
<p>God began the re-creation of the <u>EARTH</u> by commanding the light to shine out of darkness.</p> <p><i>(Genesis 1:2-3)</i></p>	<p>God begins the re-creation of <u>MAN</u> by commanding the Light to shine out of darkness.</p> <p><i>(II Corinthians 4:6; John 1:4-7)</i></p>