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Introduction

In the previous lesson, we looked at the first building block in our spiritual foundation, *The Everlasting Word of God*. In that lesson, we saw when and how the Bible came to be. We looked at the role of inspiration and the need to properly discern between the Word of God and the words of false prophets.

In this lesson, we will consider our next building block, *Man and Sin*. This building block is essential in understanding why Jesus Christ came and died on the cross of Calvary.

The Beginning of Mankind

- A. God created man and woman. (Genesis 1:26-31)
- B. God prepared a garden for Adam. (Genesis 2:8-9)
- C. God gave Adam specific instructions regarding the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:15-17)
- D. God made woman. (Genesis 2:18-25)
- E. God provided Adam and Eve with everything they would need.

The Beginning of Sin

- A. The serpent tempted and deceived Eve. (Genesis 3:1-6)
 - 1. The serpent was an animal of the field, over which Adam and Eve were to have dominion. (Genesis 1:28) However, Adam and Eve submitted to the serpent and rebelled against God. (See *Idol Worship* on page 8.)
 - 2. The Bible reveals this serpent, or the agent working through the serpent, to have been the devil.
 - a. The devil was a “murder” and a liar “from the beginning.” (John 8:44) The devil is a murderer in that he leads people to a spiritual death.
 - b. The devil has sinned “from the beginning.” (1 John 3:8)

Man and Sin

God’s Everlasting Word

World Filled with Sin

- c. The devil was prideful. (cf. 1 Timothy 3:6)
- d. The devil is “that serpent of old...who deceives the whole world.” (Revelation 12:9; cf. 20:2-3)
- 3. The devil did not stop with Adam and Eve. The devil set out to lure mankind away from God using many “schemes” and “devices.” (cf. Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 2:11)
- B. Adam and Eve attempted to hide their shame from the Lord. (Genesis 3:7-13)
- C. The Lord cursed the serpent, Eve, and Adam. (Genesis 3:14-19)
- D. God drove Adam and Eve from the garden. (Genesis 3:20-24)

Sin Abounded in the World

- A. Cain killed his brother Abel. (Genesis 4:1-15)
- B. Cain's descendant, Lamech, killed a man. (Genesis 4:23-24)
- C. The wickedness of man was great. (Genesis 6:1-13)
 - 1. God determined to destroy mankind. (vs 5-8, 11-13)
 - 2. Noah and his family were saved because they obeyed God. (cf. 1 Peter 3:18-22)
- D. After the flood, man's thoughts and desires did not change. (Genesis 8:20-22)
- E. Man's will continued to oppose God's will. We see this in the people's effort to build the tower of Babel. (Genesis 11:1-9)

Sin Separated Man from God

- A. With Adam and Eve's disobedience, sin entered the world, resulting in spiritual death and separation from God. (Romans 5:12-21)
 - 1. Spiritual death spreads when men sin against God. (vs 12)
 - a. When sin is “full-grown,” it “brings forth death.” (James 1:14-15)
 - b. When a person walks “according to the course of this world,” they are “dead in” their “offenses and sins.” (Ephesians 2:1-3, NASB)
 - 2. By one man's offense many died. (vs 15)
 - 3. By one man's offense death reigned. (vs 17; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:22)

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4. Sin reigned in death. (vs 21)
- B. With this spiritual death came a bondage to sin.
 1. The Hebrew writer referred to those “who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)
 2. Being dead in sin, one is a slave to sin. (cf. Romans 6:17, 20)

Conclusion

Although the creation of man and woman was good, their decision to depart from God was not good. Adam and Eve willingly chose to disobey the Lord, believing the lie of the serpent, the devil.

Having been driven from the presence of God, Adam and Eve found themselves living in a world where sin, selfishness, hatred, lusts, idolatry, etc. grew in abundance.

With this separation from God, man stood accountable to God’s judgment and wrath. (cf. Romans 1:18-23)

In the next lesson, we will begin to examine the journey of man’s salvation by studying God’s promise to a man named Abraham. ◀

Idol Worship

The idea of Adam and Eve submitting to the lie of the devil could be viewed as a forerunner to the worshiping of idols. As early as Genesis, chapter 31, one of Abraham’s relatives can be seen with “household idols” (Genesis 31:19, 34). When God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage, He warned them saying, “Do not turn to idols, nor make yourselves molded gods: I am the Lord your God.” Sadly, throughout the history of the Israelite nation, the people would frequently reject worshiping God in favor of worshiping idols.

Under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ, we find the idea of idolatry goes beyond simply worshiping false gods made of wood and stone. Anything a person lusts after (or covets) becomes an idol. The apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry** (*emp JMD*)” (Colossians 3:5, NKJV).

Just as Adam and Eve submitted to the will of the serpent, so too does mankind continue to submit to the will of the serpent of old, the devil. While a person may not physically bow down before a wooden image or a stone statue, when they reject the Lord God, they are worshiping someone or something else, including their own wants, wishes, and desires. Recall the words of the apostle John when he wrote, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17, NKJV). ◀