



Lesson 5

Sin and the Fall

Key Verse

“Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” *Romans 5:12*

Key Words

- Sin:
- Create:
- Consequence:
- Conscience:
- Multiply:

Key Points

Read Genesis 3.

- Last week, we considered God’s creation. He said that it was “very good”. However, the world we live in today seems to be, in many ways, far from good. If God created a world of order and goodness, why is it that we see so much bad in it today? The answer is a three-letter word: *sin*. Beginning with Adam, and spreading through every human being (except the Lord Jesus) ever since, sin has been ravaging this world.

Satan

- Sin and rebellion began with one of God’s created beings: Satan. In this story (and elsewhere), he is referred to as “the serpent”. Other parts of the Bible seem to provide more details of his history. The name Satan simply means “enemy”.

Free Will

- Why did God allow Adam and Eve to make this choice? This is a very difficult question to answer, but we must remember that God did not create us as mindless beings that unthinkingly obey orders. God wants love from us, and love requires a choice. God provided them with everything they needed, but made one stipulation: not to eat of a certain tree in the garden. But God did not force them to make the right choice: he allowed them to rebel against his command and to suffer the consequences they – though well aware of them – had chosen.

Consequences

- God said that eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would result in death. It did so in two ways, one of which was instantaneous, and one of which took much longer. Death essentially refers to *seperation*. As soon as Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they experienced a seperation from God. The closeness they had enjoyed was no longer there. Instead, they experienced, for the first time, guilt, shame and a conscience.

- This first act of sin also introduced decay into the world. While we do not know exactly what the world was like before sin (and it is fairly hard to imagine in our present state) we know that it was radically changed at this moment. From the very day they sinned, decay began its work in the bodies of our ancestors, a slow process of deterioration that one would one day culminate in death.

All Have Sinned

- Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:12. The Bible teaches that we sin for two reasons: because it is our nature, inherited from Adam, and because we choose to do it. We are therefore all guilty before God. We have fallen short of his standard.

Questions

1) Name some of the sins that are common to all of us, and point to a nature shared by all of mankind.

2) What was right, and what was wrong about what Satan said?

3) List the steps that led to the eating of the fruit.

4) What did God have to do to cover Adam and Eve's shame? Why were the fig leaves not enough? How does this apply to us?