

## OT History for Juniors: Lesson 2, "THE BEGINNING OF SIN"

### I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

#### A. Brief recap:

1. What did God make on each day? How did God make? (He spoke ...).
2. What was special about the creation of man (dust, rib & in God's image [explain]).
3. What did God do on the seventh day? Why?

#### B. This week we will see how sin came to be part of this world.

1. Sin was not part of the world at the beginning.
2. What is sin (sin is disobedience to God's commandments to love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves).

### II. THE BEGINNING OF SIN

#### A. Adam and Eve lived in Paradise, which was a beautiful Garden. God had given them everything they could possibly need.

##### 1. What kind of life did Adam and Eve have in the Garden?

- a. They could eat the fruit of any of the trees of the garden *except one*. Imagine the delicious fruit there must have been.
- b. They did not simply lie around on the grass all day. That would have been boring. They served God six days a week by looking after the Garden, caring for the plants and animals. This was not a difficult work because the world was perfect. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Day they did not work but spent the day resting in the worship of God.
- c. And every evening the Lord God would walk in the Garden with Adam and Eve because the Lord God enjoyed a perfect friendship with Adam and Eve.

##### 2. But God was still God and God gave Adam and Eve His commandments. They must show friendship to God by keeping His commandments.

- a. Apart from the fruit trees in the Garden of Eden God had made two special trees - which? The tree of life & the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- b. God told Adam very clearly that he was not allowed to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God did not give a reason. He just said, "You may not eat." And, "in the day you eat, you shall die."
- c. There was no reason to eat the fruit of that tree b/c God had given all other trees incl. the tree of life.

#### B. Before sin entered the world the devil had fallen. The devil was a mighty angel who wanted to be as great as God. God threw the devil out of heaven and that mighty angel became the devil. That devil now hated God and wanted to destroy God's work. But the devil is not powerful like God. He can only do what God allows him to do.

##### This devil now came to Eve as a serpent or snake.

##### 1. The devil wanted to make Adam and Eve disobey God because the devil knew that they would lose the friendship of God, become his slaves and die.

- a. The devil used a snake, the cleverest of all the animals God made (which day?).
- b. The devil talked to Eve through the snake, or serpent.
- c. The devil asked Eve a question, "Yea, hath God said ...?" In asking the Q. the devil wanted Eve to think that perhaps God had not really said what He said, or God had not meant it when He said it.

##### 2. Notice the way the devil came to Eve. He asked her clever questions.

- a. Did God really say that you could not eat of the fruit of *every* tree in the Garden ...? *Of course, God did not say that.*
- b. Eve answered the serpent (her first mistake. What should she have done ...?): read her answer in Gen. 3:2-3. What is wrong with it?
- c. Then the devil became very bold. He simply contradicted what God said, "Ye shall not surely die ..." and he promised her great things if she ate it (v. 5).
- d. Eve was convinced: she looked at the fruit, it looked good, it looked good to eat and she desired to be wise, to be like God.

##### 3. Eve believed the devil. She did not believe God. And she took the fruit and ate it, and then she gave it to her husband Adam and he took it and ate it.

- a. Did Adam and Eve become like God as the devil had promised? No.

- b. But did Adam and Eve now know good and evil? Yes. They knew what a terrible thing sin is, they understood what evil is, and they saw that they were naked and felt ashamed and tried to cover themselves with fig leaves sewn together.
- c. At that moment they heard God walking in the cool of the evening and instead of walking with Him as friends as they had always done before, they hid from Him, because they were afraid. Their friendship with God was gone. They were sinners and they knew it.

### III. GOD'S PUNISHMENT OF SIN

**A. Remember that God had warned Adam and Eve that in the day that they eat the forbidden fruit they would surely die. God came to Adam and Eve who were hiding from Him to punish them.**

**1. God first of all asked them where they were. Usually they would walk with Him in the Garden, why are they now hiding?**

- a. Adam answered, "I heard thy voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked."
- b. God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat .."
- c. Adam tried to blame Eve: "The woman whom THOU gavest me to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat ..." (Note that Adam is *also blaming God*. We always try to blame others).
- d. Eve tried to blame the serpent, "The serpent beguiled me [or tricked me] and I did eat ..."

**2. Each of the ones involved in the sin would be punished, and God started with the serpent.**

- a. First, God cursed the serpent. He said that the serpent would have to crawl on his belly.
- b. Second, God spoke to the woman: Childbearing will now become difficult and painful for you.
- c. Third, God spoke to the man: The ground is cursed because of you. Now, it will be hard work for you to get food from the ground. There will be thorns and thistles.

**B. But the greatest punishment for sin is death. God said, "Thou shalt surely die ..."**

1. There was no death in God's world at the beginning. No people died and no animals died. Death only came into the world by sin. Rom. 5:12.
2. But now God said, Adam, you will die. You will work hard all your life by the sweat of your brow, and after many years of hard work you will die. You came from the dust and after you die your body will become dust again.
3. And you deserve this, Adam, because you disobeyed me.

### IV. THE PROMISE OF SALVATION

**A. But before Adam and Eve left the Garden, God gave them a promise. Read it in Gen. 3:15. Learn it!**

1. God is speaking to the devil. God said to the devil. I am going to make my people the enemies of your people so that they will be my friends again. And I will do it by a *seed*.
2. The seed of the woman will be a man and He will come from the people of God.
3. The seed of the woman will be more powerful than the devil b/c He will bruise (crush) the devil's head.
4. The seed of the woman and the devil will fight: the seed of the woman will crush the devil's head but the serpent (devil) will bruise His heel.

**B. This was the promise of salvation that the whole Old Testament looked for. God will send His seed. God's people did not know when it will be, but they believed that He would come.**

1. That is what God was doing: preparing to send the Seed of the woman, Christ.
2. The devil was always trying to find out who the Seed would be and to try to kill Him.
3. But God's promise will come true. It will take many, many years but the Seed will come.

**C. This is the first promise of the cross.**

1. Salvation will come through the seed of the woman suffering for our sins. Gen. 3:15 calls this a bruising of His heel.
2. And as a picture of this God killed an animal, and made coats from the animal skin to cover Adam and Eve. This was a picture of the death of Jesus which would cover up our sins.
3. What a merciful God we have: as soon as Adam and Eve fell into sin, God promised a Saviour!

*"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15).*