



Lesson 3c

The Ruination of God's Creation

Why do people die? Why do things always seem to go wrong in my life? Why are people so mean? Is God the creator of evil?

These questions and ones like it reflect a deep yearning in our hearts. A yearning for things to be better. A yearning to understand.

The Bible provides the answers to why things are the way things are in the world now and why things are so different from the paradise we hear about in the Garden of Eden. In this supplemental lesson, we will look at the events that brought about the radical change we observe and experience.

GOD'S ONE COMMAND

As we have previously heard, when God created man and woman, he endowed them with his image. That image is his holiness and perfection. With God's image, everything about us was good. This is what God declared us to be even before Adam and Eve had done a single thing.

But God wanted to give his people an opportunity to put this passive goodness into action.

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;¹⁷ but you *must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

- 1) According to the italicized portion of this passage, what command did God give?
- 2) According to the underlined portion of this passage, what curse did God pronounce on anyone who ate from the tree?

WHERE THINGS WENT WRONG

When God finished his creating activity at the end of Day 6, he declared his creation to be 'very good' (Gen. 1:31). But that wasn't to last for long.

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding questions.

Revelation 12:7-9 And there was *war in heaven*. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.⁹ The *great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray*. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

II Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare *angels when they sinned*, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...

Jude 6 And the *angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home*—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

I Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Matthew 4:3-4 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

- 3) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what happened sometime after Day 7 of creation week?



Devil: Liar/Slanderer

Satan: Enemy/Adversary/Accuser (Hebrew)

- 4) According to the underlined portions of these passages, what does Satan now do?

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”⁴ “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you *eat of it* your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

- 5) According to the italicized portion of this passage, what did Satan tempt Eve to do?

- 6) According to the underlined portions of this passage, how did Satan tempt her to do this?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 2:25 The man and his wife were both *naked*, and they felt no *shame*.

Genesis 3:6-7 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

- 7) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what happy experience did Adam and Eve constantly live under prior to their fall into sin?
- 8) According to the underlined portion of these passages, what did Adam and Eve experience immediately after their fall into sin?
- 9) If the fall into sin is primarily a spiritual action, then why would Adam and Eve feel the need to cover what we now call the private parts of their bodies?

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 3:8-13 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and *they hid from the LORD God* among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "*I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.*" ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- 10) According to the italicized portions of this passage, who else did Adam and Eve hide from?
- 11) According to the underlined portions of this passage, what else did Adam and Eve hide from?

GOD RESTORES THE BROKEN

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 3:14-15 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will *crawl on your belly and you will eat dust* all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he** will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

- 12) According to the italicized portion of this passage, what curse did God place upon serpents?

- 13) According to the underlined portion of this passage, what was God going to do between the devil and the woman?
- 14) According to the double-underlined portion of this passage, what was going to happen to Satan, and what was Satan going to do?
- 15) Who do you think is the 'he' in bold type?

THE CURSE OF SIN

Some people think that once sin is forgiven, there should be no consequences. But God knows how sinful nature would then take advantage of his gracious forgiveness and use it as a license to sin. Because of this, even though we are loved by God and forgiven by God, as a means of training and disciplining us, there must be consequences.

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly *increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.* Your desire will be for your husband, and *he will rule over you.*"

Genesis 3:17-19 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 16) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what did God promise the woman for her disobedience?
- 17) According to the underlined portion of these passages, what did God promise the man for his disobedience?



Punishment: The suffering which God in anger allots to someone who has violated his majesty.

Chastisement: The suffering which God allots out of love and for a corrective purpose.

Karma: Cosmic justice; *not taught by Scripture.*

- 18) According to the double-underlined portions of these passages, what punishment did God promise would happen to man and woman for their disobedience?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 5:1-3 When God created man, he made him in the *likeness of God*.² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them “man.”³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in *his own likeness, in his own image*; and he named him Seth.

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

- 19) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what did Adam pass on to his children?

Inherited/original sin: The sinful condition/nature passed down (inherited) from parents to child.

- 20) According to the underlined portion of these passages, what does this inherited sinful condition lead to?

Actual sin: Those sins we actually commit in mind, body, and mouth.

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Genesis 3:17b-18 *Cursed is the ground* because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.¹⁸ It will *produce thorns and thistles* for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

Romans 8:19-21 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.²⁰ For the *creation was subjected to frustration*, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its *bondage to decay* and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

- 21) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what happened to the rest of creation in the human fall into sin?

- 22) According to the underlined portion of these passages, who caused creation to be subjected to frustration?

In summary, the effects of sin are as follows:

1. An inherited, sinful condition from our parents
2. Sinful thoughts, words, and actions.
3. Death
 - a. Spiritual (The separation of us from God; the condition we are born into)
 - b. Temporal (The separation of body and soul at the time our bodies die)
 - c. Eternal (The separation of both soul and body from God in hell)
4. Pain and sorrow as both punishments and chastisements for sin
5. A ruined creation