

BIBLE STUDY LESSON: 10 PEOPLE IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Adam¹

I. Created according to God's Inward Image and Outward Likeness

- A. Inward image to declare God in his life as love, light, holiness, and righteousness
 - 1. Christ declared (expressed, explained and defined) God (John 1:18)
 - 2. The image was not the real thing, just a photo is not the object of the picture
 - 3. At his creation, Adam did not have God's life and nature within him, just an image
- B. Likeness speaks of the outward features of God
 - 1. God is described in the Bible as thinking, feeling, deciding, taking action, and moving.
 - 2. Man was made in God's likeness to think, feel, decide, take action and move.

II. Representing God

- A. Man authorized to have dominion over the rest of the creatures on earth (Gen. 1:26, 28).
 - 1. Adam established as God's deputy, one who would exercise His authority to rule on the earth for Him
 - 2. To have dominion over the earth in order to deal with His enemy, Satan, typified by the serpent, the chief among the creeping things (Gen. 1:26; 3:1; Rev. 12:9)
 - 3. To restrict Satan's movement on earth. Because the earth was seized and usurped by Satan and became the place of his activities (Luke 4:5-6; 1 John 5:19)
- B. For God to have His kingdom come on earth, have His will done on earth, and have His glory manifested on earth (Matt. 6:10, 13), His authority must be brought in through man that His enemy might be dealt with and that man might represent Him in ruling on the earth, thus fulfilling God's economy.

III. Typifying Christ as the Head of Mankind and All Things

- A. Adam was created as the head of mankind and of all creatures.
- B. All his actions, whether successes or failures, gains or losses, are related to and represent mankind and all things.
- C. Adam is a type of Christ as the Head over all things (Eph. 1:22; 1 Cor. 1:3; Rom. 5:14b).
 - 1. Adam was the first man; Christ is the second Man.
 - 2. Adam was the first Adam; Christ is the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:47, 45).
 - 3. Adam was the head of the old collective man (mankind); whatever he did and whatever happened to him is participated in by all mankind.
 - 4. Christ is the Head of the new corporate man (the church—Eph. 2:15-16); whatever He did and whatever happened to him is participated in by all the members of His Body, the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

IV. Being Created by God as God's Vessel

- A. God did not create Adam as only a single person; He created mankind collectively in Adam. In Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let us make man... and let them..." Man is singular, but the pronoun used is them. This proves that this man is a corporate man, a collective man.
- B. When Adam was created, all mankind, being included in him, was created as God's vessels (Rom. 9:21, 23) to contain God and to express God's glory.

V. Committing Sin and Becoming Fallen

- A. Adam ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which signifies Satan as the source of sin and death.
- B. He entered into an illegal union with Satan and received the evil nature of Satan, the nature that rebelled against God.
 - 1. Satan's evil nature became the sinful nature within Adam, and Adam was thus constituted a sinner condemned by God.
 - 2. Since he was a corporate man who included all mankind, in his one act of disobedience he included all his descendants, all who would later be born of him, in his sinning and becoming fallen; thus all men were constituted sinners (Rom. 5:12, 19) and were subjected under God's condemnation.
- C. Unlike Adam, Christ the head of the new creation, was sinless and faultless. However, to remedy our situation "Him who did not know sin (John 8:46; 1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15;7:26) God made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2Cor.5:21)
 - 1. Sin came from Satan, who rebelled against God (Isa. 14:12-14). This sin, which came out of the evil one, entered into man (Rom. 5:12) and made man not only a sinner but sin itself under God's judgment.
 - 2. Hence, when Christ became a man in the flesh (John 1:14), He was made sin (not sinful) on our behalf to be judged by God (Rom. 8:3) that we might become God's righteousness in Him.
 - 3. Through Christ's redemption, man, who is a sinner and is even sin, is made God's righteousness, being reconciled to the righteous God, and is made a new creation living to God for His eternal purpose.
 - 4. Christ was made sin for us by becoming one with us through being incarnated in the flesh. Through His death He was condemned in the flesh as sin for us by God that we might be one with Him in His resurrection to be God's righteousness. By this righteousness we, the enemies of God, could be and have been reconciled to God (vv. 18-20; Rom. 5:10)

VI. Receiving the Promise of God's Redemption

- A. After Adam sinned and fell, he was in fear and trembling, and he hid from the face of God and awaited death.
- B. God came to seek him and to call him. God did not put him to death; rather, He gave him the promise of redemption. He promised that Christ would be the seed of the woman, who would bruise the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15) and thus cause the serpent's death; that is, that Christ would destroy Satan, who deceived man and poisoned man with sin (Heb. 2:14).
- C. Christ would become the sacrifice for redemption and would shed His blood to accomplish propitiation (Gen. 3:21; John 1:29) in order to save and bring back fallen man that he might receive God's life and become God's expression.
- D. Adam believed and received this promise and gave his wife the name Eve, which means "living" or "life" (Gen. 3:20).
- E. God then used skins from the sacrifice to make coats that typify Christ as righteousness making it possible for fallen sinners to be justified by God (Rom. 3:24)
 - 1. To become acceptable to God and to be able to fellowship with God.
 - 2. Therefore, through the substitution by the bleeding sacrifice and through the union with the covering coat of skin, Adam received the anticipated redemption of God.
 - 3. Adam and Eve were then able to continue to live on the earth, and through Eve, whom Adam considered as one who was qualified to have life and live, they were able to beget generation after generation of descendants.

¹ Reference: *Truth Lessons*, level 2, vol. 2, Isn. 13 pp. 6-11

VII. Being Driven Out of Paradise by God and Being Separated from the Tree of Life

- A. Adam, including all his descendants, was driven out of the garden of Eden and separated from the tree of life, because God could not allow a fallen sinner with a sinful nature to contact Him and to receive Him as life.
- B. However, when Christ came to accomplish God's redemption and thereby deal with the fallen sinner and his sinful nature, thus fulfilling the requirements of God's glory, holiness, and righteousness, God opened anew the way to the tree of life.
- C. As a result all fallen sinners can be justified by faith and accepted by God through the redemption of Jesus Christ
 1. They may come forward to God, who is signified by the tree of life
 2. They may enjoy God as life and the life supply for the fulfillment of God's eternal plan.

FOCUS: Adam was the first man on earth, a man created by God according to His image and likeness to satisfy God's heart desire to have a representative on earth having dominion over His creation. However right from the very beginning, man failed God by taking in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But instead of judging man, God promised Adam redemption. Today, we need to see what God's purpose is for humanity. It's nothing less than to restore man to God's original intention, i.e., that man would fully bear God's image and represent God to His entire creation.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Question 1 What are the different matters implied or signified by Adam?

Question 2 Speak briefly on how Adam would have been able to declare God and express God.

Question 3 How was it that, through Adam, all men were constituted sinners?

Question 4 Speak briefly on the promise of God's redemption and the anticipated redemption received by Adam after his fall

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:26,28 (26) And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. (28) And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish

of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than every other animal of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden? (See also Rev.12:9)

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He

will bruise you on the head, But you will bruise him on the heel.

Genesis 3:20 And the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living

Genesis 3:21 And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins and clothed them. (See John 1:29).

Genesis 3 : 22-24 And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever - Therefore Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to work the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 18:1-5 And Jehovah appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre... And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and there were three men standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them...And said, My Lord, if I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass on from Your servant. Please let a little water be fetched, and do wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree...And let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may sustain yourselves. After that you may pass on, since you have come to your servant. So they said, Do as you have said. (See also Gen.32:24, 28-30; Josh. 5:13-15; Judg.6:12, 14, 16-24; 13:9-10, 17-20)

Matthew 6:10, 13 (10) Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. (13) And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Luke 4:5-6 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, To You I will give all this authority and their glory, because to me it has been delivered, and to whomever I want I give it. (See also 1 John 5:19)

Ephesians 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all (See also 1Cor.11:3, Rom.5:14b)

1 Corinthians 15:47,45 (47) The first man is out of the earth, earthy; the second man is out of heaven. (45) So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

Ephesians 2:15-16 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace, And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Romans 5:12,19 (12) Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned -- (19) For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were constituted sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be righteous.

Rom. 5:14 But death reign from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Romans 9:21, 23 (21)Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor? (23) In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him(God) you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption, Romans 3 : 24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.