

LESSON #2 HOPE SHATTERED! HOPE RESTORED!

- **2 Pet. 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;
- **Rev. 12:9a** The great dragon was hurled down -- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

I. HOW DID MANKIND FALL INTO SIN?

Read Genesis 3:1-14

1. Remember, God had told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. As the devil comes, how does he first approach Adam and Eve? (v1)

2. The devil then steps up the attack. How so? (v4) _____

3. Unfortunately, what did both Adam and Eve do? _____

4. After Adam and Eve fell into sin, they displayed many disturbing attitudes and actions which showed how this had affected every part of their lives. How had it affected each of the following areas?

a) their relationship to God: _____

b) their relationship to each other: _____

c) their self-image: _____

5. Read 3:16-19. What effects would sin have upon Adam and Eve? _____

6. What was the worst effect of sin? (v19b) _____

Some helpful passages:

Gen. 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; ...

1. When Seth is born, he isn't born in the image of God. Instead, whose image does he bear?

Ps. 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

2. In fact, not only are we sinful at birth, but from what moment? _____

(The truth that every one of us is sinful from conception is called **original sin** or **inherited sin**.)

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

3. Our sinful condition doesn't remain hidden, but shows itself. How? _____

Ezek. 18:4 For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son -- both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

4. The fair punishment for sin is _____

(Food for thought: What do these passages tell us about who we are? How does this section help us understand the world around us?)

II. WHAT DID GOD DETERMINE TO DO FOR SINFUL MANKIND?

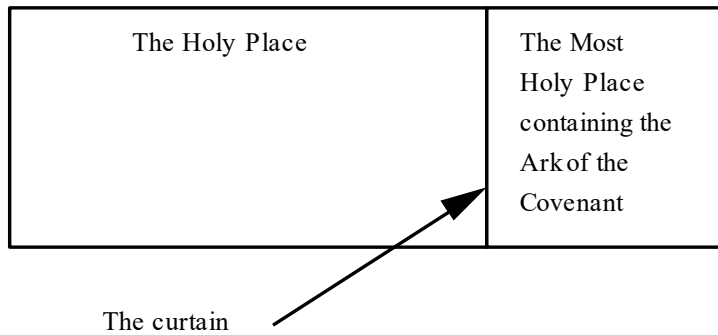
Read Genesis 3:15

1. In sinning, Adam and Eve had turned their relationship to God into one of hostility. At the same time, they made "friends" with the devil. Here, what does God promise to do? _____

2. We might have expected God to simply start over. But to do so would have meant that God would have had to send Adam and Eve to hell. By instead promising to send a Savior, what is God teaching us about Himself? _____

1John 3:8b says, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's promise of the Savior, first given in Genesis 3:15.

Read Leviticus 16, selected verses (an Old Testament picture of forgiveness)



1. In verse 2 we learn that Aaron (the high priest) wasn't to come anytime he wanted into the Most Holy Place. If he dared to come in on his own whim, what did God say would happen?

2. What lesson was God teaching through that? _____

3. After sacrificing a bull for his own sins, Aaron was then to sacrifice the first of the goats. What was Aaron to do with the blood? (v15) _____

4. What lessons about forgiveness was God teaching through that? _____

5. Read vv20-22. After Aaron confessed the sins of the people "on the goat's head," what was to happen with that goat? _____

6. What lessons does God teach us about forgiveness through this? _____

God wanted to impress this on His people's minds. This ritual would have touched four of the five senses, perhaps all five.

Some helpful passages:

Hebr. 10:3-4 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

1. All those OT sacrifices were unable to actually take sins away. Instead, what was their purpose? _____

1 Pet. 3:18a For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

2. There is forgiveness. Where is it to be found? _____

Luke 23:44-46 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

3. When Jesus died, what happened to that temple curtain which had "separated" humans from God? _____

Hebr. 10:19,22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, ...

4. What did that tearing of the curtain signify? _____

Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -- you and your household."

5. How does God give me the benefit of Jesus' work? _____

Summary:

- Sin shattered mankind's relationship with God and brought difficulty into every aspect of life.
- Every person is born as a sinner, deserving God's wrath and deserving to go to hell. ("original sin" or "inherited sin")
- Because God wants all to be saved, God promised to send the Savior to win forgiveness for humans.
- Because of Jesus' work, God has completely forgiven me and all people. I can now come into God's presence with confidence, because my sins have been totally and completely removed.
- God gives me the benefits of what Jesus did by working faith in my heart.

We had failed - but God prevailed! Hope grows!

FOR STUDY AT HOME DURING THE WEEK

1. Complete the homework sections below.
2. To build up your knowledge of God's Word, memorize these passages:
Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.
3. Memorize the New Testament books of the Bible, 1 Thessalonians through Revelation. You'll find them listed in the front of your Bible.
4. Suggested daily reading: Mark 8-14

The early chapters of Genesis record the horrible effects of sin on the world. To see what happened, read chapters 4, 6-9, 11-12 and answer the following questions.

1. Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. When God rejected Cain's offering how did Cain react? (v5) _____
2. The Lord came to Cain with a warning. What did God say to Cain? (v7b) _____
3. The sins of anger and hatred were left unchecked. What horrible sin did Cain eventually commit? (v8) _____
4. Chapters 6-9 relate an amazing event. Describe what happened. _____
5. In 6:5 we have another passage which teaches original sin. What does God say is wrong with our heart by nature? _____
6. In 9:11, God promises never to send that sort of flood again. What is the sign of that promise? (cf. 9:12-16) _____
7. To understand chapter 11, look at 9:1. What had God told people to do? _____

8. Instead, what did the people decide to do? (cf. 11:4) _____

9. What was the result of their sin? (cf. 11:7-9) _____

10. What effects has this incident had on the world from then on? _____

11. Remember, God has promised to send a Savior to this earth. In chapter 12 we are introduced to the man who would be the father of the family from which that Savior would come. Who is that man? _____

12. What blessings did God promise to Abram? (try to name three different aspects of the blessing.) _____

Read Luke 2:1-20 and answer the following questions.

1. This section records the birth of the Savior. Into what sort of conditions was He born? (v7) _____

2. Jesus is the all-powerful God; perhaps we would have expected Him to be born in a grand and glorious way, in very rich surroundings. Instead, He came very humbly. Why do you think He came in that way? _____

3. How did the shepherds react when the angels appeared to them? (v9) _____

4. Their reaction makes perfect sense. Never before had the shepherds seen their sinfulness as clearly as then, when they contrasted themselves with the holy angels. To those shepherds, terrified because of their sinfulness, what news does the angel bring? (v10-11) _____

5. The angel describes the baby -- whose name is Jesus -- in a number of ways. What does the angel tell the shepherds about who Jesus is? (v11-12) _____

Thought Questions:

1. In this lesson we learned about original sin, the truth that each person is born sinful and inclined to do evil. How does that help you in understanding the world and events which take place in the world?
2. A just God must punish sin; a loving God didn't want to punish us. How only could God satisfy both His justice and His love?
3. Having a right relationship with God depends completely on what Jesus did for you. Why is that so important for you?
4. Romans 8:22 says, "*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to this present time.*" Sin didn't just affect people -- it also affected nature, the world around us. In what ways does the world and nature itself "groan" under the effects of sin?

Agree or Disagree. Mark each, and be prepared to say why you marked each as you did.

1. _____ When Adam and Eve were created, they were perfect and holy.
2. _____ When Seth was born, (one of Adam and Eve's first children) he was perfect & holy.
3. _____ Since every person is born sinful, every person deserves to go to hell, even babies.
4. _____ Our salvation depends partially on the work of Jesus and partially on our own efforts.
5. _____ In order for there to be forgiveness, Jesus had to die.
6. _____ Because of Jesus' death, you and I can now face God with confidence.
7. _____ The fall into sin only affected the human race, nothing else.
8. _____ Although I deserved God's judgment, because of Jesus' work I now live in the light of God's love.
9. _____ Some people are good enough to earn God's favor by what they do.
10. _____ God gives me the benefits of what Jesus did by working faith in my heart.

Write the passages, from memory if possible.

Ps. 51:5 Surely I was _____ at _____, sinful from the _____
my _____ me.

1 Pet. 3:18 For _____ died for _____ once for _____, the _____
for the _____, to bring _____ to _____.

Bible Books. Write, from memory is possible, the New Testament books 1&2 Thessalonians to Revelation.
