

BIBLE STUDY on GENESIS (NIV) Part 3 (a)



MAN BECOMES SEPARATED FROM GOD

Genesis 3 : 1 - 21, 24

1 Now the serpent (snake) was more crafty (sly) 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.” 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable (wanting) for gaining (getting) 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.

8 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 it.”

14 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 (enemies) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” 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.” 17 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.”

20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. 21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

24 After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim (angel) and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. >>



Satan is a Deceiver

Satan, once a beautiful angel of God, had rebelled against God and was thrown out of heaven. We know it was he that appeared to Eve, “...that ancient serpent called the devil, or satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled (thrown) to the earth, and his angels with him.” (Revelation 12 : 9b)

How does satan try to deceive? We see that he first quoted God’s words to Eve, but he quoted them wrong. How important it is to know God’s Word well! God had said they *could* eat out of every tree in the garden except one. Satan tried to make God’s command sound hard and unreasonable. He sowed the seed of discontent toward God and toward God’s provision.

Satan’s next step was to claim that God’s Word was not true. He said Eve *could* sin and get away with it! He tried to take away her fear of God—the foundation of wisdom.

Next, satan slandered God’s character. He accused God of deliberately (on purpose) withholding good from her. Then he claimed that she would be like God if she would disobey God. The final seeds of distrusting God was sown in her heart! If she had really loved and trusted God, she would have obeyed Him. Oh, that men might know the *goodness* of God! “**The earth is full of His unfailing love.**” (Psalm 33 : 5b) “**His commands are not burdensome.**” (1 John 5 : 3b) “**You are in error (wrong) because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.**” (Matthew 22 : 29b) “**Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath (anger) comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.**” (Eph. 5 : 6-7)

The Consequences of Sin

Was God’s warning true? Did Adam die the very day that he sinned? Yes, instantly (at once) he died *spiritually*; that is, he was separated from God and could not live forever with God. That is why all people born after Adam are born spiritually dead, separated from God, and need to be *born again* spiritually in order to live forever with God as God planned. But also *physically*, Adam’s body started to die. “... **With the LORD a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day.**” (2 Peter 3 : 8) No man has lived a thousand years. Adam lived to be 930 years old. In God’s sight, he died physically in the day that he sinned.

“**For the wages of sin is death ...**” (Romans 6 : 23a) Yes, Adam’s and Eve’s eyes were opened as satan had promised, but not to all the good things which God had in mind for them. They knew they were naked. *The glory of God had departed.* All future generations would be born as they were. “**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**” (Romans 3 : 23)

Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves. They hid themselves from the presence of God. Oh, the tragedy of it! And all of creation suffered the curse of God as a result of their sin. Let us see sin in our lives as something *serious*. It separates us from God. It affects future generations. It touches everything around us. Just one “little” sin does all that! That is because *all* sin is really big. “**For whoever keeps the whole law (10 Commandments) and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.**” (James 2 : 10)

Let us deal swiftly (fast) with sin in our lives. “**He who conceals (hides) his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**” (Prov. 28 : 13)

Part 3 (b) in the next Issue ...