

Lesson III.

MAN'S FIRST SIN

January 19, 1913

Genesis 3 : 1-12, 22-24. Study Genesis, ch. 3. Commit to memory vs. 22, 23.

GOLDEN TEXT—Every one that committeth sin is the bondservant of sin.—John 8 : 34 (Rev. Ver.).

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of ¹every tree of the garden :

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, * We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden :

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die :

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as ⁶gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was ⁷pleasant to the eyes, and ⁸a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and ⁹gave also unto her husband with her ; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked ; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden ; ⁹the Cherubim, and the flame of a sword.

in the garden in the cool of the day : and ¹⁰Ad'am and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the Lord God called unto ¹⁰Ad'am, and said unto him, Where art thou ?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked ; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat ?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil : and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever :

23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of E'den, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man ; and he placed at the east of the garden of E'den ¹Cher'ubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Revised Version—¹any ; ²Omit We may eat ; ³we may eat ; ⁴God ; ⁵a delight ; ⁶that the tree was ; ⁷she ;

LESSON PLAN

I. The Temptation and Fall, 1-12.

II. The Banishment from Eden, 22-24.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England)

M.—Man's first sin, Gen. 3 : 1-12. T.—Man's first sin, Gen. 3 : 17-24. W.—The enticement to sin, Jas. 1 : 12-20. Th.—"Thou God seest me," Ps. 139 : 1-12. F.—Sin is transgression, 1 John 3 : 4-10. S.—Reconciled by grace, Rom. 5 : 12-21. S.—Eden restored, Rev. 22 : 1-14.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 43. What is the preface to the ten commandments ? A. The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—A tradition of prehistoric times. The Garden of Eden.

Connecting Links—In the preceding Lesson, we are told that man's first estate was one of happiness. He was placed in a park with every advantage for the development of life and character. He was given pleasant environment, pleasant tasks, and dominion over all creatures. This Lesson tells how man was robbed of this Golden Age. It is a philosophy of life, and is suggested by reflection on man's present sad conditions and the contrast between what he is and what he was meant to be.

I. The Temptation and Fall, 1-12.

Vs. 1, 2. *Now* ; better, but. Our attention is drawn to the danger that lurks in the garden. *The serpent was more subtil*. At all times and among all peoples the serpent has been regarded as the embodiment of

cunning and the possessor of peculiar wisdom (see Matt. 10 : 16), and, therefore, as the "fittest imp of fraud." *Said unto the woman*. The serpent shows his cunning by addressing the more open and impressionable mind of woman. *Yea, hath God said ?* Is it really so that God hath said ? A clever suggestion to the woman that she has probably misunderstood God. In view of God's love and care for the man and the woman, and the general utility of all things in the garden, the suggestion seemed plausible. *Ye shall not eat of every tree ?* Rev. Ver., "any tree." An intentional exaggeration of the real situation. *And the woman said*. By what follows we see that she understood what God had commanded.

Vs. 3, 4. *Neither shall ye touch it*. As there is no mention of "touching" in Gen. 2 : 17, it seems that the woman in parrying

The Question on Missions—3. Was Livingstone's early life an easy one ? No, his parents were poor, and when he was ten years old, he was put to work in a factory. But he went to night school and studied at home, and became a good Latin scholar at sixteen.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 7 (Supplemental Lesson), 530, 533, 29 (Ps. Sel.), 164 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 122.

Special Scripture Reading—James 1 : 1-15. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 563, The Fall of Man. For Question on Missions, M. P. 331, Work and Study : Livingstone, the Weaver Boy in the Clyde Mills. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Weston, Ont., at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, Irrigation by the Euphrates, Where Men Have Toiled Ever Since Adam Left Eden (Underwood & Underwood, see page 13.)