

LESSON II. BEGINNING OF SIN AND REDEMPTION

July 14, 1901

Genesis 3: 1-15: vs. 4-15 only printed, by recommendation of International S.S. Lesson Committee. Commit to memory vs. 14, 15. Read Genesis 2: 4 to 4: 15:

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 gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave 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 in the cool of the day: and Adam 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 Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden,

Revised Version—God; 2A delight; 3That the tree was; 4The man; 5Cursed art thou.

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 shouldst 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.

13 And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel.

EXPLANATION

Connection—After the general statement of the work of creation, as in our last lesson, a more minute account is given of the creation of the first man and the first woman, and of their home in Eden, where they dwelt, innocent and happy (ch. 2: 7-25). We have now the sad story of their sin and fall.

1-3. How long our first parents dwelt in holiness and peace, we are not told. **The serpent**, the most subtle, or wily, of creatures (Matt. 10: 16), was used by Satan to deceive and destroy them. **He said unto the woman**; as "the weaker vessel" (1 Pet. 3: 7). **Yea, hath God said?** A sneer. He seeks to create distrust of God for not permitting them to eat of all the trees. Eve maintains God's goodness, but in a hesitating sort of way (vs. 2, 3), which leads the serpent to a bolder attack.

4, 5. **Ye shall not surely die.** He now gives the lie to God (2: 17). **Your eyes shall be opened.** True; but to their ruin. **Ye shall be as God** (Rev. Ver.). The hint is that God would be jealous of their growth of knowledge.

6. A verse that might well be set around with mourning. **When the woman saw.** "Eve gazed and reflected, when she should have fled." Good for food; "the lust of the flesh." Pleasant to the eyes; "the lust of the eye." To make one wise; "the pride of life." (1 John 2: 16.) She took . . . and did eat; in direct disobedience of God. Gave unto her husband; became herself a temptress. He did eat; knowing it was wrong. (1 Tim. 2: 14.)

7, 8. **The eyes of them both were opened;** to a sense of their sin and shame. Innocence was gone. That they felt their shame is the only ray of light. **Fig leaves;** a primitive dress, which some tribes still use. **Heard the voice;** as of some one approaching. **The Lord God;** "God the Creator, who is God the Redeemer, was seeking the lost." (Compare Luke 19: 10.)

9-12. **Who art thou?** The guilty cannot hide from God, and each must answer for himself. (Heb. 1: 13; Rom. 11: 12.) **I was afraid.** "Conscience is a thousand swords." **Hast thou eaten?** A direct question; but Adam meanly throws the blame of his sin back upon the woman and upon God.

13. The serpent beguiled me. Eve follows her husband in throwing the blame upon another. How very human they both show themselves to be! It was through the serpent that sin came into the world but Eve and Adam must bear their share of the guilt. That temptation is strong is no excuse for yielding.

14, 15. The Lord God said unto the serpent. Cursed art thou. Says Delitzsch: "The serpent is the only animal among those having bony skeletons that goes upon its belly." It "eats (or licks) the dust," as a consequence of crawling. **Enmity between thee and the woman;** an enmity that ever remains between serpents and the human race, and between



Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil 2: 14, 15.) (Egyptian)

Thou shalt bruise his heel; wounds, painful but not fatal. Sin has ever since been the bane and curse of mankind. It nailed Jesus to the cross.

The remaining verses of the chapter complete the tale of woe, revealing bitter sufferings, hard toil, banishment from the Garden and the tree of life as the lot of this sinning pair, and alas! through them, of the whole race of mankind. (Rom. 5: 12, 18.)

Over against the sad record stands the history of the redemption of mankind, of how God sought to win men back to Himself, and how at length Jesus Christ, "God manifest in the flesh," came into the world to save sinners.