

Lesson III.

MAN'S FIRST SIN

January 19, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—In the last Lesson we saw man created from the dust of the earth, and also made a living soul. We saw him given home, work, companionship. This Lesson gives the dark shadow of sin.

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

Memorize vs. 22, 23. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 3: 1-12, 22-24. Study Genesis, ch. 3.

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 every 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 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 they 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, 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 Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

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Revised Version—1 any; 2 Omit We may eat; 3 we may eat; 4 God; 5 a delight; 6 that the tree was; 7 she; 8 the man; 9 the Cherubim, and the flame of a sword.

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.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE TEMPTATION

AND FALL.—1-6. Now the serpent.

The word for serpent means "to him," a sound suggestive of mischief. Rev. 12: 9; 20: 2 refer to Satan as a serpent. Subtil; cunning.

Unto the woman; seemingly when Adam was not present. Loneliness tends to the success of temptation.

Yea, hath God said? "Did God really say?" He cunningly feigns reluctance to believe that God could give such a command. Ye shall not eat of every tree; Rev. Ver., "any tree."

The serpent turns the woman's mind from her liberty in countless things to her one restriction. The fruit of the tree which

is in the midst of the garden. See ch. 2: 17: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it. There is no prohibition of touching in the original words, but it was in keeping with their spirit. Lest ye die. The woman is clearly aware of the prohibition and of the results of disobedience. Ye shall not surely die; rather, "Ye shall certainly not die." God doth know. The serpent attributes the prohibition to God's jealousy. Your eyes shall be opened; to see things hidden as yet—an appeal to



THE TEMPTING SERPENT AND THE TREE OF LIFE (Babylonian)

curiosity. As gods; better, "as God;" an appeal to ambition. The woman saw that the tree was good for food . . . pleasant . . . desired; the fatal step. She looks longingly in the thought of what the serpent said, it promised liberty, knowledge, godlikeness. She took . . . and did eat . . . gave also unto her husband. Longing look is followed by action, and the act involves Adam as well as herself.

7-12. The eyes of them both were opened. The serpent's words were true, but they did not see increase of knowledge as gods, but only knowledge of guilt and loss of innocence. Aprons; rather, girdles or loin cloths. They heard the voice of the Lord God . . . in the garden . . . cool of the day. The garden was the meeting place of God and man. Hid themselves from the presence of the Lord. Everything is changed now by sin. Hitherto they had met God without fear, now they cannot endure His presence. I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. Adam makes a partial confession but does not begin at the right place. Who told thee? This partial confession betrays the whole guilty secret. The woman whom thou gavest. Adam not only

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