

Christians At Texas State Bible Study—Genesis #5

The Line of Life with Adam

Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than every other animal of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden? **4** And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die! **5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil. **6** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. **8** And they heard the sound of Jehovah God walking about in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God among the trees of the garden. **9** And Jehovah God called to the man and said to him, Where are you? **15** And I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He will bruise you on the head, but you will bruise him on the heel. **21** And Jehovah God made coats of skin for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.

Matt. 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel" (which is translated, God with us).

Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under law.

John 8:44 You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks *it* out of his own *possessions*; for he is a liar and the father of it.

Eph. 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins, **2** In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience; **3** Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Rom. 10:13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." **14** How then shall they call upon Him into whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe into Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without one who proclaims Him? **15** And how shall they proclaim Him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the news of good things!"

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled.

2 Cor. 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Fall of Man

Through man's fall Satan's personality became one with man's soul, and Satan was taken into man's body to be sin working as evil in man's fleshly members. This statement tells us how serious the fall was. The fall was not merely a matter of disobedience or rebellion by choosing Satan. Through the fall, man's entire being-spirit, soul, and body - became contaminated with the evil nature, character, life, and personality of Satan (Rom. 5:19; 7:24).

Man received Satan's evil thought, feeling, and will into the inward parts of his soul (Gen. 3:1, 4-5). Man here is represented by Adam and Eve, whom together the Bible calls Adam (5:2). Man first received Satan's evil thought into his mind. This began through Eve's entering into a conversation with Satan. She should not have talked with Satan; instead, she should have said, "I need to talk to my husband. I need to be under him. I can't do anything independent of him." However, she was independent of her husband, left the covering of God's headship, and entered into a conversation with God's enemy. As a result, Satan's thought was infused into her mind. Satan put a question into her mind: "Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" (3:1). By asking this question, Satan put something within Eve to cause her to question God's word. Whenever Satan comes to us, he comes in the form of a question mark. He comes to us to question God's word. Satan comes to a certain part of our being, our mind, to cause us to question. Whereas God comes to touch our spirit, Satan comes to touch our mind. By asking this question, Satan caused Eve to doubt God's word.

When Eve saw that the tree of knowledge was pleasant to the sight and good for food, she made a decision in her will and chose that tree. This was an act of will. Eventually, her husband went along with her decision. Hence, we can see that man received Satan's mind, Satan's emotion, and Satan's will into his mind, emotion, and will. This contaminated man's entire soul with Satan. This is where we are in our fallen condition.

Man took the tree of knowledge into the members of his body, and his body was transmuted into the flesh (v. 6; Rom. 7:14b, 17-18a, 21). Therefore, not only was man's soul contaminated, but also man's body was transmuted into the flesh. In its created state, man's body was pure, sinless, and undefiled. But when man took the evil nature, character, and element of Satan into himself, his body was transmuted. It became a mutation, and this transmutation is the flesh, which is full of sin. Paul says in Romans 7 that sin dwells in us. He also says, "For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells" (v. 18).

As a result, man's spirit was deadened, becoming insulated from God and losing its function toward God (Eph. 2:1, 5a). Not only did the fall contaminate man's soul and transmute man's body; it deadened man's spirit. That man's spirit was deadened means that man's spirit lost its function, which is to contact God. Man's spirit is a God-shaped vacuum that only God can fill (Eccl. 3:11). Hence, although man's spirit became deadened, the Lord preserved man's spirit. For this reason there is a cry in man for meaning, a longing in him for purpose, and an emptiness within him that longs to be filled with something. The communists in Russia insisted year after year that there was no God. There were even classes and academic degrees in atheism. Despite their efforts, however, the communists could not suppress the spirit of man. Once the Iron Curtain fell, the hunger for God in Russia was voracious. No one can suppress man's spirit. Man's spirit cries out for God.

The Opening Word of the Gospel "Where Are You?"

God's way of dealing with man's fall was not to declare the sentence of death but to preach the gospel. The opening word of the gospel was a question-"Where are you?" (v. 9). Just before many of us received the Lord, He asked us this question. Perhaps we began to question, "Where am I? What am I doing here on this earth?" We may have thought that this question was originating from within ourselves, but actually it was coming from the sanctification of the seeking Spirit (Luke 15:8).

This question is the opening word of the gospel. In Luke 15 the prodigal son received his father's inheritance and then went away and spent it in profligate living and debauchery. After he had spent every penny, a famine came. Although we might feel sorry for him, such an event was God's arrangement of the environment, for it was then that a question was put into him. Verse 17 says, "But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants abound in bread, but I am perishing here in famine!" In effect, the prodigal son was asking, "Where am I? Look, I am eating pig's food" (v. 16).

Where are you? You need to be saved this very moment. Perhaps you are saved eternally, but are you being saved right now? Are you being saved in His life right now (Rom. 5:10)? Day by day, when we turn away from Him, when

we backslide, and when we are ready to quit, the Lord comes to us with this question. He tells us, "Turn back to Me (2 Cor. 3:16). I am not here to sentence you to death. I am here to seek for you, find you, and bring you back to Me.(1 Cor. 1:9)"

Everyone who does not have Christ in them as their life and Savior is eating carob pods-the food of pigs. This is why we need to go to people and preach the gospel (Rom. 10:13-15). One of the greatest privileges we have is that of preaching the gospel to fallen man (Luke 24:46-47). God uses many things to get us saved. We have to speak to people (Matt. 28:18-20). We have to put this question into them. One day before I was saved, I was eating with a friend in a restaurant. A man came into the restaurant and announced, "I want to let everyone here know that the Lord Jesus is coming soon and that you had better get ready." Although I was initially irritated by the disruption of my lunch, once I was on my way back to the office, I started wondering, "What if Jesus is real? What if He really is coming back again? If He is, I am in big trouble." That preaching of the gospel really spoke to me.

* Ministry portions from *Ministry Magazine* and *Life-Study of Genesis*.