

Lesson 1

ADAM

How am I Affected by the First Man's Sin?

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19

SETTING THE STAGE

Sin! It's a universal problem experienced by **every** man, woman and child on earth, for, Romans 3:23 boldly states: *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*. Sin not only leads to death, it affects our relationship with others, even as it separates us from God.

There is no way man, in his own strength, can do away with sin. Some try, by proclaiming man innately good or by blaming environment and circumstances for his moral lapses. But only God, through His Word, has the true explanation for sin, its consequences, and what to do about it.

Thus before we become acquainted with a number of the men in the Bible and learn the lessons from their lives, we need to look at the matter of sin. For God has a plan. He doesn't just excuse our sin. Rather, He provides a way for our sin nature, and all the sins that result from it, to be dealt with — to be covered and taken away so not only can we be redeemed, but our relationships with others can be restored and, most of all, reconciliation with God Himself can take place!

As we begin our study with Adam, the first man, we will discover the root cause that led to his sinning and how it has been passed on to the rest of us. We will also learn how God has provided a way for our sins to be covered, so that we can be forgiven and enjoy restored fellowship with Him, now and in the life to come. Most importantly of all, we will discover what *we* are to do to enjoy this redemption and to receive salvation!

INTRODUCING ADAM

(Based on Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-25; 3:1-25; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-47)

Adam was a created being, made from the dust of the earth. When God breathed into this first man, he became a living being, an integration of the divine and earthly. Earlier, in Genesis 1:26-27, God declared His intent to create man *in our image, in our likeness*. Being made in God's image meant that man would have some of His same attributes. God gave man free will and the power to rule. This latter capacity was important, because it was also God's plan that Adam have dominion over all the earth and its creatures. This would be a job with great benefits — living in a beautiful garden full of food, with a wife fashioned especially for him. And both Adam and his wife would have intimate fellowship with God. What more could one ask?

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To see if Adam would be trustworthy, God placed a special tree in the midst of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam that this was the one tree from which they were not to eat, “*for when you eat of it you will surely die!*” (Genesis 2:17b)

God allowed Satan, in the form of a serpent, to tempt Eve who then gave some fruit to Adam to eat. When confronted by God for his disobedience, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed Satan. The result was that Adam and Eve lost their innocence and were banished from the garden, as God pronounced consequences for their sin. God’s glory was removed from them and He covered their nakedness with animal skins. By default, Satan became the *god of this world* (2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV). *Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey...?* (Romans 6:16)

Adam and Eve experienced separation from God, an evil ruler to contend with, and a cursed earth in which to work. (See also Genesis 3:17-19, 23-24)

In 1 Corinthians 15:45-47, Adam is referred to as “the first man Adam” and Jesus is called “the last Adam” or “second man.” What was lost for man in Adam’s “fall” would be regained for him by Jesus Christ.

LESSONS FROM ADAM

How Adam’s Sin Was Passed On To Us

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man... (Romans 5:12a)

According to this and other scriptures, Adam’s sin has passed on to us. The first man experienced a major change in his position and life as a whole. As God meted out punishment to Adam, Eve, and Satan (Genesis 3:14-19), it became evident that there was a different order of things; and this new order would be the experience of all Adam’s seed (all mankind). No longer would man enjoy the peaceful setting of a garden where everything, including fellowship with God, was provided; now there would be pain and sweat and tears, and a struggle to exist. Also, Satan would be allowed to rule, since man obeyed him rather than God. (See Romans 6:16.)

Today we can see all of this being duplicated in our individual lives, as well as in society as a whole, for mankind, without the redeeming and life-changing Spirit of God, is doomed to its own self-destruction. Scripture confirms this in Romans 3:23: *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* All inherit Adam’s sin nature.

Consider the following three sins. First write how Adam and Eve sinned; then write a way you have sinned in these areas:

Disbelief (disregarding God’s Word and believing Satan instead) Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-7

Adam and Eve _____

My sin _____

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Disobedience (acting on personal desire and rejecting God’s Word) Genesis 3:6

Adam and Eve _____

My sin _____

Lusting (not being content with what is given) Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:17-18

Adam and Eve _____

My sin _____

How does the temptation of Adam and Eve compare with the temptation of Jesus as found in Matthew 4:1-11? _____

The Consequences of Sin

As a result of their disobedience, guilt entered into the soul and spirit of Adam and Eve, and they experienced a “fall” from God’s grace, from the beautiful fellowship they had experienced with Him in the garden. They attempted to physically cover themselves with sticky fig leaves, and when God manifested His presence, all they could think to do was hide!

When God questioned him as to whether or not he had eaten from the forbidden tree, Adam responded by blaming someone else. Not wanting to take responsibility for sin has been the pattern of unredeemed man from that time to this. Sin still is man’s major problem, and sin still has consequences.

God has declared, in Ezekiel 18:4b: *“The soul who sins is the one who will die.”* And in 1 Corinthians 15:22a: *“For as in Adam all die.”* So, the consequences of sin is death. In order to redeem man, God had to provide a way for sin to be covered. We’ll look at that, and how man can appropriate this covering, later in this lesson. But, first, let’s consider some of the consequences, recorded in Scripture, that man has had to pay for sin...sometimes even after forgiveness and reconciliation had taken place. Because sin often affects the lives of others, it’s difficult to regain intimacy and trust from one who has been offended. Sometimes, too, the damage is so extensive it’s impossible to return things to what they were.

Look at the following scriptures and write down how these men paid consequences of their sin, even though they may have been reconciled with God.

Adam (Genesis 3:17-19, 22-24) _____

Moses (Deuteronomy 34:4-8; Numbers 20:7-12) _____

Saul (1 Samuel 15:1-26) _____

David (2 Samuel 11:1-27; 12:7-14) _____

Ananias (Acts 5:1-6) _____

Herod (Acts 12:19b-23) _____

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How God Covers Sin

From Genesis through Revelation, we can trace a “scarlet thread of redemption” — how God covers sin by blood. Hebrews 9:22b tells us *without the shedding of blood is no forgiveness*. It would take the offering of the innocent, on behalf of the guilty, to pay the debt incurred by sin.

Genesis 3:21: God covered Adam and Eve’s sin with animal skins by replacing the fig leaves they had sown together. This implies that an animal had been killed...shed its blood...so that God could “cover” Adam. Adam would, indeed, have recognized this as a sacrifice, if it had been one of the very animals he had named and helped to care for!

Genesis 8:20 and 12:7: We find men of God building altars to make sacrifices to atone for sin and to free themselves from its curse.

Exodus 12:1-7, 22-23: We find the story of Moses preparing to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land. The angel of death had been instructed to kill all the firstborn sons in the land one night. To protect the sons of the Israelites, God instructed them to paint the door posts of their homes with the blood of a sheep or goat so that the death angel would pass over them. This was another personal sacrifice; the animals had to be without blemish, ones that they had cared for.

Leviticus 1-7 & 16-17: These chapters contain commands concerning acceptable sacrifices and how to carry them out — so that people could have their sins covered and could be made a holy people before God. This very tedious and precise process became nearly impossible to keep, even though it was in effect during the wilderness wanderings, as well as when the Israelites settled in the Promised Land.

Joshua 2:17-18; 6:22-25: The spies told the harlot Rahab to let a scarlet rope down from her home on top of Jericho’s wall so that she and her family could be spared when the walls came tumbling down as the Israelites took the city. She did, and her whole household was spared. The scarlet cord was another symbol of the blood.

1 Kings 8:62-64: At the dedication of the first temple, Solomon offered a large sacrifice of peace offerings which included 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep and goats. Much blood was shed that day! This was the beginning of temple sacrifices which lasted until Herod’s temple was destroyed in A.D. 70.

Isaiah 53: We find God speaking through the prophet Isaiah concerning the one who would come to make the ultimate sacrifice for sin. Here Isaiah described the crucifixion of Jesus as a lamb being led to the slaughter, even though he didn’t completely understand the coming of the Messiah and how Jesus would be God’s Lamb, the One who would atone for sin.

Matthew 27:45-50: While Jesus was hanging on the cross, He cried out, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” (v.46). With the burden of all man’s sin upon His own body, He felt completely separated from His Father. *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God* (2 Corinthians 5:21). According to 2 Peter 2:24, all of our sins were upon his body on the tree, so that we can die to sins and live for righteousness. He shed His sinless blood so that we can be saved from the second death — the flames of the lake of fire.

Various places in the Book of Revelation: We find mention of “the Lamb,” which is Jesus, Who, according to John the Baptist in John 1:29, is *the Lamb of God who takes away*

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the sin of the world. In Revelation 5:9-13, we read of a beautiful song in heaven giving glory to Jesus, the Lamb who was slain, and, with His blood, purchased men for God. Revelation 7:14 tells us that the martyrs who die during the great tribulation on earth wash their robes in the blood of this Lamb. In Revelation 12:11, we find mention of those who overcome the “accuser of the brothers” by the blood of the Lamb. In Revelation 19:6-9, we find the Marriage Supper of the Lamb — the union of Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Glorious Church. With our sins covered, our ultimate destiny is to be this Bride, the “wife of the Lamb,” as described in Revelation 21:9b-27.

God’s Plan of Salvation

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... Romans 1:16a

Those of us who live this side of the cross have been given specific directions in the Bible on how to receive God’s forgiveness for our sins and how to receive eternal life. We call this being “saved,” because we are saved from the second death and given eternal life with God. It is also known as being “born again,” acknowledging the fact that our “first birth” is of the seed of man, while our “second birth” is of the incorruptible seed of God.

So, what are the steps that will lead to salvation, being born again?

We must recognize our sin.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5)

Once we have recognized our sin, we must repent.

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30)

But unless you repent, you too will all perish. (Luke 13:3)

We must confess our sins — to God, and possibly to those we have wronged.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. (Matthew 10:32)

We must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...you and your household. (Acts 16:31)

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)