

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 18

Genesis 3

INTRODUCTION: In Genesis 2:7 we have the account of the creation of man. Adam is a picture of Jesus Christ, Who was called the “second Adam.” In Genesis 2:21, 22, a rib is taken from Adam, and the Lord made Eve. Here is the first surgery ever mentioned in the human race. Eve is a picture of the Christians or the bride of Christ. She was taken from the wounded side of Adam. We, as God’s people, have been taken from the wounded side of our Saviour, Whose side was pierced on the cross. Now we look at Genesis 3 for our lesson.

I. THE SERPENT.

1. He was shrewd. Notice in Genesis 3:1, the word “subtle” implies his shrewdness. Oh, that men might realize how shrewd he really is!
2. Perhaps he looked like an angel. At least the Apostle Paul said to the church at Corinth that Satan transforms his messengers into angels of light. Satan was an angel in Heaven, and there is some reason to believe that maybe the serpent flew at this time. At least we know he was not a writhing reptile, but a beautiful, tempting creature. Notice Isaiah 14:29, “Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent’s root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.” The last words of this verse cause some to believe that Satan flew.
3. He cast reflection on the Word of God. Notice Genesis 3:2-4. There were two trees in the Garden of Eden that were very close to each other. One was the “tree of life,” and one was the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Man could not eat of both; he had to make a choice. See Genesis 3:23, 24. Adam and Eve chose to eat of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”; hence, they could not eat of the “tree of life.” Satan planned to persuade them to eat of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” In doing this, he said that God’s Word was not true. God had said something, but He could not be trusted, according to Satan. This has always been Satan’s biggest task. He goes into colleges, seminaries, in the pulpits, behind desks and onto the printed page to attempt to disprove the Word of God. (Teacher, spend some time here building up the faith of the pupils in the inspiration of the Bible.)

Notice the words in Genesis 3:4, “Ye shall not surely die.” Notice especially the word “surely.” In other words, Satan said, “The Lord may have said that you will die, but He didn’t really mean that, for you shall not SURELY die.” Here is another trick of Satan. He tries to tell us that God doesn’t mean exactly what He says. Ah, how shrewd he is!

4. Satan lied. Read Genesis 3:5. He told Eve that if only she would eat of the fruit of the tree, she would be as gods. Since Satan is the god of this world, perhaps he was tempting her to look like him. He was a beautiful cherub. Maybe he was saying, “Eve, if you would eat that fruit, you would be like me.” In a sense, he was telling the truth. She would be as mean as he. She would be as sinful as he. Sin always makes us more like Satan. (Teacher, spend some time here warning the pupils of the Satanic results of sin.)
5. Satan’s temptations. Notice in Genesis 3:6 how Eve was tempted. First, the temptation came through her eyes. Notice the word, “saw.” Then notice the words, “good for food.” She was tempted by her senses. Then notice the words, “pleasant to the eyes,” and the words, “to make one wise.” Satan still tempts people through the eyes, through the senses, and through the desire to be humanly wise. How sad for us to believe him!

II. THE FIG LEAVES. Read Genesis 3:7. When Adam and Eve sinned, several things happened, the most important of which was that they realized they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together for covering. They made aprons for themselves. The fact that they made aprons meant that only the front was covered. Man-made covering never covers all of our sins and is never acceptable by God as covering for our nakedness. Here we have a picture of man's efforts to cover himself. Man thinks that by joining a church, becoming religious, turning over a new leaf, living a good life, taking communion, being baptized, etc. he can cover his sins, but all man's efforts are unacceptable to God.

III. GOD'S COVERING. Notice in Genesis 3:21 several things about God's covering.

1. It was a coat. It covered man's nakedness completely. Here is the picture of the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ and the salvation He gives us.
2. It was a blood sacrifice. Notice, it was a "coat of skins," which means that an animal had to die. Here is the picture of the necessity of blood, a type of Jesus, Who died for us and shed His blood for us on the cross.
3. It was made by God. Salvation must be made by God, not by man.

IV. THE PROMISE OF A MESSIAH. Notice this in Genesis 3:15. As soon as man sinned, God promised a Messiah. The "seed of woman" in verse 15 is the Lord Jesus Christ. The bruising of the head of the serpent by the seed of woman is a picture of Calvary when Jesus bruised Satan from the cross. The bruising of the heel of the seed is a picture of Jesus' suffering on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

V. THE CURSE.

1. The serpent. Satan's tool was cursed. Notice Genesis 3:14. The serpent became God's illustration in nature of the effects of sin. The most beautiful and subtle of creatures became a loathsome reptile. This shows the awfulness of sin and what it does to the most beautiful.
2. The woman. Read Genesis 3:16. Notice the curse that was placed upon woman. God said, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception." Motherhood will be linked with sorrow. The headship of man was established. The entrance of sin, which is disorder, makes necessary a headship, and God made man the head.
3. The earth. Notice in Genesis 3:17, the earth was cursed.
4. The sorrow of life. Read Genesis 3:17.
5. Burdensome labor. Notice this in Genesis 3:18, 19.
6. Physical death. See Genesis 3:19.

(Teacher, show the pupils the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Warn them of Satan and his subtle temptations.)