

## Lesson 15

### d) Consequences of the fall of man

- We saw in the last lesson:
  - ⇒ **Genesis 2:15**;      *'a warning'*
  - ⇒ **Genesis 2:16~17**;    *'an order'*
  - ⇒ **Genesis 3:1~6**;      *'the temptation and fall of man'*
- **The two trees in the garden of Eden; ⇒ Genesis 2:4~15**  
 In **V.9**; how many trees were there in the middle of the garden and what were they? The Bible says that both trees were in the middle of the garden, and we believe that they should have been very close to each other; the **TREE OF LIFE** and the **TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL**.
- Was there any prohibition against eating the fruit of the tree of life? ⇒ **Genesis 2:16~17** shows us that the only prohibition was against eating the fruit of the tree that fed the ego, the soul, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- If that couple had wanted to demonstrate to God their will, freely exercised, to remain in that relationship they were having with God, if they had wanted to demonstrate their trust in God's Word, spoken directly to Adam, their trust in God's love and in all His attributes, they would have eaten from the fruit of the tree of life.
- It was the test that God had determined for them to freely exercise in deciding whether or not to accept what God had established in His heart for man. The tree that nourishes the spirit would confirm the life of the spirit that was already in Adam, the life of God's quality (**ZOE**), in soul and body, and thus perpetuate in man that state in which Adam and Eve found themselves.
  - ⇒ **Revelation 22:1~5**; The tree of life in the New Jerusalem
- The tree of life was taken from the earth. It is in the middle of the square of the New Jerusalem and, when we go there, we will be able to freely eat its fruit as our food.

### Consequences of the fall

- In the last lesson, we saw Satan's attack on the human race. There, the human race was made up of a single couple; they were the heads of the race. In the man was all the seed of the human race and he was the representative of the whole race.
- The man had a decision to make: to eat from the tree of life, which nourished his spirit (*or any other tree, for there was no prohibition*), or to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- The Devil is no fool, he appealed to the soul, and the soul gave in. Man chose what the soul pointed out, he had God-given sovereignty, he had the freedom to choose what he wanted to eat. God had given His Word and Satan came and gave his. There was no reason, no basis, for man to believe in that serpent, to believe in Satan. They knew God, they knew His power and love, they knew God's divinity in that very garden that was created for them, as well as knowing God's Word recorded in ⇒ **Genesis 2:16~17**.

- The woman exchanged certainty for a vague possibility; (as we studied) '**DYING YOU SHALL DIE**' vs. 'so that you do not die'. Satan said: 'Oh, God knows, you certainly won't die'. Satan still uses this tactic today; he doesn't even change this phrase. The Bible is clear that every soul who sins will die; ⇒ **Ezekiel 18:4 and 20**. The Bible is also clear about the existence of hell and that everyone who is not reconciled with God through Jesus Christ will go there; Jesus himself clearly mentions this in the gospels. And Satan still says today: '*You will not surely die*'. That's eternal death! Going to hell is eternal death, it's perpetuating the death we were born with.
- In other words, Satan says: 'God isn't that bad'; 'God is love'; 'there's no hell, here's what you do, here's what you pay'; 'all the ways lead to God'; 'in the end everything will be in order'; 'you're not as bad as the Bible says'. The Bible says it clearly:
  - ⇒ **Romans 3:10~12**; '*For all have sinned.*'
  - ⇒ **Romans 3:23**; '*And fall short of the glory of God.*'
 He doesn't even change the phrase: '*you will certainly not die*'; do you understand?
- When did that couple sin, when they believed Satan's word and decided, or when they bit into the fruit? When they believed Satan's word, sin had already entered them. The biting of the fruit, the eating of the fruit, was the concretization of what was already inside their hearts; it was the concrete work of what was in their hearts. So, the original sin was unbelief in the Word of God.
- When man accepted Satan's word, sin entered the human race, and where there is sin, the life of God cannot remain. At that moment man died. Remember what God said: '*In the day you eat, dying you shall die, in the day*'. The man didn't fall dead physically, but the life of God was taken from his spirit. The man's spirit wasn't taken from him, it was still there, but it no longer had the life of God's quality (Zoe); '*dying you shall die*'. The man continued to walk, he continued to have Bios, the life of the body, but he no longer had 'Zoe' in his spirit. And the man cut off from the source of life, which is only God, dying spiritually, will die physically, because the body will not be able to bear it.
- That's when physical death entered the human race. God didn't create man to die physically, man freely decided to take that path. It's like a leaf cut off from its tree, cut off from its sap, from its source of life; after the leaf is cut off, it remains visibly the same, but little by little it changes until it turns to dust. This is the process in man.
- By sinning, man took in the seed of death, the seed of sin. This is a biblical principle; every word is a seed. When they took in that word, that seed, what would it give? Sin and the result of sin is death.
  - ⇒ **Isaiah 59:1~2**; '*Sin separates towards God.*'
  - ⇒ **Romans 6:23**; '*The wage of sin is death.*'
  - ⇒ **James 1:14~15**; '*Greed generates sin, which generates death.*'
- Remember, as we have already studied, death is not extinction, it is separation. Sin generates separation between the sinner and God. Bios and Psyche remained, but Zoe is gone. And whoever does not have Zoe is dead in spirit, because God cannot be where there is sin.

- Satan was a murderer from the beginning, ⇒ **John 8:44**. He was responsible for offering death to man, for bringing death. It was Satan who brought death, but man was totally responsible for welcoming that seed.
- The Bible says that the woman was deceived, ⇒ **I Timothy 2:14**; Satan deceived her because she followed him by putting her soul before her spirit. When Eve used her soul and coveted things like knowledge, understanding, she was already reversing the chain of command proposed by God; Eve preferred to feed her soul. **But man was not deceived.**

⇒ **Romans 5:12**;      *'Just as through one man sin entered the world.'*

- This also confirms that death entered with sin. God had given the command to man, Adam, so he was responsible. Adam didn't even open his mouth to speak, he used his emotion (*the Bible doesn't say*), but there is no other explanation. Adam loved his wife more than the Word of God; he fell with his eyes open and most certainly so as not to lose her. As he was the representative of the human race at that moment, so death passed to the whole race, for it is written that **ALL SINNED**; the seed of sin bore fruit, and all of the human race were in Adam's seed.
- God said: *'Don't eat, you'll die!'*, and Satan said: *'Eat, you'll live!'*. And they ate, demonstrating in a concrete way who they believed in.

⇒ **Romans 6:16**;      *'You are those slaves whom you obey.'*

- There we see another principle, a spiritual law: we are servants to whom we submit. At that moment, man submitted to Satan and therefore the planet also passed into his hands, into the hands of the adversary of God and man; a servant has no right to anything. When Satan came to tempt Jesus Christ in the desert, he said to him: ⇒ **Luke 4:6**; *'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me.'* Therefore, man became a slave to sin, a slave to Satan, and lost sovereignty on earth.

## Satan's Tactics

- Satan always attacks from the outside in, that is, he uses the body to influence the soul and subdue the spirit. He didn't start off by saying: *'you certainly won't die, eat, eat'*; he said: *'look at the tree'*, he drew Eve's attention from the outside in, he used the body.

⇒ **I John 2:15~16**

- ⇒ **V.15** Why is God telling us not to love the world? Because at the time of the fall, Adam handed over the world to Satan; he rented the earth to Satan, because the earth is actually God's, which he had given to Adam.
- ⇒ **V.16** For all that is in the world does not come from the Father, but from the world. Concupiscence means *'the lust of the flesh'*, a very strong lust. *'The lust of the flesh'*: the flesh wants, it can't do without. *'The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life'*; it's all here

- It was in these three areas, which make up everything the world can throw at our lust, that Eve was attacked. Compare with ⇒ **Genesis 3:6**.

⇒ *good for food*; lust of the flesh.

⇒ *pleasant to the eyes*; lust of the eyes.

⇒ *desirable to make one wise*; pride of life.

Understanding, I'm going to be like God, knowing good and evil.

These are the same areas. The woman was instigated in the soul, through the body, aiming for death in the spirit. Eve used her free will to make the choice.

- When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert, it was no different, but Jesus overcame. Jesus was tempted to show that Adam, that man, could resist. Jesus acted on earth as a man, without His attributes as God (*which He is*), ⇒ **Philippians 2:5~11**. However, Jesus acted totally moved by the Holy Spirit. Today we are fully able to act as Jesus did, because before going to heaven, Jesus delegated all authority to the church. ⇒ **Luke 4:1~13**; Jesus' temptation.
- Jesus, in a much worse condition than Adam, overcame the Devil:
  - ⇒ Adam was in the garden; Jesus was tempted in the desert.
  - ⇒ Adam had the company of animals, which were not wild.
  - ⇒ **Mark 1:13** says that Jesus was in the desert and was among the beasts.
  - ⇒ Adam was not hungry; Jesus had not eaten for 40 days.
- And Jesus overcame the Devil, using the sword, the only weapon we can use to overcome the Devil (*and Eve should have used it without modifying it*), the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, ⇒ **Ephesians 6:17**. Notice how Jesus used the Word of God: **IT IS WRITTEN**. To overcome the Devil, we must say like Jesus: **IT IS WRITTEN!** Jesus didn't do like Eve, who increased, decreased and modified the Word of God. Also note that Satan himself made use of God's Word but was not totally faithful.
- The same areas! Jesus, in an incomparably worse condition than Adam, showed man that it is possible to resist the Devil. The victory was recorded, that work was undone. Jesus defeated the Devil, and the Bible says that '*Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil.*' ⇒ **I John 3:8**