

Lesson 06

d. God's Principles:

- When we read the Bible, we have to pay attention to God's principles.
 - a. To walk in them
 - b. To understand the Bible better
- When you know the physical principles, it becomes easier to understand the natural things that surround us. Spiritually, it's the same; we must seek out and understand spiritual principles. To walk in the fear of the Lord is to walk in God's principles.
 - *'Fear of the LORD'* ⇒ **Proverbs 8:13** / ⇒ **Proverbs 6:16~19**
 - *'is the beginning of wisdom'* ⇒ **Psalms 111:10** / ⇒ **Proverbs 9:10.**

d.1) God created free beings:

- God didn't create robots or programmed dolls! It wouldn't make sense for God to create beings and force them to worship him, he could, because he is God, but that's not how he determined it. God created free beings.
- All of God's creatures, angels and men, have to pass a test, and this test clearly shows their decision whether or not to live with God. This decision is made with the use of free will. All beings created by God are totally free and will have to exercise their 'free will' to determine their free choice to continue in relationship with their Creator.
- For the angels it has already been determined; 1/3 of them have already fallen because they said yes to Satan, and 2/3 said yes to God. Once that is determined, there is no turning back. We'll see about that with us men.

d.2) Sin separates God from his creatures:

- God cannot be where there is sin. This principle runs from cover to cover in the Bible, just like the other principles.
 - ⇒ **Isaiah 59:1~2**
 - ⇒ **Roman 6:23**
 - ⇒ **Habakkuk 1:13**
- God did not originate evil. Evil originated inside that cherub; from within him sprouted all that pride we've seen and in his heart a plan was conceived, *'I will be like the Most High.'*
- When this happened, he immediately separated from God, along with 1/3 of the angels. When someone moves away from the Creator God (*who is the only source of life, light, truth, justice and love*), they are automatically in everything that opposes God (*in darkness, lies, injustice and evil*).
- Sin has far-reaching consequences, even for the creature who thinks he can be like God, like this cherub. He was separated from God, but he didn't stop being a cherub, with all the attributes with which he was created, he didn't stop being a personal being. Man did not cease to be man after he sinned.

- Satan and his fallen angels form a very well-organized army, with princes, rulers, demons; it's like a caste, a graduation.

⇒ **Ephesians 6:12**

d.3) God judges works (deeds):

- We have to understand why God didn't stop everything in the beginning. God judges his creatures by their works (*deeds*).

⇒ **I Peter 1:17**

⇒ **Romans 2:5~6**

- What is a work? It's something concrete, it's what is made, a work of art, the work of a craftsman; it's something visible. I can have an idea inside me, but if I don't execute it, no one will see it.
- Works don't save anyone, salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ as the only and sufficient Savior, but my works concretely demonstrate who I believe in. It is a demonstration to the whole universe in whom I believe.
- If I say I believe in Jesus and someone looking at my life sees that it has nothing to do with his Word, my faith is false.

⇒ **James 1:21~25**

⇒ **James 2:17**

- God judges only the deeds, the works of the man.

- For those who are lost; ⇒ **Revelation 20:12**; '*The Great White Throne Judgment*'
- For the saved; ⇒ **I Corinthians 3:11~14**; '*receiving the rewards*.'
- Salvation vs. judgment; ⇒ **John 3:16~18**

- God is allowing Satan to set everything in concrete about what has sprouted up in his heart, turning everything into works, so that he can judge him and banish him forever.

⇒ **Matthew 25:41**;

'the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

⇒ **Revelation 20:11~15**;

God never prepared hell (*the lake of fire*) for men. However, those who did not accept God's provision in life will be on the Devil's side and, after the final judgment, will go to the lake of fire.

- Satan and his angels know that they are lost. For the angels there was no plan of salvation, because they knew God directly and lived in his presence. For men, we will study God's plan of salvation.

We have to understand that God is love, but he is also justice, otherwise he wouldn't be able to judge. God hates sin, but he loves the sinner and wants 'desperately' to save him. His mercy (a second chance) for man is tremendous.

e. Satan and his angels:

- Everything we've seen needs to be understood. We must be convinced in the Bible who Satan is and how he works together with his fallen angels.
- Satan is a created being, he doesn't create anything, but he imitates everything from God; he is opposed to God in every way. He hates man, because man was created in the image and likeness of God; man is everything he wanted to be.
- In each period of history, we will study God presenting his plan of salvation to man and Satan presenting another, similar plan to lead man astray.
- Satan is mentioned about 170 times in the Bible, under various names.
 - Satan, Devil, Beelzebub, Belial, the Adversary, Evil One, Thief, Serpent.
 - He is called the prince of the powers of the air. He is the head of the army that operates in the heavenly regions. ⇒ **Ephesians 6:12**
 - Paul calls him the god of this century. He is worshipped in various ways and through various things. In ⇒ **I John 5:19**, we read that '*the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*'
- Satan is neither omniscient nor omnipresent, which are attributes of God alone. He is very well-informed by his fallen angels; he cannot be in two places at once.
- Satan will establish a world government on earth. Today we already see the union of countries into blocs; today everything is global. Little by little, everything is being brought to a common standard.
- *I will be like the Most High*; this is the goal he pursues 24 hours a day, he wants dominion. When the antichrist is reigning, Satan will be like the king of Tyre we studied in ⇒ **Ezekiel 28** (*double-reference prophecy*). A man will be totally energized by Satan.

⇒ **II Thessalonians 2:3~12**
- What prevents this dominion today is the Holy Spirit through '*the ministry of restraining evil*,' through the Church of the Lord Jesus, the bride of the Lamb. However, when Jesus returns and raptures his bride (*the Church*), the field will be cleared, and the antichrist will appear and dominate the whole world.
- The Church has the authority given by Jesus to live in victory against Satan and his heavenly hosts. We have to know this authority and use it:

➤ Authority given to the apostles; ➤ Authority given to the other disciples. ➤ Authority given to all who believe, the Church.	⇒ Luke 9:1~2 ⇒ Luke 10:1~3 / 17~19 ⇒ Mark 16:14~20 ⇒ Acts 28:1~10
(see also);	⇒ Luke 10:20
➤ But what should our joy be?	
- God's angels (2/3 of the total) work faithfully for the LORD. They are appointed by God to work on our behalf.

⇒ **Psalms 103:20~21**
 ⇒ **Psalms 91:11~12**
 ⇒ **Hebrew 1:13~14**