

Lesson 17

5- MAN AFTER THE FALL AND THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION

5.1) How was the man after the fall?

a) Man separated from God by sin; God wants to restore man.

- We saw that man died spiritually, separated from God. We also saw that death is not extinction, it is not ceasing to exist, death is separation. Since you were born, you will never stop existing, being aware that you are you and knowing where you are. With the entry of sin, man died spiritually, and physical death entered the human race; physical death does not mean that everything ends. The body is buried, but the soul (*the ego, the mind, the will, the emotion, the manifestation of the person*), together with the spirit, leaves the body, separates from the body, goes somewhere and remains there consciously.

When a man dies physically, his soul and spirit are absent from the physical body, but there is a spiritual body, an immaterial and conscious body.

⇒ **Luke 16:19~31**; man after death, fully conscious.

This is the description of the people who died before Jesus Christ died and was resurrected; It's Jesus Himself telling it, only He could tell it. Note **V.31**: to return, a dead person must be resurrected, thus invalidating the contact of men with the 'spirits' of ancestors.

- Man, who was spiritual, was guided by God. With the entry of sin, he became what the Bible defines as a natural man, that is, a man commanded by his soul. The soul in darkness, guiding man, means death in his thoughts. The man with dead reasoning, without the command of the spirit, the Bible says that his thoughts are evil.

⇒ **Genesis 6:5**; *'Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.'*

⇒ **Psalms 94:11**; *'The thoughts of man, are futile'*

⇒ **Isaiah 59:7**; *'Thoughts of iniquity.'*

- Man's emotions were also contaminated with sin. Man has reached the point of hating God who created him and who sustains all things every day.

⇒ **Hebrews 1:3**; *'Jesus upholding all things by the word of His power.'*

However, man uses his emotions to hate God, to leave God out of his life. Man loves what God hates and hates what God loves. We know this, because when we come to Jesus, we have a new life, we start to love things that we hated, that we found boring, and we start to hate certain habits or things that we did naturally; there is a transformation.

⇒ **Romans 1:18~32**; *'Man gave himself over to corruption, and despised God.'*

All this is determined by the free will of man, which will now act in him, contrary to the will of God, in opposition to the will of God. God says in his Word that his will is like this, and man follows the opposite. We just need to look at the world and compare it with the Word of God.

- In the spirit, intuition became completely inoperative, it became dead. Man, no longer recognizes the voice of God, he no longer recognizes the Word of God, his conscience no longer knows God. Worship is used to worship the creature, rather than the Creator; ⇒ **Romans 1:25**. Man loves man, he loves things, animals, reptiles, birds, images, pieces of sticks, pieces of stone, pieces of metal, he loves the stars.
- Man's conscience is cauterized, it is weak, corrupted, it cannot solve the problem of sin alone. Man has a set time to resolve this; it is between his birth and his physical death. This is the period that man has to resolve the problem of sin in his life.
- The basic attitude of sin is not recognizing the need for God, it is making God unnecessary in our life, because man's understanding is cauterized by sin. The curse that sin brought dominated the earth and dominated man.
- But Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit, had made a covenant, the 'Eternal Covenant', before the foundation of the world. This covenant is exactly God's plan to save man. God knew that man would fall, but God's plans could not be frustrated.

⇒ **Romans 11:29**, *'For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable'*

- Adam, the son of God, betrayed His Creator, ruined, stained God's plan for the human race and for the earth. But God sent another Son, the man Jesus Christ, to start all over again. The Son of God became man, became incarnate, took flesh upon himself; God himself became man, to come to earth and start all over again. And for this, Jesus had to undo thing by thing; that's what Jesus did.

⇒ **Romans 5:6~21**; *'Through Adam sin and death entered, but through Jesus justification and life.'*

- God wants, and now He can, save man; before it could not, because sin separates God and man. Neither God could come to man, as he cannot be where there is sin, nor could man come to God, as he had sinned. There was like a wall between man and God, a wall called sin. Sin separated God from man, in the spirit, because the spirit died. But, through Jesus, we can again be reconciled with God. Jesus, the last Adam, is a life-giving spirit.

⇒ **I Corinthians 15:45**

God's will be to save man; God wants to give us the life back, only He can do that.

⇒ **Psalms 68:20**; *'To God the Lord belong escapes from death.'*

⇒ **John 11:25~26**; *'Who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'*

- God wants to restore man! God's love for man is too deep. But God cannot, because of his Holiness, descend to the level of man, who is in sin, and live with him. God is completely Holy and if he descended to the level of man with sin, man would not resist and would be destroyed. ⇒ **Exodus 33:18~23** *'For no man shall see Me, and live.'*
- God then established a plan to bring man to Him. God had established a law and a penalty: the soul that sins will die; ⇒ **Ezekiel 18:4** and **20~21**. Man separated from God is destined to die three deaths:

1st) Man is born on this planet, separated from God, spiritual death. Man is born a sinner; he does not become a sinner after the first sin.

2nd) Lives for a few years and the body dies; It is physical death.

3rd) If you do not solve the problem of sin, until physical death occurs, you suffer eternal death; will live eternally separated from God.

- Jesus came to take man's place; Jesus died all three deaths in the man's place. Jesus, born of a virgin, was born from the woman's seed, therefore he did not inherit the sinful seed that came from Adam. Jesus had existed since eternal times but came to fulfill the Covenant He had with the Father and the Holy Spirit; came to redeem man. He was born into the human race, otherwise he could do nothing; As we have seen, to intervene on this planet you have to be a man.

Jesus was born like every child is born, he grew up, but there was a difference, he did not sin throughout his life, Jesus never had sin. God was starting a new race, as in the beginning with Adam. Since Jesus did not sin, physical death could not have entered him. Jesus gave his life, ⇒ **John 10:17~18**, Jesus allowed himself to be crucified and died three deaths in the man's place:

1st) When Jesus ascended the cross, God placed the sin of the entire world on him, God made him sin. My sins, the sins of all men, those of Adam and Eve, were all placed on Jesus.

⇒ **II Corinthians 5:21**; *'God made him to be sin for us.'*
 ⇒ **I John 3:5**; *'In him there is no sin.'*
 ⇒ **I Peter 2:22**; *'He committed no sin.'*
 ⇒ **Hebrews 4:15**; *'He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.'*

On the cross, Jesus was like a 'sin tray', carrying the sin of the entire world. And since God cannot be where there is sin, then, for the only time in all eternity, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit separated themselves from God the Son. At the moment of this separation, Jesus was dying a spiritual death, he was being cut off from God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. The Tri-Unity, out of love for man, separated; we cannot evaluate this separation.

⇒ **Matthew 27:46~50**; *'Jesus dying spiritual death'*

2nd) Jesus owed nothing, He was there as our substitute. God was placing the debt of the human race on Jesus. Then Jesus suffers physical death, due to the sin of the human race, the dying you will die was fulfilled: Jesus dying spiritually, died physically.

3rd) And with physical death, where did your spirit and soul go? He descended into Hades, and there he was suffering the 3rd death, eternal death.

⇒ **Ephesians 4:8~10**; *'He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth.'*
 ⇒ **Romans 10:6~7**; *'To bring Christ up from the dead.'*

- But after three days and three nights, Jesus resurrects; it was as if the earth 'vomited' him, in Greek it has that meaning. In the OT, we have the figure of the prophet Jonah who was 'vomited' from the belly of the fish; this was the sign given to the Pharisees when they asked Jesus for a sign. And Jesus is resurrected by God in a glorious body. The moment you believe in this, in the solution of sin for man, nothing separates you from God. At that moment God puts a new spirit in you and can then relate to you again. This new spirit becomes inhabited by the Holy Spirit.

- When you believed, God saw you on the cross; He makes a substitution. But Jesus is the substitute, man can do nothing to redeem himself, there is nothing good within man.
- Jesus wore our clothes, our rags, our fig leaves; the justice we call justice.
 ⇒ **Isaiah 64:6**; *'All our righteousness's are like filthy rags.'*
- On the cross, Jesus put on our filthy garments to give us His royal garments. He changed clothes with us, He changed places with us, He put on our clothes and offered His; this is alliance. He is the author of our salvation.
 ⇒ **II Corinthians 5:17**; *'In Christ (within Christ), we are new creation.'*

The old things have passed away, you are now in the new race, in the race that is victorious and whose head, which is Jesus, has won; the 1st lost everything, the 2nd won. When you accept Jesus Christ into your life, the substitute, you change race, leave the Adamic race and move to the new race and form the Body of Christ with Jesus. Jesus then puts us back on earth, to proclaim the virtues of the one who called us and saved us.

- In ⇒ **Genesis 3:15**, the 1st prophecy of the coming of the one who would tread on the serpent's head, God begins to reveal to us in time and space, the Eternal Covenant. There God was giving man again, something to believe in. Man had failed because of unbelief, and God was now giving man a new fact to believe. In that promise, man could be sure that it was not the end and that later on, everything would go back to the way it was before, and even better because it would be eternal. All the man would have to do now was believe. Through lack of faith, through unbelief, sin entered the human race. So, to reverse the situation, man would have to exercise faith again, it was the second opportunity (the mercy) that God was giving to man; It would be something to believe in again.

b) God's clothing for man, animal skins.

⇒ **Genesis 3:21**

- God clothed the man and his wife; do you know why God could do this? Because the man recognized that he was naked. They were wearing fig leaf belts, but when they stood before God in that garden, they saw that they were naked; declared and then confessed what they did, they said 'I ate it'. Then God comes and dresses them in animal skins. God was ignoring those clothes made by them, made by their hands, and was establishing a 'standard' of dress.
- For someone to be dressed in animal skins, what happens to the animal? The animal has to die. What they learned is that in order to be clothed before God, someone had to die, someone who had nothing to do with their sin, but were killed so that they could be clothed before God. Then God clothed them.
- God here begins to point to Jesus Christ, **the lamb who takes away the sin of the world**. They were clothed because they accepted and put themselves in the position of being clothed. This occurred when they recognized their nakedness and when they confessed, 'I ate'.

God then comes, and in a very intimate, very affectionate way, brings the clothes and dresses them; nothing was forced. This is what God does with us, when we put ourselves in position and let Him dress us. Our works are worthless to be covered before God.

- If we do not accept the garments of righteousness that the Lord Jesus obtained on the cross, by changing clothes with us, we will be naked before God, and no one can stand in the presence of God while being naked. You have to be dressed in His pattern, clothes that He looks at and says: 'you are really dressed'.
- We saw in ⇒ **Isaiah 64:6** that our righteousness's, our garments, are like filthy rags. Everything that man does and calls righteousness, everything he does trying to get closer to God, to be accepted by Him, God looks and does not see any clothes, he only sees filthy rags. God shows harsh figures in the Bible, but it is out of love and mercy, because only in this way does man see his need.

⇒ **Galatians 3:27**; *'This is the clothing that God gives us.'*

- God uses clothing (and nudity) a lot in the Bible to talk about salvation. That's why that couple, when God began to point to Jesus, had to be dressed in animal skins. The Bible doesn't say, but those animals were certainly lambs, because Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, hallelujah.

⇒ **John 1:29**

- In God's justice, there was a place for the substitute, because there is nothing, we can do to get back together with God, to receive back God's life. There is no currency on this planet that can buy our salvation, there is no sacrifice. There is nothing that man can do, and God considers that His justice has been satisfied, because the penalty for sin is death. Even if we gave our life, as she has sin, she would not enter heaven. But the life of Jesus, being a complete man and never sinning, was able to enter heaven and be given as righteousness in the sinner's place. This is what God began to show, his plan of salvation.

c) The man outside the Garden of Eden.

- We are ending the 1st period here, called innocence. This period tells the creation of man, his fall and what happened after the fall; shows how man became after sin. We are now entering the 2nd period, called consciousness.

When God began to show His plan of salvation for man, it was another scare for Satan. When Satan began to see that God had a plan, which he did not know, he began to observe and offer another plan to man, in order to divert him from God's plan. In his plan, Satan does not change his tactics, he talks about God, he says he reads the Bible too, but he mixes lies to deceive man.

⇒ **Genesis 3:22~24**

- And to make the victory very secure, God closed the path to the tree of life from man, as it would be quite possible for Satan to convince man to now eat from the tree of life. And what would happen if man ate from the tree of life? The sinful state that man found himself in would have been perpetuated.

- That couple was saved. When they accepted the garments, they accepted by faith God's provision. Adam and Eve are saved, as we are too.
So, we now being saved but still sinners, would want God to allow us to eat from the tree of life and for our state to perpetuate? Saved, but with this sinful nature, forever! No way, we wouldn't want to. But Satan could try to get us to do that.
- But God wants to rescue us completely. We are saved, Satan cannot steal our salvation, but God wants us to sanctify ourselves in the soul. After salvation, after justification in our spirit, our soul enters a healing process, a process of changing the standards of the world to the standards of the Word of God. This is the process of sanctification in our soul, it is the salvation of the soul from the power of sin. And our body awaits the redemption that will be given at the rapture. God's main goal for us is the return to that similarity, to that image lost at the beginning. And we have every possibility today, because we have the Holy Spirit within us to accomplish this.
- So, so that there was no danger that Satan would induce man to remain eternally in that sinful state, God placed cherubim to guard the path to the tree of life.
- Comparing $\Rightarrow$ **Genesis 3:5** with $\Rightarrow$ **Genesis 3:22**, we see that Satan did not tell a 'complete lie', but it is always a lie. Man became knowledgeable of good and evil, but through the wrong door. Does God know evil? From the text we read, we see that God knows evil and warns us of evil. God knows evil, but has he experienced evil? Therein lies the man's error. Man came to this knowledge through the experience of evil; he tasted evil in it. God knows evil but has never experienced evil. God, from the beginning, was already showing evil to man, when he said: 'guard the garden'.
- Then man became knowledgeable of good and evil, but through the sad door of experience. Satan did not tell man that, if he knew evil through the door of experience, his nature would only be prone to evil, he did not tell him that. When this occurred, man became a slave to sin and Satan.
- From that time on, God will deal with a sinful race, according to the likeness of Adam, because they all came from Adam. Man does not commit the 1st sin and become a sinner; he commits the first sin and continues sinning, because he is already born a sinner. God wants us to change race and for this to happen, we have to believe in the means He offers for each period.