

Lesson 14

4.4) The fall of man and consequences of the fall.

a) Handing over the planet to man

- God created man as we have studied, where the will of His heart was that the chain of command should be **SPIRIT - SOUL - BODY** and gave the planet earth to this man.
⇒ **Genesis 1:26**; *'Rule over man...'*

God was handing everything over to man. God gave the earth to the sons of men; the Word of God is very serious in affirming this.

⇒ **Psalms 115:16**; *The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has given to the children of men.*

- Man was going to start manifesting himself on the face of the earth, he was going to start acting on the earth.

⇒ **Genesis 2:19~20**; *God brought all the animals to man to see what he would call them.*

God was no longer intervening. God created everything and brought it to man to see what he would call it. Whatever man called them, that would be the name of the animals.

- The theory of evolution is involution! Adam was sinless, his intelligence couldn't even be measured in today's terms. His creativity! How many animals are there on the face of the earth? And in the beginning, there were no endangered animals. Anyone who knows zoology knows how many animals there are. Adam named all the animals, one by one; God just stood there watching. God had given everything to Adam and was just looking on, because man was free.
- God has given is given; this is an eternal principle of God. Do you know a person who gives a gift to someone else and watches to see what they're going to do with it? God is God, He only watched to see what Adam would call the animals.

⇒ **Romans 11:29**; *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

b) Creation of women

⇒ **Genesis 2:18~25**

- God said: *'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'* The woman's role is to be a helper and to be suitable for the man. After Adam named the animals, he couldn't find a helper, a companion for him. Neither God, nor any animal, nor all of nature, can meet man's need for a companion; God himself testified to this.
- Man needs a woman. The Bible says that after marriage, after a man is united to a woman, the two will become one flesh. Note also in **V.25** that they were both naked and not ashamed.

c) The fall of man

- But what happened to man who was created in the way we studied, perfect, free, with everything in order, with everything working well?

- We've seen that God created man, gave him the earth and said: '*Rule over it, take care of it, for it is yours.*' And for the whole universe, what did God say? And what did God say to the whole universe? '*On earth, only man can act. It is forbidden for any other spirit to act on the earth.*' The earth God gave to the children of men, it says in ⇒ **Psalms 115:16**. No one can act on the earth except through man.
- But we also studied that before man was created, here on this planet dwelt a being that the Bible calls the '*anointed guardian cherub*'. He rebelled, fell and became Satan; he was taken from the earth, and it was disturbed. But God comes and makes everything anew, creates man in his image and likeness and places him here on earth. Man is destined to rule with God, to sit on God's throne as we read in ⇒ **Psalms 8**, '*You have crowned him with honor and glory*'.
- So, what do you think Satan was doing or thinking while God was doing all this? Him, the origin of sin and all evil? '*A being in the likeness of God, dwelling on my ancient planet and destined for the throne of God?*'.
- But God, because he is perfect and good, because he loves man, made this decree in the universe; '*on earth only man can act*'. The earth truly belongs to the Lord, but he has limited himself; even God, in order to act on earth, has to do so through a man. Because of this, we understand the need for prayer (*God knows our needs well before we ask*). Can you imagine if it weren't so, Satan free, not even needing the action of man, with all his fallen angels acting here on earth?
- So, Satan said: If I didn't do it, no one will. I'm going to destroy this race, I'm going to destroy God's plans, because '*I will be like the Most High*'. All the worship of this creature will come to me.
- It was because of this, because this adversary was already prowling the planet, that God told Adam in Eden tend (cultivate) and keep it.

⇒ **Genesis 2:15**

If there were only Adam and his wife on the planet, why keep it? The word keep shows a danger, a precaution to be taken so that things don't get invaded, so that something bad doesn't happen. We only keep things so that they won't be stolen, touched or damaged. Here was a word of warning, for an adversary was already on the prowl.

- Satan is not a man; he can't act freely here on earth, he needs men as his channels, men who make themselves his channels. Logically, Satan would try to destroy man.

⇒ **Genesis 2:16~17**; God then gives an order

- How complicated is it to understand this order? God created man free, as we have studied, and established a chain of command for man's relationship with God himself. However, man had to exercise, freely manifest, his will as to whether or not he accepted this chain of command, whether or not he accepted this relationship with God. Hence the order.

⇒ **Genesis 3:1~6**

- Since there was no other man that Satan could use (see how he needs a channel?), Satan used a serpent. Why didn't he come directly? Why did he use a serpent? Because of that decree of God, where only man can act on earth, this is very important to be aware of. Since there was no other man he could use as a channel, he took an animal, the serpent. That's why in ⇒ **Revelation 12:9**, it says that he is '*the serpent of old*'. You see, it's an irony, because God had told man to rule over all the animals. Eve, by listening to the animal, was already reversing the order.
- When Eve listened to the serpent, Satan realized that she had hesitated in the word and began to change God's Word (the only way to resist the Devil is in God's Word, literally). Was Eve literal? Comparing what Eve said to the serpent with ⇒ **Genesis 2:16~17**, we see that it is different. Then we say: but it's so little! Don't fall for this mistake!, the Bible is meant to be practiced literally. Remember the prophet's test?
- Here we see Satan exactly as Jesus describes him in ⇒ **John 8:44**, he is a murderer from the beginning; a murderer, meaning a killer of men. He comes disguised with lies and accusations against God; Satan doesn't change his tactics even today, because the accusation against God has always worked.

⇒ **Genesis 3:5**; he says: *...and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*

In other words: '*you silly girl, God is hiding good things from you; you need to be like God; you don't know good and evil because God is withholding it from you; he's stealing it from you*'. That's what was behind Satan's words.

- Notice that Satan's speech didn't start out fiery, first Satan began by casting doubt: '*Is this how God said it?*' Today he says: doesn't the Bible say that God is love? How does God allow so much suffering? Do you think there is hell? And then he said: '*you will not surely die*', and in the end he flared up, ⇒ **Genesis 3:5**. This is the tactic that Satan always uses: he comes quietly and then inflamed.
- When Satan realized that the woman was not literal, in ⇒ **Genesis 3:3** (compare ⇒ **Genesis 2:17**), he dominated the conversation. She decreased and increased: '*you shall not eat or touch*', then Satan dominated the conversation, became inflamed and she ate the fruit. That's why we need to know God's Word, so as not to be deceived. That's why God wrote in ⇒ **Revelation 22:18~19** that no one can add to or take away from what is written in the Bible.
- In ⇒ **Genesis 2:17** it reads in English, '*you will surely die* (Lit. *dying you shall die*)', but in Hebrew what is written is 'dying you shall die'. The translators probably thought it was a redundancy and decided to translate it as '*you will surely die*'. The correct meaning is dying spiritually; you will die physically. We'll study this in detail in the next lesson.

- After Eve had hesitated in the Word, Satan was then able to inflame himself and began his speech: *'God knows that on the day you eat of this fruit, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. God is withholding things from you'*. What area did Satan appeal to, *'knowing good and evil'*? He appealed to the soul. Satan is no fool, he appealed to the soul. From then on, body and soul began to function in the woman.
- The woman looks at the tree: *'when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes'*, it pleased the body; *'and a tree desirable to give understanding'*, to feed the soul, the ego, *'she took of its fruit and ate, and gave to her husband, and he also ate'*. Do you think the woman was attempting suicide here? If she wasn't attempting suicide, she was disbelieving God's Word, because God had said: *'by dying you will die'*. The woman had two words before her, God's and Satan's, and she followed Satan's word. Satan came to steal, kill and destroy.