

## Lesson 16

### 4.5) Judgment of man.

- In the last lesson, we studied the fall of man and the consequences of the fall. We saw the consequences of man's sin:
  - **Dying, you will die.** If you die spiritually, you will die physically. With sin, man died spiritually (*separated from God*), and physical death entered the human race.
  - **We are servants to whom we obey.** By sinning, man became the servant of sin, the servant of Satan and therefore lost his sovereignty on earth. We saw that the earth passed to Satan.
  - With the entrance of sin, in addition to the entrance of physical death, came sickness, curses, quarrels, etc.

We also saw how Jesus was tempted in the same way as Eve but overcame by using the only victorious weapon against Satan, which is the Word of God, *literally*. Today we will see the judgment of man and other consequences that followed.

#### a) Fig leaves

⇒ **Genesis 3:7**

- That couple sinned and immediately saw that they were naked and made aprons, girdles, to cover themselves before God (*they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves girding coverings.*). We saw earlier, in ⇒ **Genesis 2:25**, that after the woman was formed, they were both naked and not ashamed. What has changed?

⇒ **Psalm 104:1~2**      '*You are clothed with honor and majesty.*'

- This was man's covering before sin, the same as God's covering. You may ask: but how was it visible? This covering was physical, it was visible, a covering of glory. It was this covering that man lost.

⇒ **Romans 3:23;**      '*Because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (or fall short of the glory of God).*'

⇒ **Exodus 34:29~35;**      Moses' face shone after speaking with God on Mount Sinai.

God's glory in Moses was physical, it was visible, it shone so brightly that the people couldn't look at it.

- **Do you think Adam and Eve had vision problems?** If there was perfect vision, it was in that couple, because when they were in the Garden of Eden, they certainly had no physical problems. They **were naked and not ashamed!** When they saw that they were naked, it wasn't because they had vision problems, it was because they had lost God's covering.
- All animals were created by God with their own clothing: birds have feathers; land animals have fur, leather; fish have scales. Only man was left without a natural garment, isn't that interesting? And man is naturally compelled to make artificial clothing for himself, even to protect himself from the weather.

This is so natural in man that as soon as Adam and Eve saw that they were naked, they wanted to make a garment to cover themselves. But there was something much deeper there than simply a physical covering.

- Right at the beginning, the Bible sets a symbol to hide man's nakedness from God: **FIG LEAVES**. That's what they did; they wanted to hide their nakedness from God with aprons, with belts, made from fig leaves; works made by them from natural materials. Fig leaves symbolize a covering made by man himself to hide from God, to say that he is clothed before God, and he is not. Fig leaves symbolize our efforts, our works to be clothed before God.
- We always knew from the world that they were vine leaves and not fig leaves. Why did the world, influenced by Satan, switch from fig leaves to vine leaves? Israel was mentioned by Jesus as the fig tree that doesn't bear fruit, only leaves. But Jesus is the true vine, ⇒ **John 15:1~2**, and all who are in Him bear fruit; the vine is also called a grapevine. By reversing from fig leaves to grapevine leaves, the Devil wants to mischaracterize the true vine, which bears fruit, which is Jesus, who is the only covering that can clothe us before God.
- Spiritual principle: in order to be clothed before God, we have to have garments that God gives us, as this couple had, before they underwent the test. If they had passed the test, if they had eaten from the tree of life, they would perpetuate in man a garment of pure, fine and bright linen. This is the garment of the saints and ours awaits us; this is how God clothes his own.

⇒ **Revelation 19:11~14**; the return of Jesus with the saints dressed in '*pure white linen, white and clean.*'

But that couple, unfortunately, decided to choose the model and material of their clothes.

⇒ **Genesis 3:8~13**

- At the notion of nakedness, they were afraid and hid (V.10). But hadn't they made a garment? After all, were they naked or clothed? Did you see how they couldn't present themselves before God covered with those fig leaves? Our effort to dress ourselves before God is in vain. Did you also see another fruit of sin? I heard your voice, and I was scared.

⇒ **I John 4:15~21**; God is love and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In love there is no fear, rather perfect love (which is God) casts out all fear.

As they separated themselves from God, fear took hold of them. Afraid of who? Fear of God, fruit of sin. Before God, it is impossible for us to remain with lies and sin, only with clothes of fine, pure and white linen, which is the clothing of Jesus. God's angels also wear white robes; ⇒ **Matthew 28:2~3**.

- Isn't God omnipresent? Didn't God know where Adam was? Because then, in the Garden, God asks man: where are you? This is a glorious question.

⇒ **Romans 3:10~12**; '*There is no one who seeks God.*'  
See also ⇒ **Psalm 14**.

- Where are you? This is God's pursuit of man. This question resonates throughout the history, from Adam to today, where are you man? God desires all men to be saved, and this question resonates with everyone.

⇒ **I Timothy 2:4**

- Each one who comes to God, He was asking: where are you? And many do not come close to God, as they respond: *'I am behind a tree called religiosity'*; and God responds: **'FIG LEAF!'** Others respond: *'I'm behind the tree of charity, I do charity, I'm so good, I don't hurt anyone'*; and God says: **'FIG LEAF!'** Sir! *'I'm in the seminary, I don't miss any services, I'm a religious person'*; God will say: **'FIG LEAF!'** The most dangerous *'tree'* is the tree of religion. Every religion that adds something, some other book or other teaching to the Word of God, is a fig leaf. Eve also added and modified the Word of God, it is the Bible and something else, that is a fig leaf.

## b) Judgment of the serpent.

- Satan was no longer understanding anything. He thought, 'Now I'm destroy with the human race; as I was destined for the lake of fire, man will also be destined there. I wanted to be like the Most High and the sin of man was the same, to be like God knowing good and evil.'

However, the angels did not know the attribute of God called 'grace', there was no grace for the angels.

⇒ **Hebrews 2:16**; does not provide assistance, does not help the angels.

The angels knew God directly; they were in His presence freely. When they sinned, there was no help for them, there was no plan of salvation for the angels. But there was the Devil in a state of shock; *'How! Is God still looking for man?'*

- Satan expected the human race to be destined for the lake of fire, because he did not know grace, the grace of God moving in favor of man, even if undeservedly for him, without man deserving anything, that is why it is grace, it is for free. How much is the blood of Jesus worth? He is the coin. We were bought by the precious blood as of a lamb, immaculate, without stain, the blood of Jesus. He bought us and we didn't pay anything.

⇒ **Genesis 3:14~15**; God will pass judgment here.

- **V.14**: the serpent, the animal, took a rebuke too, there was a responsibility for his body being used. Eating dust has two meanings: the serpent, the animal, does not eat dust, but Satan wants to eat dust. Our body was made from the dust of the earth, and that is Satan's favorite food, killing men. He is homicidal from the beginning.
- **'And I will put enmity between you, the serpent (he is now talking to Satan) and the woman.'** God was giving the first prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ, in incredible detail. Only the Holy Spirit can have this, Wisdom. In a single sentence God said it like this: *'Satan, someone will be born of a virgin and will crush your head; it is true that by crushing your head, He will be injured, but you will be killed.'*

- **'... between your offspring and her (the woman's) offspring'**. In the original Hebrew it is like this: '...between your seed and the seed of the woman'.
  - Descent of Satan; refers to your followers. Jesus called the Pharisees a '*Breed of vipers*', ⇒ **Matthew 3:7 and 12:34.**
  - Seed of the woman! Does a woman have seeds? Who owns the seed to generate a creature? The woman has an egg; the seed is with the man. But God is declaring here that the offspring will be born from the woman, without male interference. The seed will be
  - e in a woman. The seed, in Hebrew, is feminine and the pronoun that follows is He, 'this' in most versions; in Hebrew the pronoun is He. He who? The seed that had been mentioned a little earlier.  
**'I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your seed (offspring, followers) and her seed (the woman), He will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.'**
  - 'He, not she, will hurt your head'; a snake can only be killed by the head. The original meaning of the word 'will hurt' is it will punch; it will punch the head.
  - 'He will be struck in the heel.' On the cross, it is there that He will punch your head, serpent. He will be struck in the heel (that's where a serpent bites); He will be hurt, but he will crush you.
  - This prophecy was due to the '**Eternal Covenant**', made before the foundation of the world, as we have already studied.

### c) Judgment of the woman.

⇒ **Genesis 3:16**

- The woman had taken a position that had never been given to her, she decided and acted absolutely outside of her husband's authority. God established a hierarchical order in the family. This order was not a preferential order, that is, God did not look at the man and the woman and say: 'I think the man is more capable, or because I like the man more, I will give the role of head of the family to the man'. That would be preference. It's not like that; a functional order was given. In God's plan, there had to be a hierarchy in the family and God, in His sovereignty, placed leadership with man.
- God also created a suitable helper for that man. Where was the woman taken from? ⇒ **Genesis 2:21~22**; was taken from the side.  
The woman was created to be at her husband's side, not against, neither in front nor below. But when Eva began to decide on her own, she reversed that order.

⇒ **I Corinthians 11:3**

- Here God's hierarchical order is very clear. God compares the position of the woman and her husband, with the position of Christ and God. Could it be a bad position? The woman decided alone and the Bible shows, in several other passages, that women are more susceptible to deception.
  - ⇒ **Ephesians 5:22~24**; another word to the position of women.
  - ⇒ **Ephesians 5:25~26**; now, a word to husbands.

There is a position for the woman of subjection to her husband. When she is not occupying that place, problems will happen. The woman was not meant to be the head of the family.

- **V.16:** ‘...and your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.’ The original order has now been emphasized.

#### d) Judgment of man.

⇒ **Genesis 3:17~19**

- ‘... ***in toil you will eat of it***’; ‘***in toil***’ is the same word in Hebrew as ‘***in pain***’ in **V.16**.
- What is the first thing that God draws Adam’s attention to? ‘***Because you listened to the voice of your wife***’; in other words: ‘Adam, you are no longer in charge, you are no longer the head’. It is not only the husband who will speak at home, but the woman has to position herself as a suitable helper and the husband as the head. God speaks through the husband in the family. There are many women wanting to be the head and many husbands not positioning themselves as the head. Satan is doing everything he can to reverse this, as it worked there in the Garden of Eden; It always works when there is an inversion.
- The man is the head of the family. The curse on man also brought a curse on the earth; in the land there were no thorns, thistles, or weeds. Today we prepared the land for planting and soon the weeds are growing, without any effort. The land in Eden was produced immediately, today we have to fertilize it, water it and wait for it to bear fruit. In the millennium, when Jesus removes the curse from the earth, the earth will produce abundantly again as it did in the beginning. The Bible says that he who reaps will come after what he sows, he will reap immediately. Have you thought about that?  
The earth became cursed because of man's sin and so there is work and sweat, all because of the curse.