

Lesson 3

THE FALL OF MAN

Question 1. Did God create man wicked and perverse?

A. God created man good and in His own image, endowed with true knowledge, righteousness and holiness

Gen. 1:27 – *And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Q. 2. How did man become wicked and perverse?

A. Man became wicked and perverse through the fall and disobedience of Adam in Paradise.

Gen 3:6b – *She gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.*

Q. 3. Why does the disobedience of Adam affect us?

A. This disobedience of Adam affects us because he was the father of us all and our covenant representative.

Rom. 5:12 – *therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all have sinned.*

Q. 4. What covenant did Adam break when he sinned?

A. When he sinned, Adam broke the Covenant of Works, in which the condition was obedience, the promise was life, and the penalty was death.

1. The Creation of Man

Man is unable to keep God's law. He is prone to hate God and his neighbor. The question naturally arises: "Why is this?" How shall we account for man's miserable condition? Since God made man, the question arises as to whether God is responsible. Did He make man wicked and perverse? Is God to blame?

Never! God made man good and in His own image. Man was created higher than any other creature; he was made in the likeness of God. God is a Spirit; He gave to man a spirit. Man was given a mind, a will, emotions. He could think intelligently, act responsibly, love fully.

God gave man true knowledge. He knew himself and he knew his Maker. The knowledge of God and of His will was a part of man's very nature. He was also made righteous. He did the right because he was righteous, a perfect reflection of the righteous God. And he was holy. He was completely consecrated to his God. His heart and his desires were directed to all that was pure and good.

This was man, the image-bearer of God. Surely there was nothing in his creation that would make God responsible for his sin. Man was perfect; his perfection consisted in nothing less than likeness to GOD.

II The Entrance of Sin

Man, not God, is responsible for human wickedness and perverseness. More particularly, it was in the fall of Adam in Paradise that sin entered the world. Romans 5:12 tells us that “through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin.”

God had created our first parents perfect. But Satan, through the serpent, tempted them. He suggested they would be like God, knowing good and evil, if they ate the forbidden fruit. Satan tempted Eve, and she succumbed to this evil suggestion. And when she gave the fruit to Adam he ate, and he became a partner in this great sin. Thus our first parents willfully chose to obey the word of Satan rather than the word of God.

But this sin of Adam was not only a personal sin, with personal consequences. It involved the whole human race. For Adam was acting not only for himself, he was acting also as the representative of all mankind. If he had obeyed God’s command, all men would have enjoyed the blessings of that obedience. But when he disobeyed, he plunged all men into the curse and misery of sin. “In Adam’s fall we sinned all.”

Adam represented us in the *Covenant of Works*. This covenant was established by God. God promised eternal life to Adam and all whom he represented if Adam obeyed Him in love. On the contrary, disobedience would bring physical, spiritual and eternal death to Adam and all his descendants. Although this is known as the Covenant of Works, it does not mean that Adam could merit eternal life. It was Still God’s grace that would give eternal life, but a grace that would reward obedience.