

## ***Beginnings and Belongings*** ***Paradise Lost***

Lesson #4 for October 28, 2006

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-4:26.

1. In this lesson we will study about the entrance of sin into our world and some of its immediate and long-term consequences. Imagine if we could view the events of this lesson in 3-D living color! Although this is not possible at the present time, we do have some considerable insights into what was going on in the thinking of the participants. Let us review the background of the “serpent”. Then we will look at Eve and what she was thinking as she approached the tree.
2. We already know from Revelation 12:1-12 that Satan had fomented rebellion in heaven. In order to understand his thinking better, let us review some of his claims against God: *Patriarchs and Prophets* 37-43.
  - a. God’s laws could be better.
  - b. Although God’s laws may be necessary for the inhabitants of other worlds, angels, being more exalted, need no such restraint, for their own wisdom is a sufficient guide.
  - c. They [angels] are not beings that can bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts are holy; it is no more possible for them than for God Himself to err.
  - d. Exalting Jesus as the Son of God is an injustice to Lucifer who is also entitled to reverence and honor.
  - e. If Lucifer can just attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it is his object to secure freedom for all.
  - f. After God revealed the true nature of Christ, Satan claimed that an absolute Ruler [Christ] had been appointed over the beings in heaven, and to His authority all must pay homage.
  - g. While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, Lucifer urges that changes in the order and laws of heaven are necessary for the stability of the divine government.
  - h. Those who remain obedient to God are “deluded slaves.”
  - i. The preference being shown to Christ is an act of injustice both to himself and to all the heavenly host.
  - j. Accepting Christ as the Ruler of heaven is an invasion of Lucifer’s rights and the rights of all angels.
  - k. Under Lucifer’s rule all will experience a new and better government under which all will enjoy freedom.
  - l. Lucifer seeks to win all the angels to his side, to become equal with God Himself, and to be obeyed by the entire host of heaven.
  - m. Angels who disagree with him are accused of being indifferent to the interests of heavenly beings.
3. What pattern do you see in these claims? After being cast down to this earth, what do you think Lucifer/Satan wanted to accomplish? Did God give him an opportunity to demonstrate his creative abilities? Was the creation of our world, to a considerable extent, a response to some of Satan’s claims against God?
4. Were Adam and Eve warned about Satan and told of his rebellion in heaven?

Our first parents were not left without a warning of the danger that threatened them. Heavenly messengers opened to them the history of Satan’s fall and his plots for their destruction, unfolding more fully the nature of the divine government, which the prince of evil was trying to overthrow.

It was by disobedience to the just commands of God that Satan and his host had fallen. How important, then, that Adam and Eve should honor that law by which alone it was possible for order and equity to be maintained.” {PP 52.2}

5. Why was the tree of knowledge of good and evil placed in the garden?

**Satan was not to follow them [Adam and Eve] with continual temptations; he could have access to them only at the forbidden tree.** Should they attempt to investigate its nature, they would be exposed to his wiles. They were admonished to give careful heed to the warning which God had sent them and to be content with the instruction which He had seen fit to impart. {PP 53.3}

**The tree of knowledge of good and evil was a protection for Adam and Eve!**

6. How did Eve happen to find herself standing by the tree of knowledge of good and evil alone? What had God instructed Adam and Eve regarding their work together? What should Eve have done when she first realized that she was near the tree, especially after hearing the serpent speak to her? **If the benefits of eating of the fruit were so great, what would have been lost by waiting a day and consulting with Adam and God about it?**

**The angels had cautioned Eve to beware of separating herself from her husband while occupied in their daily labor in the garden; with him she would be in less danger from temptation than if she were alone.** But absorbed in her pleasing task, **she [54] unconsciously wandered from his side.** On perceiving that she was alone, she felt an apprehension of danger, but dismissed her fears, deciding that she had sufficient wisdom and strength to discern evil and to withstand it. Unmindful of the angels' caution, she soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the forbidden tree. The fruit was very beautiful, and she questioned with herself why God had withheld it from them. Now was the tempter's opportunity. As if he were able to discern the workings of her mind, he addressed her: 'Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' Eve was surprised and startled as she thus seemed to hear the echo of her thoughts. But the serpent continued, in a musical voice, with subtle praise of her surpassing loveliness; and his words were not displeasing. Instead of fleeing from the spot she lingered wonderingly to hear a serpent speak. Had she been addressed by a being like the angels, her fears would have been excited; but she had no thought that the fascinating serpent could become the medium of the fallen foe. {PP 53.5}

**“He [Adam] mourned that he had permitted Eve to wander from his side...Adam reproached his companion for her folly in leaving his side,...”** (PP 56,57)

7. How many of our sins are like Eve's? In what ways?
8. What specific claims and temptations did Lucifer, through the serpent, place before Eve?

By partaking of this tree, he declared, **they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge.** He himself had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech. **And he insinuated that the Lord jealously desired to withhold it from them, lest they should be exalted to equality with Himself.** It was because of its wonderful properties, imparting wisdom and power, that He had prohibited them from tasting or even touching it. The tempter intimated that the divine warning was not to be actually fulfilled; it was designed merely to intimidate them. **How could it be possible for them to die? Had they not eaten of the tree of life? God had been seeking to prevent them from reaching a nobler development and finding greater happiness.** {PP 54.2}

**Satan represented to the holy pair that they would be gainers by breaking the law of God.** Do we not today hear similar reasoning? Many talk of the narrowness of those who obey God's commandments, while they themselves claim to have broader ideas and to enjoy greater liberty. What is this but an echo

of the voice from Eden, "In the day ye eat thereof"—transgress the divine requirement—"ye shall be as gods"? **Satan claimed to have received great good by eating of the forbidden fruit, but he did not let it appear that by transgression he had become an outcast from heaven.** Though he had found sin to result in infinite loss, he concealed his own misery in order to draw others into the same position. So now, the transgressor seeks to disguise his true character; he may claim to be holy; but his exalted profession only makes him the more dangerous as a deceiver. He is on the side of Satan, trampling upon the law of God, and leading others to do the same, to their eternal ruin. {PP 55.1}

9. At what point did Eve commit sin? Was it in wandering away from Adam? Or was it Adam's sin because he allowed her to wander away? Was it in listening to the serpent? Was it in approaching the tree? Was it in engaging in conversation with the serpent? Was there no sin until she actually took of the fruit? Was the fruit poisonous in some sense? What was Eve's real sin? **Would Adam and Eve together have resisted Satan? Was the sin in transferring her allegiance?**

**Eve really believed the words of Satan, but her belief did not save her from the penalty of sin. She disbelieved the words of God, and this was what led to her fall. In the judgment, men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth.** Notwithstanding the sophistry of Satan to the contrary, it is always disastrous to disobey God. We must set our hearts to know what is truth. All the lessons which God has caused to be placed on record in His word are for our warning and instruction. They are given to save us from deception. Their neglect will result in ruin to ourselves. Whatever contradicts God's word, we may be sure proceeds from Satan. {PP 55.2}

10. What should Adam have done when Eve approached him with the fruit? What went through Adam's mind?

An expression of sadness came over the face of Adam. He appeared astonished and alarmed. To the words of Eve he replied that this must be the foe against whom they had been warned; and by the divine sentence she must die. In answer she urged him to eat, repeating the words of the serpent, that they should not surely die. She reasoned that this must be true, for she felt no evidence of God's displeasure, but on the contrary realized a delicious, exhilarating influence, thrilling every faculty with new life, such, she imagined, as inspired the heavenly messengers. {PP 56.1}

Adam understood that his companion had transgressed the command of God, disregarded the only prohibition laid upon them as a test of their fidelity and love. There was a terrible struggle in his mind. He mourned that he had permitted Eve to wander from his side. But now the deed was done; he must be separated from her whose society had been his joy. {PP 56.2}

11. What were the relatively immediate consequences of sin?

After his transgression Adam at first imagined himself entering upon a higher state of existence. But soon the thought of his sin filled him with terror. The air, which had hitherto been of a mild and uniform temperature, seemed to chill the guilty pair. The love and peace which had been theirs was gone, and in its place they felt a sense of sin, a dread of the future, a nakedness of soul. The robe of light which had enshrouded them, now disappeared, and to supply its place they endeavored to fashion for themselves a covering; for they could not, while unclothed, meet the eye of God and holy angels. {PP 57.1}

They now began to see the true character of their sin. Adam reproached his companion for her folly in leaving his side and permitting herself to be deceived by the serpent; but they both flattered themselves that He who had given them so many evidences of His love, would pardon this one transgression, or that they would not be subjected to so dire a punishment as they had feared. {PP 57.2}

**Satan exulted in his success. He had tempted the woman to distrust God's love, to doubt His wisdom, and to transgress His law, and through her he had caused the overthrow of Adam. {PP 57.3}**

12. Why do you think Satan's earliest words to Eve were a claim that God had lied? Did Eve have any basis on which to distrust God's word up to this point?
13. Read Genesis 3:6. The fruit looked good. It appealed to her sense of hunger. She thought it would be good to eat, and she wanted to become wise. Were there any inherent problems with these desires of hers? Is it a sin to enjoy good food? Is it a sin for the food to have an appealing look? Is it wrong to want to be wise?
14. How does Satan use God's gifts to us in his appeals of temptation? What is attractive about sin? What would Eve have lost if she had stated simply, "All that you have said may be true. I will discuss it with my husband, and with God, and if it is a good idea, I will come back tomorrow!" How many temptations would we avoid if we took this approach?
15. Evil is always a distortion of good. In Satan's temptations, how can we detect where he departs from the truth and slips into his subtle errors?
16. Review the curses that were pronounced against the serpent, Eve, and Adam:
  - 1) The snake was to crawl on his belly and eat dust. He was to be an enemy of human beings. (Genesis 3:14,15)
  - 2) Eve was told that her trouble would increase in pregnancy. She would have pain in giving birth. She would have desire for her husband and be subject to him. (3:16)
  - 3) Adam was told that the ground would be cursed because of him. He would have to work hard, eat wild plants, earn his living by the sweat of his brow, and finally go back to the soil from which he came. (Genesis 3:17-19)
17. Compare Genesis 3:15 and Revelation 12:17. What similarities are there between these two texts? What is the historical context for Revelation 12:17? Has Satan's attitude toward us changed in any way?
18. Satan was hoping that after the sin of Adam and Eve, they would go to the tree of life and eat of the fruit and continue to live. He apparently thought that perhaps he could have access to the tree of life as well. But God immediately placed a barrier around the tree of life. {*Patriarchs and Prophets* 60.3}
19. What is implied by Genesis 3:15? What does it mean to say that the serpent's head will be crushed? What does it mean to say that he will bite the heel of humanity? How does this relate to Romans 16:20 and 1 Corinthians 15:25-28?
20. Read Genesis 4:3-7. Why do you think God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected Cain's? Is it that blood is necessary to take away sin? Is there any mention about being a sacrifice for sin in either Cain or Abel's offering? Or were these simply gifts brought to God in thankfulness? Compare Hebrews 11:4, Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22. What happened as a result of God's curse on Cain? Was Cain forced to eat meat and things that grew wild because God specifically prevented the soil from responding to his efforts? Hadn't Cain prided himself in being a great gardener?
21. What do we learn about God from his conversation with Cain? (Genesis 4:9-16)

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