



Progressive Revelation: God’s Cure to Man’s Incurable Problem

Introduction: Over the past year and a half we have been studying the first three chapters of Genesis. Our journey has taken us from the dawn of creation’s first day to the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Our time spent in the Garden of Eden now gives way to a new beginning; the beginning of redemption history. In Genesis 3:14-15 the beams of light revealing the Savior begin to shine for the first time in all of Scripture. Furthermore, this study happens to coincide with the traditional annual observance of remembering the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Instructions: Read Genesis 3:9-15.

Activity: Answer the following questions:

Man

1. As God interrogates the three main characters who have participated in the fall of humanity (Adam, Eve, and the Serpent), with whom did He begin? Why? For further thought consider 1 Timothy 2:12-15 regarding the order of creation regarding humanity.

Woman

2. When God questioned the woman how did she respond?

Note: As discussed in a previous study, notice how the woman admits to deception while Adam admitted to the simple act of eating. This verse further supports the understanding that Eve was deceived (premeditated sin) while Adam was not deceived, but simply ate of the fruit (sin of neglect). If Adam was deceived, the text would have said so. 1 Timothy 2:12-15 further supports the fact that Adam was not deceived. The sin of neglect requires no thought whereas premeditated sin requires thought before the sin is performed. The importance of understanding the difference between the sins that were committed in the garden is crucial to understanding the judgments against man and the promise of one who is to come.

The Serpent

1. Why did God abstain from asking questions of the serpent, but instead handed down a judgment?

2. Why was not the serpent simply destroyed? Hint: Read Roman 8:28. What purpose does the serpent serve? Hint: Read Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43. In Matthew 13:43 what is the outcome from the serpent's role in the Garden of Eden?

The Promised Seed

1. In the God's judgment upon the man, woman, and the serpent, did God elevate anyone in the process (v. 15)? How?

2. What is the role or work of the Promised Seed?

3. Who is given the right to destroy the serpent?

4. Was a privilege given to the serpent regarding the Promised Seed?

If time permits, take a moment to read through Luke 1:26-2:20 and reflect upon the study.

- *Did God keep His promise?*
- *Just as the serpent deceived the woman in the Garden and the woman believed the lie over the truth, how is Eve's encounter paralleled to Mary's? Did someone come to Mary with information regarding God's plan? How did Mary respond? Eve's sin was premeditated through deception, but Mary's obedience was premeditated through the truth. Is a reversal in process when Mary receives the news of Christ's birth? Is the reversal obvious when compared to the Genesis text?*
- *Was the woman elevated in the part she was promised by God regarding redemption?*
- *How is Adam's neglect in the Garden similar to Joseph's inactivity regarding the birth of Christ? Was Joseph going to put Mary away by means of divorce? See Matthew 1:18-25.*
- *Is the importance of understanding Adam's sin of neglect vs. Eve's premeditated sin relevant to the story line of redemption history in how events are played out.*