



Progressive Revelation: The Consequences of Sin

Introduction: Have you ever watched a drop of water fall into a pond? The ripple effects one drop of water can bring to a calm body of water like a pond are infinite. The consequence of Adam’s initial sin in the Garden of Eden continues to have on going ripple effects throughout eternity, both in eternity past, present, and eternity future. In this study we will explore the immediate ripples of sin that emerge in the text of Genesis 3:7-24.

Note: Keep in mind that while each of the studies are designed to promote thoughtful discussion from each individual’s vantage point, the heart of each study is to bring each person to land firmly upon the exact understanding the text communicates through its grammar. In other words, we are not interested in asking the question, “What does this text mean to you?” Rather, we are interested in asking the questions, “What have you understood the text to say” and then “What does the text actually say?” Therefore, the ultimate goal of each study is to confront our thinking with the Word of God and arrive at a clear understanding of Scripture.

Instructions: Read through the text of Genesis 3:7-24.

Activity #1: Write down all of the effects of sin that can be identified in the immediate text.

Hint: Have you ever played the game *Where’s Waldo?* If so, you will understand that sometimes exercises like this one require a bit of time, observation, and thought. So take your time and don’t be in a rush.

Activity #2: Take a few minutes to look at all of the items recorded in the previous activity. Make observations in regard to a pattern that may emerge and record what you see.

Activity #3 Look up and read Matthew 22:34-40 and answer the following question.

1. What commandment received the highest priority by Jesus? Why?

2. How does Jesus' priority of the commandments compare to the observations made regarding a pattern or flow of consequences of sin found in the Genesis 3:7-24?

Application: Discuss as a group how the flesh naturally fails to obey the two commands Christ gave. Look back at how Adam treated God; how Adam treated Eve; and how Adam quickly disregarded his responsibilities to keep the Garden of Eden. How are the sins of Adam effecting our lives today in relation to God, woman, and the world?

Final Thought: Read Matthew 24:3-28. The sin of Adam has led to numerous wars, false teachers, lawlessness, familial love growing cold and ruthless, betrayal, earthquakes, famines, cataclysmic events in the universe, a world event known as the Great Tribulation, and the return of Christ.