

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

LESSON 1b (Teacher Guide)

[Assigned Reading: Genesis 3-4 & Romans 5-6]

[Themes to Teach: Sin, Sacrifices, Substitution, and Redemption through the Blood]

(Read Genesis 3:9–19)

- **SIN BROUGHT SEPARATION FROM GOD AND CURSES UPON MANKIND:**

Man was created for relationship with God, but sin separated man from God.

Relationship with God brings life and blessing, but sin brought curses and death.

- The woman was cursed with pain in childbearing.
- The man was cursed with hard work and toil.
- The ground and the Earth were cursed.
 -
 - Thorns
 - Venom
 - Poisons
 - Decay

- **GOD PROMISED REDEMPTION THROUGH THE SEED OF A WOMAN:**

Genesis 3:14-15 (KJV 1900)

14 And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This is the first prophecy concerning Jesus Christ.

The Savior would be born of a virgin:

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV 1900)

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The Savior would be made of a woman:

Galatians 4:4 (KJV 1900)

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

God declared that just as the serpent had used the woman to bring sin into the world, He would use a woman to bring a savior into the world.

- **GOD COVERED THEIR NAKEDNESS AND SHAME:**

God made Adam & Eve coats from animal skin to cover their nakedness.

Genesis 3:21 (KJV 1900)

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothed them.

- This is a record of the first animal sacrifice in the Bible:
 - It revealed to them that the payment for sin is always death:

Romans 6:23 (KJV 1900)

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- It also revealed to them that shedding blood is required to atone for sin: (Life is in the blood)

Hebrews 9:22 (KJV 1900)

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

- Animal sacrifices could not atone for human sin:

Hebrews 10:4 (KJV 1900)

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. These sacrifices simply pushed off the debt owed by mankind.

- This event foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus and illustrates a great doctrine of the Bible – The doctrine of substitution:

1 Peter 1:18–19 (KJV 1900)

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers.

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Just as Adam and Eve were covered by coats of skin, we too can be covered by the righteousness of Jesus. When we are baptized in the name of Jesus, we “put on Christ” just like putting on a garment (See Galatians 3:27).

- **CAIN & ABEL - TWO APPROACHES TO GOD:** (Read Genesis 4:1–7)

Both Cain and Abel offer a sacrifice to God. Abel is accepted and the Cain is rejected. The reason is simple – God had already shown Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:21 that a blood sacrifice would be required. Abel approached God through the blood of a substitutionary lamb.

- Cain's Sacrifice: (Fruits and vegetables)
 - It represented offering God the works of his own hands.
 - Cain approached God on his own terms.
- Abel's Sacrifice: (Firstling of his flock)
 - It represented approaching God through the blood of the lamb.
 - Abel approached God on God's terms.

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