

3.

SIN IS THE CAUSE OF ALL OF YOUR TROUBLES

COMMENTS ON LESSON THREE

This lesson is designed to show how sin entered the world and how widespread sin is. The lesson emphasizes that sin lies at the root of all of our problems.

AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN LESSON THREE

ADAM: the first man.

EVE: the first woman, Adam's wife.

EDEN: the beautiful garden in which Adam and Eve first lived.

EZEKIEL: a book in the Old Testament that was written by the prophet Ezekiel.

THE FLOOD: the water catastrophe in which God destroyed all the inhabitants of the ancient world except Noah and his family.

ISAIAH: a book in the Old Testament written by the prophet Isaiah.

THE JUDGMENT: the day on which God will judge all people.

1 JOHN: the first of three letters in the New Testament that were written by the apostle John.

NOAH: the man that built the ark (giant boat), in which Noah's family was saved during the great flood.

SIN: transgression of God's laws.

THE SOUL: the person himself.

SIN IS THE CAUSE OF ALL OF YOUR TROUBLES

Have you ever asked yourself questions like the following? “Why does nearly everything I do seem to turn out wrong?” “Why do I have so many troubles?”

The search for the cause of our troubles must begin with the first people that lived on the earth. The first man was named “Adam.” Adam lived in a beautiful garden called “Eden,” which God had planted. Adam’s job was to take care of the garden (Genesis 2:15). God told Adam that he could eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden except from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:16-17). God warned Adam that if he ate from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” he would surely die (Genesis 2:17).

God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so He made a suitable helper for him (Genesis 2:18). The helper whom God made was Eve, the first woman (Genesis 2:21-22). Adam named her “Eve” (Genesis 3:20).

HOW SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

Adam and Eve were at first guilty of no sin, but Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent and tempted her to eat the fruit which God had said they should not eat (Genesis 3:1-5). The serpent told Eve that the fruit of that tree would make her wise. So she ate of it, gave some to Adam, and he ate it, too (Genesis 3:6).

After Adam and Eve had eaten of the forbidden fruit, they recognized that they had sinned, and they were

ashamed. It was only then that they realized that they were naked (Genesis 3:7).

Afterwards, when they heard God in the garden, they hid themselves, but God called to them,

“Where are you?”

Genesis 3:9

Adam answered,

“I heard your voice in the garden,
and I was afraid because I was naked;
and I hid myself.”

Genesis 3:10

God asked,

“Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree
of which I commanded you that you
should not eat?”

Genesis 3:11

Adam tried to excuse himself by saying,

“The woman whom
You gave me to be with me,
she gave me of the tree and I ate.”

Genesis 3:12

Upon hearing that, God asked the woman,

“What is this you have done?”

Genesis 3:13

The woman replied,

“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:13

WHO ORIGINATED SIN?

From this story it becomes clear who originated sin. It was Satan. He is known as a murderer and as the father of lies (John 8:44). He sinned from the very beginning (1 John 3:8), and today he is still causing people to sin (1 Peter 5:8). That means that he is trying to get each of us to join him in his rebellion against God.

WHAT IS SIN?

We should realize that God has moral and spiritual laws. When anyone disobeys one of God's moral or spiritual laws, it is sin. Therefore, as the apostle John said, “Sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4).

When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit it was a sin, because they violated one of God's laws. What they did may not seem a very bad thing, but it is immaterial whether it was very bad or only slightly bad. The first sin was, at its base, the same as every other sin. They did what God told them not to do. By disobeying God, they transgressed His law, and with that transgression they

started on a course that would lead them to all kinds of sorrows.

Sin is an affront to God. When someone sins, he is saying, in effect, “You, God, are not in charge of my life. I am in charge, and I will do as I please.” This attitude appeals to man’s pride, but it strikes at the very root of God’s authority. Such an attitude is an attempt to dethrone God and to place oneself on His throne.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF SIN?

Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin caused Adam and Eve to be cast out of the beautiful Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23-24). There were also additional sad consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin. To Eve God said,

“I will greatly multiply your sorrow
and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire shall be for your husband
And he shall rule over you.”
Genesis 3:16

To Adam God said,

“Because you have heeded
the voice of your wife,
and have eaten from the tree
of which I commanded you,
saying, ‘You shall not eat of it:’
Cursed is the ground for your sake;

In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.”

Genesis 3:17

What a great change took place in the lives of Adam and Eve! Where were they going to find shelter outside of the garden? What were they going to eat? What were they going to wear? Everything had been provided in the garden, but outside of the garden, nothing was immediately available. They had to toil to provide the simplest necessities. Inside the garden they had enjoyed paradise, but outside of it they found only grinding poverty.

WHY WERE ADAM AND EVE PUNISHED?

Adam and Eve were not punished for some sin that they had done in a previous life. They were punished for what they did in this life, here on earth. Indeed, they had no past life. It was here on earth that God had created Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). After Adam and Eve died, they did not come back to life again on earth. We know this to be true, because the Bible says that a person dies only once, and after that comes the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

TRAGEDY IN ADAM’S FAMILY

After sin was introduced, Adam’s family began to deteriorate. Adam’s oldest son, Cain, rose up and

murdered Adam's younger son, Abel (Genesis 4:1-15). It has always been true that when people start disobeying God, there is no limit to the evil that may come of it.

THE FLOOD

Sin very quickly increased among Adam's descendants. The Bible says that the thoughts of people's hearts were evil continually (Genesis 6:5). As a result, God regretted that He had made man (Genesis 6:6), and He decided to destroy people from the face of the earth (Genesis 6:7). He sent a great flood which destroyed everyone except Noah and his family (Genesis 7:23).

SIN IS STILL WRECKING HAVOC TODAY

Sin is responsible for all of the problems that people have. Because of sin, friends become estranged, engagements for marriage are canceled, marriages are dissolved, husbands go philandering and bring home sexual diseases to their wives, wives are disrespectful to their husbands, families are abandoned, children are neglected, and children become disobedient to their parents. Because of sin, people tell lies, they cheat, they steal, they engage in bribery, they are greedy, they are hateful to each other, and they do not pay their debts. Because of sin rich people take advantage of poor people and political leaders are dishonest. All of these evils, and many more, come as a result of sin.

It is not only other people's sins that cause us trouble. It is often our own sins as well. There is no denying that

we have sinned. The Bible says that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). It also says that if we say we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8). Still worse, if we say we have not sinned, the Bible says that we make God a liar and we show that His word is not in us (1 John 1:10).

THE WAGES OF SIN

The person that sins will die (Ezekiel 18:4,20), because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Death came into the world as a result of Adam's sin (Romans 5:12), and since all have sinned, death has passed to everyone.

WORKSHEETS

After you have studied lesson number three and have looked up all of the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences and pay close attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you find that a statement is true, please write “T” before the sentence. If you find a statement to be false, please write “F” before it.

- _____1. The first man lived in the Garden of Eden.
- _____2. The name of the first man was “Kumar.”
- _____3. Adam’s wife, Eve, tempted Adam to sin.
- _____4. Satan, or the devil, is known as the “father of lies.”
- _____5. Every transgression of God’s spiritual and moral laws is sin.
- _____6. Adam and Eve were forced to leave the beautiful garden because of sins that they had done in a previous life.
- _____7. A person dies only once, and after that comes the judgment.
- _____8. In Noah’s day, God destroyed the world by fire.
- _____9. As a result of Adam’s sin death first came into the

world.

____10. Every person dies because of his own sins.

Please, read the following Bible passages in the New King James Version of the Bible and fill in the blanks.

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through ____ sin entered the world, and _____ through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because ____.”

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is _____, but the gift of God is _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed for men ____ ____, but after this ____.”

1 John 1:10

“If we say that we ____ ____, we make ____ a liar, and ____ is not in us.”

THOUGHT QUESTIONS: Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. What do you think is the explanation for the fact that Adam and Eve became afraid of God and hid themselves?

2. Can you explain how sin causes trouble for people? Please give some examples?