

Panorama Bible Study

The Plan of the Ages, Study 2

THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE FROM THE CREATION OF MAN TO THE FALL AND EXPULSION

NOTE: In Study 1 we concluded with **THE FIRST MARRIAGE** in the Garden of Eden with God officiating. In I Corinthians 15:45 **Adam** is called the “**FIRST man**” and the **Lord Jesus** is called the “**LAST Adam.**” In verse 47 it is repeated that **Jesus** is the “**SECOND man,**” who “is the Lord from Heaven.” Some scholars summarize this by referencing the Adam of Genesis as **FIRST ADAM** and referencing Jesus as **SECOND ADAM.**

MARRIAGE between man and woman was ordained by God in the beginning and is a **HOLY SACRED** event that is a type and shadow of **CHRIST (Second Adam)** being **MARRIED to HIS CHURCH** (we are “**Spiritual Eve,**” the **Bride** of Christ, see Ephesians 5:22-32). The book of Revelation tells us about **The Marriage Supper.** Therefore, it is **NO COINCIDENCE** that our **Second Adam, the Lord Jesus,** performed his **first miracle** of the New Testament at a **WEDDING** in Cana of Galilee! He turned the water into wine. **New wine** is a symbol of the **New Covenant** and the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit.**

The Bible beautifully portrays God **STARTING** with a miracle of **MARRIAGE in EDEN** at the very beginning of time; Jesus **STARTING** His public ministry with a miracle at a **MARRIAGE in Cana** of Galilee; and the **Lord ENDING the Bible** with the **MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB** and **HIS BRIDE!!!**

1. Genesis 3:1 **IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT!!!** The **FIRST ADJECTIVE** God chose to use to introduce us to the Evil One is **SUBTIL** (KJV spelling). God is giving us Satan’s *modus operandi* in our lives. Satan comes, as the New Testament states, as an “**Angel of Light.**”

QUESTION: What does the word **subtle** mean to you?

ANSWER: _____

Lesson to learn in Eve’s conversation: **DO NOT ENGAGE THE ENEMY IN CONVERSATION!** This became Eve’s “slippery slope.” When she saw that this conversation was placing doubt in her mind and challenging the very Word of God, she should have **STOPPED**

TALKING! (This beginning of her Fall into open rebellion serves as a lesson to all of us and particularly to us, the women, because, typically, we are more the “talkers” than men. We love discussing “details,” while men, typically, do not. (At least, not at my house!) 😊)

2. Genesis 3:3 Eve said God told them not to **EAT** of The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil or even **TOUCH** it.

With “scripture interpreting scripture” we see that **The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** foreshadowed **The First Covenant: The Law of Moses or The Ten Commandments or The Torah**. The New Testament in the book of Romans, Chapter 3, verse 20 tells us that **THE LAW OF MOSES** brought **KNOWLEDGE of SIN**—it **DEFINED SIN**, but was **POWERLESS** to change the human heart where sin has its dominion. Both Adam and Eve, just like the Hebrew nation years later under Moses’ leadership, thought they could disobey God, set their own rules and run their own lives. They lost “**God consciousness**” and became “**SELF**” conscious. (Remember the worship video I showed last week? ME WORSHIP)

With the giving of The Law to Moses, God was repeating the lesson to fallen humanity that He had shown Adam and Eve: **Rebellion** to His Word is to **know evil**. Once we have **known GOOD and EVIL**, there is nothing we can **DO** through ceremonies, or rituals, or any human effort, to change our hearts and fallen **FLESH** nature. Again, the word “**know**” means “**to come into union with in order to reproduce.**” When we **KNOW** evil, we have become **INTIMATE** and in **union** with evil...AND evil **always** dominates. (*As one of my elderly relatives used to say, “You dance with the Devil, He leads.”*)

3. Genesis 3:6 The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil involved **3 areas of temptation** that the New Testament gives further insight about in I John 2:16:

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|----------------------------|--|
| (1) The lust of the flesh. | Eve saw the tree was “good for food. ” |
| (2) The lust of the eyes. | Eve saw that it was “pleasant to the eyes. ” |
| (3) The pride of life. | Eve saw that it was “a tree to be desired to make one wise. ” |

Jesus **CONQUERED all 3 areas of TEMPTATION** when He was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry:

- (1) Satan tempted Jesus to turn the stones into bread when He was **hungry.**
(*Lust of the flesh*)
- (2) Satan showed Jesus a **vision** of all the kingdoms of the world and offered to give them to Him if Jesus would just worship him.
(*Lust of the eyes*)

- (3) Satan tempted Jesus by challenging Him to throw Himself from the pinnacle of the Temple in order to draw attention to Himself and create a following.
(*Pride of life*)

SCOREBOARD: JESUS: 3 WINS SATAN: 0 Hallelujah!!!

Those **3 areas of TEMPTATION have never changed throughout the centuries**. They are the same areas that we must be vigilant about in our walk with God. Satan will come to us in these areas, BUT if we run to Jesus, He has already conquered these areas and can give us the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome such temptations!!!

4. Genesis 3: 6 Eve gave it to **her husband** who was **WITH HER**. Interesting, because the prior scriptures indicate God specifically told Adam to **not** eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil **BEFORE Eve was created** (Genesis 2:17), so Adam, evidently, had informed Eve that it was **OFF LIMITS** by God's direct command to **HIM!** Maybe this is why God seems to cut Eve some slack in the New Testament where it says she was **DECEIVED**. (I Timothy 2:14)
5. Genesis 3:7 They then knew they were **naked**.

QUESTION: If Adam's and Eve's eyes were opened so that they knew they were **NAKED**, what do you think **COVERED** them **before the FALL?**

ANSWER: _____

Since there are religions that teach that women can only be "**HOLY**" if they were certain articles of clothing or certain styles of clothing, keep in mind that when Adam and Eve were **truly PURE and HOLY before the Fall**, they were **NAKED**. So religions that teach that women attain "**HOLINESS**" through clothing have truly **missed the real meaning** of being **HOLY**. Holiness is in the heart of a man or woman. There is nothing physically, such as articles of clothing, which can cause or contribute in any way to **TRUE BIBLICAL HOLINESS**. But, it goes without saying that a person who grows in the character and knowledge of the Lord, (man or woman) will **not** be offensive with their clothing. There are some Christian religions who dress a certain way which may be different from the typical American Christian. I believe that if they are dressing in such a manner as an "offering" or "fast" unto the Lord or even as a cultural dressage, no one should criticize that. But it should be understood that clothes cannot impart holiness. The New Testament teaching is that Holiness of heart is reflected in **modesty. Holiness is ETERNAL. CLOTHING IS NOT!**

6. Genesis 3:7 They attempted to cover their now sinful condition with **FIG LEAVES!**
*(Makes me wonder if the **FIG** was the **FORBIDDEN FRUIT** they ate!!!)*

Again, with “scripture interpreting scripture” God will use the fig tree as a metaphor for the nation of Israel. In one place He likens Israel to “**rotten figs.**” Remember that **Jesus CURSED the fig tree** for not bearing fruit and it died. Jesus uses the **FIG TREE** as a symbol of their religious system (The Law of Moses, The Old Covenant Worship) and pronounces judgment upon it, for soon He would go to the Cross and bring in the New Covenant of Grace.

7. Genesis 3:8 **God’s VOICE** walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day, but Adam and Eve **HID** themselves from God.

QUESTION: Who is the **VOICE or WORD of God** that would be **WALKING** in that garden?
 (Hint: He came walking again to the garden of earth in the New Testament.)

ANSWER: _____

Whenever there is sin in our lives, our “natural” fallen flesh nature wants to **HIDE** from God. The New Testament tells us that we are at enmity (enemies) with God while we surrender to the desires of our fallen nature. **Sin causes SEPARATION.** When Jesus became our Sin-Bearer upon the Cross of Calvary, He cried out, “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me.” He suffered and felt the **SEPARATION** from His Father—so that we may **never be separated** from God again! The **SEPARATION** was of such depth and grief that it literally ruptured Jesus’ physical heart upon that Cross!!! Make no mistake about it: It was **not** the **physical pain** of the Cross that he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane if it be His Father’s Will for the cup to pass from Him. It was the **SEPARATION** He knew was coming--the untold **WEIGHT** of human sin placed upon Him. He had never known such **SEPARATION.** Isaiah prophesied the crucifixion and Jesus’ “**SEPARATION**” **700 years before** it happened. Of this **SEPARATION** Isaiah said, “He was **CUT OFF.**”

8. Genesis 3:9 A beautiful picture of **SALVATION.** Because of **sin**, we **RUN FROM God** and **HIDE.** But God is **seeking** us out and calling out to us, “Where art thou?” Through the power of the Holy Spirit, this “**SEEKING**” is what happens to us when we come to faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit whispers conviction to us and asks us, “Where are you?” That’s **not** a **location** question. That’s a question of “Where are you spiritually?” It is clear from this picture God painted in Genesis, that **HE has to**

initiate the REDEEMING ACT. The New Testament gives us understanding. It plainly tells us that we cannot come to God without the Holy Spirit **DRAWING us to Jesus**. It is noteworthy that God addressed Adam **FIRST**, since the omniscient God already knew the exact chain of events—even before they ever happened! God knew it started with **EVE, yet speaks to Adam first!!!**

9. Genesis 3:12 Adam then blames Eve. The pattern is always the same: Excuses, excuses, excuses! The **FALLEN ADAMIC nature** in all of us wants to **blame SOMEBODY ELSE**.

10. Genesis 3:13 Eve **blames** the serpent for “beguiling” or deceiving her.

11. Genesis 3:14 Notice God did **not question the serpent** about what he had done. God didn’t want an explanation or confession from him. God just **immediately placed a curse upon him**.

QUESTION: Why didn’t God get a **confession** from the serpent (Satan)?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: In the curse upon the serpent, what did God say the serpent would “EAT” all the days of his life?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: What did God create in His own Image that is *made* of **DUST**?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: What is the spiritual symbolism behind Satan eating “**DUST?**”

ANSWER: _____

12. Genesis 3:15 **THE FIRST PROMISE AND PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH, OUR SAVIOR!!!**

The **WOMAN** and the **serpent (Satan)** would be enemies. Furthermore, the **SEED** of the **WOMAN (One seed-JESUS)** and the **serpent’s SEED (unredeemed people and demonic powers of darkness)** would be enemies. But the **WOMAN’S SEED** would one day **BRUISE** Satan’s **HEAD** (his authority and dominion over fallen mankind). However, in so doing, the **WOMAN’S SEED** would receive injury—His **HEEL** would be **BRUISED**. Remember Isaiah also

prophesied that this coming Messiah would be **BRUISED**. Isaiah was using terminology from the original curse in Genesis!!! That is an example of “scripture interpreting scripture.”

The **Heel** in Genesis 3:15 is a direct reference to the **feet of our precious Lord** being **pierced** in crucifixion. God reinforced this “signpost” of the HEEL in Redemption over hundreds of years by having the Israelites under Moses implement the **Law of the Kinsman Redeemer**, wherein property acquired by death was obtained through a ceremony involving the **FOOT**. (Deut. 25:9-10)

13.Genesis 3:16 While God honors the Woman with the **Redeemer** coming through her **SEED**, she suffers the **SEVERE CONSEQUENCE** of “greatly multiplied **SORROW** in conception.” Her **SORROWS** were **not only PHYSICAL PAIN**, but also **SORROWS** that she in her **REBELLION** had **CORRUPTED** the **entire human race to be born thereafter!** AND yet even in her **SORROWS** of childbearing, she will **desire** her husband and **continue in conception. BUT** her **husband** shall **rule** (have power, dominion) over her. The Fall made woman a “**weaker**” vessel. Remember, **before** the Fall God charged both **ADAM and EVE to EQUALLY SUBDUE** and have **DOMINION**. (Genesis 1:28).

NOTE: GOD NEVER SAYS HE IS PLACING A CURSE DIRECTLY UPON EVE AS HE DID THE SERPENT!!!

14.Genesis 3:17: Because Adam listened to the **voice of his wife** instead of the **VOICE of his God, CURSED** is the **GROUND**. In **SORROW** Adam will eat of it all his life. **MORE SORROWS!!!** This is why Isaiah prophesied in the 53rd chapter that the coming Messiah would be a “man of **SORROWS**” and that He would “carry our **SORROWS**.” Again, “scripture interpreting scripture.”

NOTE: GOD NEVER SAYS HE IS PLACING A CURSE DIRECTLY UPON ADAM AS HE DID THE SERPENT!!! It is the **GROUND** that is **CURSED**; HOWEVER our **physical bodies** are made of the **GROUND (DUST)** of the earth!

Notice that the **CURSED GROUND** will bring forth **THORNS** and **THISTLES**. Thorns and thistles will be **associated with the CURSE** throughout the Bible. When Abraham was about to slay Isaac as an offering to God, a **RAM** was caught in the **THICKET (thorns and thistles.)** Jesus bore a **CROWN of THORNS at the cross**, for He was taking the **CURSE** for us.

In turn, He has **CROWNED US** with **REDEMPTION** and **PEACE OF MIND** with **GOD ALMIGHTY!**

15.Genesis 3:19 Adam would eat his bread in the **SWEAT** of his face. The original curse God placed upon the ground and the consequences of the **SWEAT** are seen in Jesus taking the curse for us. **He SWEATED** Holy, Divine drops of **Blood** in the **Garden of Gethsemane** when His soul was “sorrowful unto death.” His **BLOOD** has **CANCELLED** the claims of the curse and its consequences!!! **PRAISE GOD!!!** Keep in mind that the **FALL began in a GARDEN (EDEN)** and **JESUS would begin the process of REDEMPTION for all humanity in a GARDEN (GETHSEMANE)!!!** *Does God pay attention to the details, or what!!!*

16.Genesis 3:21 **Sin** brings **DEATH** into the Garden of Eden. As a forerunner and foreshadowing that man’s sin would be covered by a substitute, **GOD HIMSELF KILLED** the animals. **Innocent BLOOD** was **SHED** in the **once PURE** and **HOLY Garden of God** to clothe Adam and Eve. A sad picture for those who were **once COVERED** with the **very GLORY of GOD!!!**

17.Genesis 3:22 **Banishment** from the Garden of Eden was an **ACT OF GRACE**, for God says if Adam and Eve were to stay, they would **eat of the TREE OF LIFE and live forever in this SIN-STRICKEN, CORRUPTED, UNHOLY state!**

18.Genesis 3:24 First mention of **CHERUBIM**—the order of angelic beings who are associated with vindicating the **HOLINESS** of God. They protected the **entrance** to the Garden of Eden at the **EAST** with a **FLAMING SWORD** (symbolic of the Word of God, see Eph. 6:17, Rev. 1:16) which turned in all directions and kept safe the way of the **TREE OF LIFE**. This **TREE OF LIFE** foreshadows **Calvary’s Cross**, The True and Eternal **Tree of Life**—The New Covenant of Grace. The **CHERUBIM** will be seen again over the **ARK of the COVENANT** in the **TABERNACLE** and **TEMPLE worship**.

Ezekiel 1:10

