

Creation and the Fall S.S. Lesson

1. Welcome and free offer.
2. Memory Text Gen. 3:15.
3. Opening paragraphs talked about a comedian who used to say “The devil made me do it.”
4. Can the devil make you do anything? No. He works very hard to get you to do some things, but he can’t force you.
5. God can force you, but does He? No, he doesn’t force us either.
6. We have free wills. We choose whom to serve. We are masters of which master to follow.
7. And quite often we are faced with decisions that will lead us to one master or the other that come to us quite unexpectedly. In other words, some decisions we make for the wrong master for example are not long thought out and planned decisions.
8. As it was in the beginning that leads us to Sunday’s lesson entitled “The Serpent Was More Cunning.”
9. Adam and Eve didn’t start that day by thinking anything about making any wrong decisions. They didn’t start out by giving any thought to being tempted to make wrong decisions.
10. The enemy is so cunning that it can almost seem like in the end that he did force the choices made. While he forced situations to be what they are, he cannot cross that line and force decisions.
11. Will someone get us started by reading **Genesis 3:1**? The verse previous to this verse in chapter 2, verse 25 tells about how they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. In fact they were quite unaware of their nakedness and we know of course because they were clothed with a robe of light. But what a drastic change that will take place between that verse and chapter 3. Let’s read it.
12. The enemy possesses a quality that would do us all well to have this quality in us as much as it is in him. Can you guess what that is? Patience. He is extremely patient, waiting and lying low just for the right opportunity to be what is that word in the text, subtle?

13. Subtle, definitions are: delicately skillful or clever; deft or ingenious; not open or direct; crafty, sly; working insidiously, not easily detected.
14. It takes time and thought to work in this manner most of the time and even though he knows his time is short he still maintains patience to catch his prey.
15. And you are his prey. I am his prey. When you put it like that it sounds awful doesn't it? And I am here to remind us, it is awful.
16. We might liken ourselves as an insect surrounded by spider webs. Every direction you turn there is one of his webs to snag you.
17. Eve should have known the danger right? Were they warned of the evil one?
18. Really the amazing thing about this is that Adam and Eve weren't just told that there would be a possibility of falling, but they were warned about the very area this temptation would come from, the tree.
19. Pat. & Prophets p. 51 says, "Should they attempt to investigate its (the tree) nature, they would be exposed to his wiles. They were admonished to give careful heed to the warning which God had sent them and to be content with the instruction which He had seen fit to impart."
20. They even knew about the one referred to in the phrase, "his wiles."
21. How long did the serpent have to wait for Eve to wander from Adam's side, bringing her into the presence of "the tree?" We don't know. I'm sure it wasn't the first day or even the first week, probably not even within the first month.
22. Such patience displayed by this wily being can be pictured in our minds. Ever mindful of all of their activities, watching their every move, the serpent, what, waited in the tree? Did he wait there or see her coming and flew to the tree once he saw her heading that way, we don't know. But he patiently waited.
23. He had his opportunity and didn't waste it by impatience either. He didn't come at Eve in a direct fashion, but carefully paved the way for ensnaring his victim.

24. How the good angels must have looked on with intensity. But they were not allowed to intervene. The test comes to man, not to the good angels. They had already proved their allegiance in heaven.
25. Some of the serpent's human agents often exhibit the same kind of patience in seeking to lead astray mankind. In fact these human agents often exhibit more patience in sharing false teachings than God's people exhibit in sharing true teachings with others.
26. I've heard horror stories and you no doubt have also of some supposed well intentioned person pouncing on someone with "the truth." By pouncing on them in this manner it drives them from the truth, not to the truth.
27. I'm amazed at how patience some of these people are in groups who teach such false doctrines. Little by little they grab people's attention with some little twist, causing a little doubt about God or one of His Biblical teachings.
28. Cunning is the word to be sure. There is an interesting text about the serpents if we could have someone read for us **Matthew 10:16?** Jesus is the one talking in this text and it really shows us how well He knew His enemy. In fact He encourages us to embrace one of the serpent's traits. (read text).
29. **So we** are to exercise the alertness and the wisdom abilities of the serpent and of course not imitate his wiliness. But in this text Jesus shows how well He knew His enemy.
30. I think in our world we sometimes forget to really know our enemy and his cunningness. We are surrounded with evil and in fact evil is often patronized as something wonderful.
31. We almost get to rooting for the villain at times. The fellow who stole a lot of money, got on a plane and jumped out over a forest area and never was found becomes a sort of folk hero whom people applaud.
32. Our enemy is nothing like that. He is totally evil. He wants only to cause you severe pain and/or death. We must never forget that. The enemy loves it when God's people down play or jest about him as if he was fictitious or not such a bad chap after all. He's bad, totally bad. We must know the truth about our enemy.

33. Even in sports, those teams who study and know about their opponents and how good they are at specific things are the teams more often to win the battle.
34. We must not study of him to become enchanted with him, but study enough to know how evil, evil can be.
35. Let's move on to Monday, "The Woman And The Serpent." Will someone read for us **Genesis 3:2,3?** One might get the idea that this was their first day in Paradise to be caught off guard so much that you find yourself talking to a snake in a tree. But that wasn't the case. We don't know how long, but they had been there some time before this catastrophic event took place. And what that tells us again is how wily the enemy is. It's like an automatic seed had been planted, wow, a talking serpent, maybe this tree does have special powers for good. (Read text)
36. So the lesson points out how Eve might have stated something beyond what they had been told when saying that they couldn't even touch the fruit or they would die.
37. I tend to lean the other way. Often God gives us details a little bit indirectly. I suspect they had been told not to touch the fruit of the tree. It makes no difference one way or the other, for had she not touched it, she wouldn't have eaten it.
38. But on the other hand Eve was a smart person right? Sure. She saw the serpent in the tree perhaps holding a piece of the fruit. She heard him speaking to her and she quickly perceived that he knew things she probably didn't know.
39. So seeing him hold a piece of the fruit and not dying she could have added that little phrase to see what he would say since he did seem so enlightened about things. Either way she was a captivated audience to the serpent.
40. Well with that, can we say that the rules were clear? Did Eve know right from wrong? Yes. So where did she go wrong? Was it a desire to have something she wasn't supposed to have? Small as that desire was, the serpent knew how to enlarge that desire.

41. But in so doing he had to discredit God. He had to plant a seed in her mind that God wasn't exactly as He said He was. Do we still have a problem with that today?
42. We are told that God is love and that He only has our good in mind. Do you ever question that? Times get hard, stress comes in, tragic things happen, and who is there to suggest that God must not love you or He wouldn't be letting these things happen? This same serpent is there, that's who.
43. Would someone read for us [Matthew 15:7-9](#)? This is a passage where Jesus is chastising the scribes and Pharisees for their human traditions. Their human traditions were added rules they thought they needed that would help them be holier. Often they became burdensome and very legalistic. Listen to what He tells them. (read text).
44. I don't see the Church doing that today like they did back then. In fact we might tend to go in the opposite direction at times. People sometimes ridicule others who take a stand on some health principles. They suggest that these people are trying to earn a holiness, making up rules etc. But health laws are health laws and are as real and good for us today as they were when given to us from God.
45. That's not the kind of thing Jesus was talking about. He was talking about all those meticulous rules they made up in regards to Sabbath keeping for example. They took all the delight out of the day of delight.
46. Do we need more laws or do we need to just keep the ones God gave us already?
47. In our country, do we need more laws or do we need to enforce the ones we have? Well from time to time new laws are needed when circumstances change, but mostly everything is already covered by a law.
48. In this country it is always a bit laughable when they talk about simplifying the tax laws, making it easier to file your taxes etc. If anything they become a bit more complicated each year where as you need to have to have an expert who continually studies these laws do your taxes for you.
49. All of this goes back to the woman and the serpent doesn't it? She just couldn't accept the laws that were in place. She had to put her own human stamp on things. And boy did she ever.

50. Up until now Adam and Eve were one. They were one as husband and wife and they were one with God. They were the Church. They were the body of Christ and they had the kind of unity that Jesus prayed for His church to have in John chapter 17.
51. So what transpires here between the woman and the serpent resulted in the first disunity this world had ever known, the first disunity that the Church, the body of Christ had ever known. And how was it that this disunity was brought about?
52. Pat. And Prophets p. 52 says, "The angels had cautioned Eve to beware of separating herself from her husband while occupied in their daily labor in the garden; with him she would be in less danger from temptation than if she were alone.....On perceiving that she was alone, she felt an apprehension of danger, but dismissed her fears, deciding that she had sufficient wisdom and strength to discern evil and to withstand it."
53. This was the first step towards disunity. But what was it that cemented that first experience of disunity to penetrate God's Church, God's earthly family?
54. Reading on in that same book on page 53 we have this. "By partaking of this tree, he (the serpent) declared, they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge."
55. Wow, that's potent. She was taken in by the promise of a more exalted sphere of existence. She was taken in by this desire that had been planted that she could have an even higher position on earth than which God had said she should have.
56. That has a certain ring to some of the disunity God's Church is experiencing today. Mankind separating themselves from the body of Christ, the Church on important teachings and issues because of a desire for a more exalted sphere of existence.
57. It's what brought the first experience of disunity to God's Church and will continue to be a threat to His Church until His people are sealed.
58. Any time actions are taken that brings disunity to God's Church that action is undermining the most potent and beautiful prayer of Christ that has been

recorded for us in John chapter 17. When that happens all we can say how sad...

59. But we can't stop there. Eve wasn't the only one in the end making this choice. We must move on to Tuesday's lesson entitled "Deceived by the Evidence."
60. Will someone read for us [Genesis 3:4-6](#)? We will find in these verses clues as to what evidences we are talking about. People don't often make decisions unless there is some sort of something we could call evidence to support the decisions we make. The evidence may not be accurate in many cases, but when it comes to temptations brought to us by the serpent, he makes them seem extremely authentic. Read passage.
61. Evidence, the fruit looked good. No doubt the serpent either by talking about it or by eating it made the saliva in Eve's mouth well up to an exciting pitch.
62. We know he ate it again by what is stated in Pat. And Prophets p. 53 where it says, "He himself had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech."
63. Oh, wow, another piece of evidence is introduced. This fruit will increase your wisdom. It will give you new speech. It gave her new speech all right, but not a good speech. For just a short time later she was using her speech to drag Adam into the mix of this sin and then blaming God for making the serpent.
64. Does that remind you of a time when people got new speech? Back at the tower of Babel. They were seeking their own way there too and God gave them new languages that brought the tower building to an end.
65. There seems to be new languages that break forth within the church from time to time. Language as we said earlier that brings division and disunity to God's people just like at the tower of Babel.
66. It often comes with the same tone that the serpent was bringing to Eve, that we live in an enlightened era of earth's history and we need to bring this in and this in as other churches are doing. Churches herald the same message as the serpent did. Look, I have partaken of this new enlightenment and I'm not dying, in fact I'm thriving.

67. They use that as evidence.
68. And we need to get back to the evidence. Never before had Eve or Adam witnessed any animal speaking their language. Seeing and hearing is believing. Well, seeing and hearing is cause for a lot of people to believe a lot of things, but if it isn't according to a thus saith the Lord, then the evidence is faulty and that which you are seeing and that which you hear should not be believed. Is that right?
69. So Adam is dragged into this scenario. Does he come willingly? No, in fact we know that he was broken hearted to find out that Eve had partaken of the fruit.
70. And the lesson points out that Eve was deceived but Adam willingly, eventually, gave in to disobey God. Why? Because a human relationship was more important to him than the human/Divine relationship he had enjoyed.
71. Many of course have wondered what would have happened if Adam had said no to sin. What would God have done? Again we get a little insight as to an answer to this question from Patriarchs and Prophets p. 55.
72. "He did not realize that the same Infinite Power who had from the dust of the earth created him, a living, beautiful form, and had in love given him a companion, could supply her place."
73. Interesting concept. Sure he would have missed Eve, he would have mourned her loss. But God who had brought him perfect happiness and joy could fill him with all that again. Evidently God has the ability to wipe away all sorrow, for in the last book of the Bible we are told that God will wipe away all tears where there will never be any more sorry or crying, nor death or pain of any kind as we find in Revelation 21:4.
74. It was too hard for Adam to see beyond his imminent loss. And don't we all find ourselves in that position now and then, hard to see beyond our loss or imminent loss.
75. And you know that we are admonished to not even have the feeling that if our children or loved ones don't make it to heaven, we don't want to be there either. By doing that we make of no value the price that has been paid for our salvation.

76. You who have children would easily recognize that this could indeed be the biggest test there could be. All Adam had on earth was Eve. Yes, he had God. He had animals, but Eve was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. They were one, but due to the sin of Eve that oneness had come to an end.
77. But what a tragic day when Adam and Eve fell. In the course of probably less than an hour the world became doomed with sin.
78. It reminded me of something one commentator on television said during the recent severe recession. He began his newscast by saying, "Due to the current financial crisis, the light at the end of the tunnel will be turned off."
79. Indeed such a bright light had gone out in our world. Sin began to reign, darkness set in.
80. And that takes us to Wednesday's lesson entitled "Grace and Judgment in Eden, part 1. Will someone read for us [Genesis 3:9-13](#)? .We are turning to the dialogue between the pair and God after the fall. It's interesting to note how God asks the simplest of questions and how quickly a new concept that had never been experienced shows up and shows up so strongly, that is.....GUILT.
81. And how quickly they learned to try and avoid owning up to their own guilt, trying to blame others... (Read the passage.)
82. Did God have to ask those questions for Himself to know? Of course not. Did He know how they would answer His questions? Yes. But this was all unfolding for their benefit, their understanding of this new and mysterious condition.
83. Imagine how awful all that must have felt for them. Everything is perfect and then wham, nothing seems right or normal. They even feel cold. Why? I contend their feeling cold is evidence that already cells in their bodies are starting to die, just like cells in our bodies are always dying.
84. The wages of sin, of eating from the forbidden tree is death and dying begins now! What an awful moment in history.
85. But what does God do? Someone read for us [Genesis 3:14,15](#) please. .Not only does God step in and tell the couple of the help He is going to provide for their awful situation, but He addresses the enemy that brought this all about. (Read verses)

86. As the lesson points out that before God pronounces judgment on Adam and Eve He gives them the hope of grace and salvation. The promise of salvation and then the judgment. Is that important?
87. I think it is highly important, for whenever the word judgment is announced it often eclipses the concept of grace, bringing fear and condemnation to the soul.
88. But judgment in the right light for people in the right condition is a grand and wonderful theme actually.
89. Who is to be our judge? Jesus will be our Judge. Is that good news or bad? Depends on which side of the fence you are on?
90. Standing before a judge for a serious crime must be terrifying. And so that is why the judgment gets such a bad rap. But in the judgment for the true believer, the judge is Jesus and the lawyer is also Jesus. And if you really, really know Jesus, then that should take all the fear out of this fearful sounding event.
91. Even though here on Wednesday we are talking about the immediate judgment that Adam and Eve were about to receive concerning childbirth and battling the thistles and thorns, it is helpful I think to cope with current judgments that come our way by thinking about the great judgment that takes place deciding the eternal destiny of each person.
92. If we can get the right concept and attitude towards the great judgment, then I believe it will help us with those we contend with here day to day.
93. And basically the most important aspect of any judgment is the kind of relationship we have with the judge. And who is our ultimate Judge? Jesus of course.
94. I'm sure I mentioned this in a sermon one time a long time ago, but I had an interesting experience in regards to meeting a judge. I was a fairly new SDA and in college.
95. I took some summer classes which was a tour for 6 hours of credits and one of the stops was Washington D.C. One stop in that city of grandeur was the Supreme Court of the United States of America.
96. Well, one of the Supreme Court justices at that time actually was a first cousin of mine whom I had never met. I know he had often stopped to see

his uncle which was my grandfather, and my grandfather lived close to where I lived, but I had never crossed paths with this man.

97. His name was Justice Bryon White, often called Whizzer White because of his college football and professional football days. He still holds some records I guess as a running back.
98. So anyway when I was there at the Supreme Court building I scribbled a note telling him who I was and how we were related and where I was staying and left it with a receptionist downstairs in the building.
99. To my surprise that evening I got a call from Justice White's secretary telling me he would like to meet me and if I could go and visit him tomorrow he would show me around.
100. Wow, I was excited, but very nervous. I had never personally known any judge of any kind. I lived in a small town less than a thousand people in Iowa for most of my life and now I was going to go see the judge. I was only around 25 years old or so.
101. So the time came and I went there and the policeman downstairs called up to his office and told me that his secretary would be right down. Well instead of the secretary he came bounding down the stairs and calls out to the policeman, "Hey Bill this is my cousin all the way from Iowa who has come to see me."
102. He took me to his office and showed me around. He had pictures of the Kennedy family all around and football pictures and trophies as I recall. John F. Kennedy and he were good friends and he would serve in his cabinet and then Kennedy would appoint him to the bench.
103. As we visited he made me feel quite at ease. He hikes his feet up on his desk and I will never forget that the bottom of his shoe was starting to show a hole coming on it. He just seemed like one of the good old boys from Iowa as we talked and so my nervousness went away.
104. Why? Because I really began to get to know the judge. If we know the Judge the Judgment won't be a bad thing at all, in fact it will be a grand thing listening to the ringing tone of Christ's voice as He stands up for us against the accusation of the accuser of the brethren.

105. Where will you stand in the Judgment? Do you know the Judge really well? Are you sure He is your defense lawyer also? I pray so.
106. And if that is so, each time you are faced with the thorns and thistles of this life the judgments we face along the way, we will be reminded of who is control of our destinies.
107. And as you have that relationship with our Judge, Salvation, the price paid for our salvation will stand uppermost in our minds. For the Judge who serves as our Advocate likewise stands up for us with those nail pierced hands and feet. He is always there to save us, daily or eternally.
108. Well, with that we must move on to Thursday's lesson "Grace and Judgment in Eden: Part 2.
109. A point is made here on Thursday for the second time when it says, "After all, what's the purpose of the gospel, what's the good news, if there were no judgment, no condemnation from which to be spared?"
110. What is the ultimate condemnation to man because of sin? Death right? Do we all deserve death? Yes. Can we all have life? Yes.
111. If our faith weakens I couldn't help but think of the Israelites at a time when Saul was King. The Philistines were gathering themselves together to fight with Israel. And listen to what it says in [1Samuel 13:6,7](#). "When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling."
112. Wow, what a sad picture of a total lack of faith. Often when judgment is imminent or possible judgment or trials are imminent, God's people can scatter with trembling and fear.
113. It reminds us of that which will happen at the very end when Jesus comes. Remember these verses in [Revelation 7:15,16](#)? "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains, And said to the mountains

and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”

114. I heard someone say once, when the time of trouble comes and were the angry crowds to come and take our senior pastor or the whole pastoral staff captive you probably would see all too many of the members scatter like cockroaches when the light is turned on them at night.
115. That will happen, if you do not now know how to relate to judgment and trials. Jesus is Judge. Jesus is Savior. Jesus is Master. Jesus is Advocate. He is our Shelter in the time of storm.
116. The good news of salvation precedes judgment and it must precede judgment in our minds always, keeping uppermost the wonderful truth that Jesus saves. Jesus saves. What does Jesus do? He saves. Praise God, Jesus saves.