

# VABC Bible Study 2-30

## Sin

### Session 2 Sin

There can be no doubt that God does want His people to influence His world. This is clear by the aggressive and loving marching orders given in Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8. As we consider the progressive revelation of God, it is interesting to note how He worked in people before the time of Christ. We refer to this as the Old Testament (OT) or “before Christ” (BC), and mark it as a time of the progressive revelation of God to man.

We begin with the story of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

#### Genesis 3

La serpiente era más astuta que cualquiera de los animales del campo que el SEÑOR Dios había hecho. Y dijo a la mujer: «¿Conque Dios les ha dicho: “No comerán de ningún árbol del huerto”?».

2La mujer respondió a la serpiente: «Del fruto de los árboles del huerto podemos comer; 3pero del fruto del árbol que está en medio del huerto, Dios ha dicho: “No comerán de él, ni lo tocarán, para que no mueran”». 4Y la serpiente dijo a la mujer: «Ciertamente no morirán. 5Pues Dios sabe que el día que de él coman, se les abrirán los ojos y ustedes serán como Dios, conociendo el bien y el mal». 6Cuando la mujer vio que el árbol era bueno para comer, y que era agradable a los ojos, y que el árbol era deseable para alcanzar sabiduría, tomó de su fruto y comió. También dio a su marido que estaba con ella, y él comió.

#### Genesis 3

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

2And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

There are some interesting aspects to this story that we note. First, the serpiente was not originally a snake. By this we mean, it wasn’t just a close relative of a dangerous snake (like a harmless garter snake or a lizard). It was an animal of the field, and NOT repulsive. Whether animals could talk at that point is uncertain, but we do know that satan entered the creature and made it repulsive through God’s judgment. It appears that Adam and Eve (particularly) had no trouble conversing with it. I don’t think it was small, nor large or imposing either.

Second, take note of the strategy utilized by satan. It’s the same strategy used today; “Did God really say ...” We hear this all the time. Did God really mean it when He said homosexuality is abominable? Did God really want you to do without that new car? Did God really mean that you had to go to Church to have fellowship?

Third, we come to the definition of sin. Sin is defined as missing the mark, or stepping over a boundary of God’s prohibition. More fully, sin is a lack of faith in God. It occurs when we do not perceive of God’s commands as holy, because we do not trust Him.

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Eve fell into sin by deception. In Genesis 3:6, she fell into the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). She was deceived by the lies of satan.

1 Timoteo 2

14Y Adán no fue el engañado, sino que la mujer, siendo engañada completamente, cayó en transgresión.

1 Timothy 2

14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

Adam, on the other hand, sinned by willful commission. Adam knew the full instruction of God; did not pass it down fully to Eve; and ate of the fruit, in open rebellion against God, to go along with Eve. Adam's sin was worse. AND, according to scripture, was with her. At this point, we see the confession and effects of sin.

Genesis 3

Entonces fueron abiertos los ojos de ambos, y conocieron que estaban desnudos; y cosieron hojas de higuera y se hicieron delantales. 8Y oyeron al SEÑOR Dios que se paseaba en el huerto al fresco del día; y el hombre y su mujer se escondieron de la presencia del SEÑOR Dios entre los árboles del huerto. 9Y el SEÑOR Dios llamó al hombre, y le dijo: ¿Dónde estás? 10Y él respondió: Te oí en el huerto, y tuve miedo porque estaba desnudo, y me escondí. 11Y Dios le dijo: ¿Quién te ha hecho saber que estabas desnudo? ¿Has comido del árbol del cual te mandé que no comieras? 12Y el hombre respondió: La mujer que tú me diste por compañera me dio del árbol, y yo comí. 13Entonces el SEÑOR Dios dijo a la mujer: ¿Qué es esto que has hecho? Y la mujer respondió: La serpiente me engañó, y yo comí.

Genesis 3

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 8And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

God's timing is perfect. Adam and Eve have time to clothe themselves, and think about their sin. They know they have sinned by the fact that they are naked. And now we see the preincarnation of Christ walking in the garden of Eden.

There are 3 different levels of sin here. Eve was deceived and sinned. Her sin was based on NOT knowing precisely what God had said. We should read our Bibles daily to know what God is saying to us. Adam's sin was different in that he knew what God had said, and willingly rejected it to please his wife. He then passed the buck, and wanted Eve to take the brunt of the punishment ... and blamed God in the process.

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The third level of sin is identified with satan. There is no questioning the serpiente (an animal) nor satan (since the rebellion has occurred, and there is nothing left but punishment). And the curse is pronounced on both, first the serpiente and then satan ... maybe.

#### Genesis 3

Y el SEÑOR Dios dijo a la serpiente: Por cuanto has hecho esto, maldita serás más que todos los animales, y más que todas las bestias del campo; sobre tu vientre andarás, y polvo comerás todos los días de tu vida. 15Y pondré enemistad entre tú y la mujer, y entre tu simiente y su simiente; él te herirá en la cabeza, y tú lo herirás en el calcañar.

#### Genesis 3

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The serpiente now takes its present form, and satan takes the form of a dragon? There are several questions that arise.

1. If satan's fall from heaven has occurred already, why is it in the garden of Eden to begin with? Why does satan appear before God, again, in Job?

This from Preston Hts Baptist Church (TX): God leaves Satan around to sanctify his people in each generation. A key text is 2 Corinthians 12:7, "To keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited."

God's purpose in allowing Satan to harass Paul was to keep his pride in check. One reason why God leaves Satan around is to allow his self-defeating attacks on God's people that result in our growth in the grace and gladness and power of Jesus Christ.

2. Is God's curse on satan or the serpiente ... or both? Are the serpiente and satan the same creation?

Again from Preston Hts Baptist Church (TX): The serpent is more than a mere snake. satan himself took the form of this serpent in the garden (Rev. 12:9). So when God curses the serpent, he's not merely cursing snakes. He's cursing Satan himself.

3. If the curse is on both (separate creations), then where is the divide and why?

4. What is the meaning of "bruise" ("herir")? Is it fatal? More on this later.

5. Is satan a dragon (Revelation), snake (Revelation) or one of the cherubim (Isaiah, Ezekiel)? Did a change in appearance occur here?

I think we can reduce this to two figures: cherubim to dragon. And perhaps the serpiente had the appearance of a wingless cherubim before being cursed. This is indeed a difficult passage to interpret fully.

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Genesis 3:15 has been called the first version of the Gospel. Spurgeon said that it wrapped up the entire Bible. God provides a plan of rescue for the human race! Jesus will come, at last, and though bruised for our transgression, will deliver a fatal blow to satan and death!

After the curse on the serpiente/diablo, Adam and Eve were probably thinking, "We're next!" The ensuing curses are significantly heavy, but they weren't turned into snakes!

#### Genesis 3

16A la mujer dijo: En gran manera multiplicaré tu dolor en el parto, con dolor darás a luz los hijos; y con todo, tu deseo será para tu marido, y él tendrá dominio sobre ti. 17Entonces dijo a Adán: Por cuanto has escuchado la voz de tu mujer y has comido del árbol del cual te ordené, diciendo: «No comerás de él», maldita será la tierra por tu causa; con trabajo comerás de ella todos los días de tu vida. 18Espinos y abrojos te producirá, y comerás de las plantas del campo. 19Con el sudor de tu rostro comerás el pan hasta que vuelvas a la tierra, porque de ella fuiste tomado; pues polvo eres, y al polvo volverás. 20Y el hombre le puso por nombre Eva a su mujer, porque ella era la madre de todos los vivientes. 21Y el SEÑOR Dios hizo vestiduras de piel para Adán y su mujer, y los vistió.

#### Genesis 3

16To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." 17And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." 20The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Adam and Eve were relieved to know they would not be turned into snakes, but, still, their curse was heavy. Sin has great consequences. Women would now have great pain in childbirth. Human females have more pain in childbirth than any other mammal. They also feel pain for their children in a way that men do not.

Women desire to control their husbands and therein lies a great power struggle within each family. Will the man provide Godly leadership or not? Again, this is the weighty result of sin! For the man, the curse involved endless work (see Ecclesiastes ... the whole book). We will still eat of the fruit of the land, but now thorns and thistles (and other annoying plants ... Shumake, weeds, Fly Honeysuckle) are added to the mix. Our lives become curtailed, and our existence is one of decay and endless struggles. Adam and Eve (named in hope of salvation), willingly and joyfully worked the garden before. Now they would work for survival.

Additionally, there is another price to pay ... decay. Now, the curse applies to all of the earth ... ocean, rocks, wildlife, humans, etc. This involves the addition of a new, unseen, but deathly dimension to our reality ... time.

Again, God to the rescue with the tunics of skin (fig leaves are quite itchy). But, again, there has to be animal sacrifice to cover their sin, and provide comfort.

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#### Genesis 3

Expulsó, pues, al hombre; y al oriente del huerto del Edén puso querubines, y una espada encendida que giraba en todas direcciones, para guardar el camino del árbol de la vida.

#### Genesis 3

24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

In scripture (Ezekiel, Revelation) a cherubin signals the presence of the Lord. So, although they guard the entrance to the Garden, it was still at the east entrance where Adam and Eve worshiped God. It was the only place they knew where to find Him, Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

As for the garden itself, we can surmise that the onslaught of devouring plants began to overtake the garden until, at last, it took the form of the surrounding geography.



Now comes the first capital offense: murder.

#### Genesis 4

Y el hombre conoció a Eva, su mujer, y ella concibió y dio a luz a Caín, y dijo: He adquirido varón con la ayuda del SEÑOR. 2Después dio a luz a su hermano Abel. Y Abel fue pastor de ovejas y Caín fue labrador de la tierra. 3Y aconteció que al transcurrir el tiempo, Caín trajo al SEÑOR una ofrenda del fruto de la tierra. 4También Abel, por su parte, trajo de los primogénitos de sus ovejas y de la grosura de los mismos. Y el SEÑOR miró con agrado a Abel y a su ofrenda, 5pero a Caín y su ofrenda no miró con agrado. Y Caín se enojó mucho y su semblante se demudó. 6Entonces el SEÑOR dijo a Caín: ¿Por qué estás enojado, y por qué se ha demudado tu semblante? 7Si haces bien, ¿no serás aceptado? Y si no haces bien, el pecado yace a la puerta y te codicia, pero tú debes dominarlo. 8Y Caín dijo a su hermano Abel: vayamos al campo. Y aconteció que cuando estaban en el campo, Caín se levantó contra su hermano Abel y lo mató.

#### Genesis 4

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." 2And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. 3In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. 6The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." 8Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

There are many issues at work here. Eve rejoices at the birth of Cain. She believes him to be the prophesied Saviour. Guzik says that it could be interpreted as "I have gotten THE man with the help of the LORD." Though painful, this marks the first birth in history.

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Adam and Eve perhaps wondered whether their child would be born an adult. So there is great wonderment. Abel comes next and the boys grow up and go in different jobs ... Cain to be an agrarian, Abel to animal husbandry.

Is this the division that determines who God loves? No, rather that is a question of the heart. We are to see that the heart cannot be predetermined except by God! Evidently, neither goodwill nor gratitude was in the heart of Cain as he brought his offering to the cherubim at the tree of life, whilst Abel offered out of love for God.

Fire from heaven is a "sure fire" way of knowing that an offering is acceptable to the Lord. David, Solomon and Elijah all witnessed this in the OT. Here, perhaps, we see that fire from the cherubim for one person (but not the other), then for a nation, then with Christ (the veil of the temple being split) for chosen mankind.

#### Session 2 Quiz (fill in the blank)

1. \_\_\_\_ introduced sin into the world?
2. Eve was \_\_\_\_\_, but Adam sinned \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The serpente did not originally look like a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The first presentation of the \_\_\_\_\_ appears in Genesis 3:15.
5. The curse on women involves pain in \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_ for control of her mate.
6. Man was cursed in that there would be great toil in life, and he would return to the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Righteousness comes by \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Today, man still has to deal with clearing \_\_\_\_\_ out of the field because of the sin of Adam and Eve.
9. In many cases, God gives both punishment and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Sin and death are defeated by the \_\_\_\_\_ member of the Trinity.
11. There is a joint penalty on all of creation in the form of decay. This is measured by \_\_\_\_\_.