

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 16 – God Brings the Gospel to Eden Part 1

Notes And Helps to Instructors

Thank you for volunteering to lead a group through the treasures of God's word! You may feel overwhelmed or inadequate, but you can do this! The leader notes are designed to help you grow in knowledge and love for Christ and for you to help pass what you have received to your group. Here are some suggestions to help equip you to grow in your teaching and leading ability.

- These lessons could simply be read, and a group would receive something but that is not how they are designed. The notes are designed to grow you as a leader so you might tailor the lesson for the needs of your group. Some groups may not have much of a knowledge base in the bible, so the concepts must be brought down to their level. Other groups may have a large knowledge base and you may challenge them with more information. The key is to know your group. If you begin leading a group in one way and find that it is not connecting, it is alright to modify and bring down or raise up the level of information.
- The more preparation you do the stronger you will be as a leader. Let the study material be a joy for you! Let it feed you as you prepare! The more you are fed the more you have to give to your group.
- There is no set time on how long a lesson may take. Lessons could be slowed down and take several weeks to finish. Perhaps in leading a group, one question captivates the group and leads to a fruitful conversation. If that happens, that is good! You are in no hurry. If you can finish the material in a week, then great! But if it takes several, that is great as well! The important thing is that they receive deeply from the gospel of Jesus.
- Pray about your lesson! Pray as you prepare! Pray as you teach! Remember we do not teach or exercise our gifts in our own strength. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens the heart and mind. Pray for the Spirit to move in your heart and the heart of the group.

May our merciful Triune God bless your study and your group that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

In Christ,

Prison Discipleship Ministry

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Introduction: Re-read Genesis 3:1-13. In this lesson on Genesis 3:14-15 we will look at the curse God places on the serpent.

Read this passage at least five times then answer the questions as best you can:

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this,
You *are* cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel." (Gen. 3:14-15 NKJ)

Read Psalm 44:25 and 72:9. What does dust symbolize?

What does God mean when He says that the serpent will “eat dust all the days of your life”?

Read Revelation 20:7-10. What is the final end of the serpent?

To “put enmity” (3:15) means to make enemies. Who will be enemies? Why is “Seed” capitalized?

Because they are enemies, a war will occur. What is the nature of the wound that the Seed of the woman inflicts on the serpent?

What is the nature of the wound the serpent inflicts on the Seed of the woman?

What is this symbolic language talking about? What does this tell us about Christ? How does this bring us hope?

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Read Psalm 44:25 and 72:9. What does dust symbolize?

25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground. (Psa 44:25 ESV)

9 May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! (Psa 72:9 ESV)

Dust symbolizes being lowered down, abased, conquered, subdued, lying prostrate before the one who has had victory over you.

What does God mean when He says that the serpent will “eat dust all the days of your life”?

It means that the serpent will be conquered and lay prostrate before God who has had victory over him. Martin Luther called Satan “God’s devil.” He meant by that the devil could only do what God allowed. Satan and God are not in a see-saw battle for control. God fully controls all things. See Job 1-2.

Read Revelation 20:7-10. What is the final end of the serpent?

7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison
8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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(Rev 20:7-10 ESV)

The final end of the Serpent is to be thrown into the lake of fire, or hell. Satan does not “rule” over hell. He is not a “god” of hell. He is sentenced there to suffer. He is a fellow prisoner just like all who go there.

To “put enmity” (3:15) means to make enemies. Who will be enemies? Why is “Seed” capitalized?

The woman and the Seed of woman will be enemies with the Serpent and the seed of the Serpent. Seed is capitalized because it refers to one particular Seed, the one particular Seed who will finally destroy Satan and his works, the one who comes miraculously from woman as women have no “seeds.” This pictures the virgin birth of Christ from Mary.

Because they are enemies a war will occur. What is the nature of the wound that the Seed of the woman inflicts on the serpent?

In the war, the Seed of woman would crush the head of the Serpent. It would be a conquering, destructive, and fatal blow.

What is the nature of the wound the serpent inflicts on the Seed of the woman?

The nature of the wound the Serpent inflicts on the Seed of woman would be the bruising of his heel. When a serpent bites the heel of someone it leads to death. In other words, the crushing of the head of Satan would be accomplished by the death of the one who did the crushing.

What is this symbolic language talking about? What does this tell us about Christ? How does this bring us hope?

Genesis 3:15 is called the “protoevangelion” or the “first gospel.” It is the first time in scripture we read the gospel because the whole of the gospel of Christ is pictured here:

Man fell into sin and is deserving of death. But God promised one would come, born in a miraculous way, who is Jesus, the one unique Seed of woman. He would come and live the life that Adam and Eve (and all of us since we all have been born guilty of Adam’s sin and have the inherited corruption of his guilt and all the actual sins that come from our fallen nature; Romans 3; Romans 5; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28). And he would pay the price for that sin which is death. And in his death, he would conquer the devil, destroy his works, and grant forgiveness and peace to all who put their trust in him.

The entirety of the bible then from Genesis 3:15 on, tells us more and more about who this Seed would be and what he will do. The entire bible is the story of God redeeming a sinful humanity through the work of his Son, Jesus. Every passage of the bible teaches us something about the person, nature, and work of Jesus. The Bible is His story.