

Session 2

**THE GARDEN OF
EDEN:
How Evil Came to Earth**

Theme:

To achieve spiritual victories, we need to understand the sources and tactics of the evil one.

Biblical Foundation:

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

Genesis 2:16-17 NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session

is to learn that prayerlessness yields tragic consequences.

Introduction:

God created Adam and Eve to rule over the earth. Satan, cast out of heaven, launched his first battle to defeat God's plan.

A. Adam, the First Emperor

1. God gave Adam [dominion] over the earth.

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”

Genesis 1:26 NKJV™

2. Under God's authority, man did a perfect job.

“Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.”

Genesis 2:19 NKJV™

3. Communion with God was a normal part of life.

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”

Genesis 3:8,9 NKJV™

B. The Fatal Choice: The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

1. God provided a forbidden tree as an important choice for man. The choice was necessary because God wanted people to love Him. Love must be voluntary. It cannot be imposed on a loved one.

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

Genesis 2:16,17 NKJV™

2. Adam's choice to disobey God's word brought [separation] from God. It was an act of self-will -- a revolt against God. It shattered his supply line of prayer.

“And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:4-6,8,9 NKJV™ (continued)

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”

Genesis 3:4-6,8,9 NKJV™

3. Adam's sin involved submission to Satan. As a head of the human race, Adam thus **transferred** his line of authority from God to Satan, and gave Satan dominion as the god of this world.

“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

2 Corinthians 4:3,4 NKJV™

4. Every generation has repeated the choice that Adam made. We human beings gave away our freedom to pray.

“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God.’”

Romans 3:10,11 NKJV™

C. Four Consequences Now Cover the Earth as a Result of Adam's Choice:

1. Sin

**“For all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God.”**

Romans 3:23 NKJV™

2. A Curse

“Then to Adam He 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 NKJV™

3. Death

“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die...”

Ezekiel 18:4 NKJV™

4. Terror

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Hebrews 2:14,15 NKJV™

Conclusions:

1. God is not the author of evil. Man brought evil into the world by following Satan's temptation to be prayerless - independent from God.
2. Every prayerless day is a statement: "I do not need God today." It is a repeat of the rebellion that started in the Garden of Eden.
3. God is totally committed to [rescuing] humanity from Satan's captivity.
4. God's procedure for this rescue is the story of spiritual war.

End of Seminar 3

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