

The moral fall of humankind, orchestrated by God's enemy Satan, demonstrated his cruel intentions towards God and His creation. The fall however, presented an opportunity for the greatest demonstration of God's love through His **Plan of Redemption**. Once created to reflect God's radiant image of holiness and uprightness, Adam's fateful decision to forsake God aligned him with Satan, causing his character and nature to become corrupted. Adam failed in the privilege of vindicating both God's character and the justice of His law, while giving Satan cause to boast. He yielded his exalted position and dominion over the earth to Satan, while introducing hardships upon the entire creation, including:

- Pain
- Separation
- Loneliness
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Guilt
- Emptiness
- Doubt

Adam further forfeited for himself and his descendants the right to partake of the *Tree of Life*, a tree endowed with the power to sustain life indefinitely. Humankind, embodied in Adam, upon whom God had purposed to grant the gift of *immortality*, rejected this priceless gift in exchange for *mortality*. Without the gift of immortality and access to the Tree of Life, humankind and all the creation over which it once had dominion, would degenerate and experience the **First Death**, a death sleep (Job 14:7-12; John 11:11-15).

Summarized as **sin** in the Bible, the effects of Adam's rebellion are too numerous to give an account. The Bible defines sin as the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4; Ex 20:1-17), whose requirements are briefly stated, *obey and live, or disobey and die* (Ezekiel 18:4). Sin also includes

missing the mark, falling short of God's perfection by **not abiding in Him**, which was His ideal for mankind. Though sin birthed mortality, resulting in the First Death, the Bible reveals that the ultimate punishment for offending the law of God is the **Second Death**, described as punishment for sin and *complete separation* from God (Mt 27:46; Rev 20:10, 12-15;). The effect of the Second Death, complete separation from the Life Giver, means that one ceases to exist eternally. This is the natural consequence Satan and his host chose in their rebellion, started in heaven and brought to the earth (Matt 25:41). This will occur only after God's law and character have been vindicated before the universe.

The distinction between the First and Second Deaths are clarified through God's Plan of Redemption. This beautiful plan offered the following blessings to humanity:

1. Restoring the image of God in men that was largely lost to sin, by conquering sin and its power over humanity
2. Granting men, a **second chance** to choose: <sup>(A)</sup> A life in obedience to God, yielding access to the Tree of Life; **OR** <sup>(B)</sup> A life in rebellion, resulting in the Second Death
3. Ending the First Death (man's mortality, or the *grave*), a sleep from which all will rise (Job 7:9, 10; John 5:28-29)
4. Bridging and reconciling the separation caused by sin between God and humankind
5. Restoration of dominion over the earth to men

All the provisions for the Plan were to be accomplished by a **Kinsman Redeemer**; One Who is close in relation and kind to humanity, bearing the same nature as the condemned

race, *yet divine* (Num 27:11; Ruth 3, 4; 1Tim 3:16). The Plan of Redemption would be enacted corporately for the human race through the works of the *Kinsman Redeemer*. However, its benefits would be granted on an individual basis, where each person bears responsibility for determining his or her choice of outcome (See Heb 2:9; Josh 24:15; Rev 22:17).

Countless numbers have experienced the First Death, a direct result of sin. Yet God, through the Plan of Redemption, has *conquered death* for all humanity, enabling every person who has died to experience a resurrection, a revival from death to life (John 5:25, 28, 29, 11:23-26). The Second Death, however, is required of all who have transgressed God's law. Because all have sinned and should die, God has graciously provided **a Substitute**; One Who has borne the penalty of the Second Death for all who choose to accept the gift of His substitution and its provisions by faith. The gift is given to uphold justice, demanded by God's law. It is during men's lives, before the effects of sin bring about the First Death, that they must choose to accept or reject the works of God's Substitute, the Kinsman Redeemer. Only those who accept His works will benefit from His dying the Second Death in their stead (Rev. 1:5, 2:11, 20:6). Those who refuse the offer remain under the law's condemnation and must themselves, suffer the Second Death to satisfy the law.

It is for humanity, whom God so loved, that the Plan of Redemption was devised. No provision had been made for Satan and his fallen angels who, with full knowledge, chose to rebel against their benevolent Father (Luke 12:47, 48).

Humankind however, in innocence, ignorance, and through the deception of Satan, were lured to rebel against God (2 Corinthians 11:3). Let us now understand the works of humanity's Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

**Q:** *After eating of the forbidden fruit, what were Adam and Eve's response? Read Genesis 2:25-3:13*

**A:** *The pair's eyes were opened, knowing good and evil, and they realized that they were naked. Though they had always been naked, their newly corrupted nature brought self-awareness, yielding guilt and shame. Nakedness is used metaphorically in the Bible to denote a sinful, unrepentant condition (Rev 16:15). Their new, fallen nature, bearing **Satan's enmity** towards God and His law (Rom 8:7), sought to protect self, rather than to love God and others selflessly.*

Immediately after the fall, God demonstrated another dimension of His love called **grace**, as He sought after the fallen pair. Adam, who then experienced fear because of sin, hid from God, thinking He sought to inflict the penalty of death upon him, of which he neither knew nor understood. God however, revealed His true character, **love** (*agápē*), despite men's failures (Luke 15:11-32; John 8:1-11).

**Q:** *Why did God, Who knew all things, call for Adam? Why did He ask Adam and Eve explanation of their actions? What were Adam and Eve's responses?*

**A:** *The Bible speaks of God's gentleness as a Father inquiring of the ways of His erring children. God knew all that had transpired, but desired that Adam and Eve recognize the change that had overtaken them with sin.*

# The Everlasting Gospel

**Genesis 3; Ruth 1-4**  
**[Based on Genesis 3:7-24]**



Lesson 4

Adam's once perfect, selfless nature now sought to protect itself, evinced by the fig-leaf covering. Adam further sought to deflect blame for his actions with an accusation towards God, faulting God for having given him the woman who caused him to eat the forbidden fruit. Eve's defense, faulting God for having created the serpent, was no less blamable.

After hearing the case of His two children, God revealed to them His incredible plan for redressing their woeful condition. Simultaneously, God declared His judgment upon Satan for causing the entrance of sin in the universe. God directed His discourse towards Satan and his **medium**, the serpent, by first pronouncing a curse upon the animal. God purposed that the animal, now confined to slithering upon the earth, be made fearful and detestable in the sight of men as a reminder of sin and its consequences. God then spoke prophetically of His Plan of Redemption and its finished works in what is termed, the **Everlasting Covenant** or **Everlasting Gospel**:

*"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* Genesis 3:15

Speaking directly to the serpent in the presence of Adam and Eve, God foretold His works of redeeming humanity and eradicating sin using **typology**. A **type** is a symbolic

Good	↔ Enmity ↔	Evil
The woman	↔ ↔	The serpent
The woman's Seed	↔ ↔	The serpent's seed

foreshadowing or representation of an object by another. The actual object is called the **antitype**. The Bible states that God would instill His **enmity**, a super-natural hatred for sin, in those who choose good; while countered by Satan's enmity in those who choose evil, represented in the prior table:

**The woman** would most naturally suggest Eve, since she was the only female present. The term "**woman**" however, is used in type, a symbol of **the church**. God would raise-up a people that He would spiritually betroth as His bride (2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:22-32; Isaiah 54:5). These are the faithful, who choose God's plan and gift of redemption by faith, and purpose to live in obedience to His will.

**The serpent** is the direct object in the verse, "**thee**", and is a reference to Satan in disguise (Revelation 12:9).

**The serpent's seed** are the rebellious, who in thought and deed follow their father, Satan. All who refuse God and the blessings of His Plan of Redemption are the **sons of the serpent** (Matt 3:5-7, 12:24-35; John 8:43, 44; Isa 1:3, 4).

**The woman's Seed**, or her offspring, is the **Kinsman Redeemer**. God would bring forth One, born of a woman, with a fallen human nature like Adam's, yet having the fortitude of God, in order to bridge the gulf between God and man caused by sin. The Woman's Seed is a foretelling of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who in essence and in nature is equal with the Father. Jesus would ultimately **bruise** [crush] the serpent's head while sustaining a **bruise** to His **heel** (Gal 3:13, 16, 4:4, 5; Isa 53:1-12; 2 Cor 5:21; Psa 22:16). Herein, God

revealed the awful sacrifice required to redeem humanity from the curse of the law, the **Second Death** (Mt 27:46).

The Everlasting Covenant is so called because the provisions of the covenant span eternity, hence, something God alone must fulfill. A covenant is often synonymous with a contract or agreement between two individuals. Yet God bases the fulfillment of this covenant upon **Himself alone** (John 10:14-18; Gen 22:8; Heb 6:13). Not relying upon wavering and frail humanity, God pledges the covenant's fulfillment upon His own merit (Heb 6:13-19; Rom 11:29; Isa 43:25, 59:16, 63:5). The covenant is thus, a promise; that God will make a way to save humankind while ultimately destroying sin. This fact makes the Everlasting Covenant also a **Gospel Message**, a **Good News Message**! All who in faith receive this Gospel Message, God's gift of His Son for the sins of the world, become **heirs** of the covenant (Romans 5:6-10; Gal 3:29).

The Bible describes God's revelation to Adam and Eve, the natural consequences of sin, spoken as curses to befall all humanity. God then taught the couple an object lesson through a ceremony that would be a perpetual reminder of the atrocity of sin, the cost required to purchase their salvation, and of His righteous covering, far-superior to man's fig leaves (Isaiah 61:10). The **sacrificial system** would not only provide tunics of skin to cover the fallen pair's nakedness, but instruct them through type, that the sacrifice of a clean animal without blemish would symbolize the works of the **Kinsman Redeemer**, God Himself, Who bore the penalty of mankind's sin by providing Himself a Sacrifice (Genesis 22:8; John 1:29).