

Lesson #1
Teaching Outline
Birth and Early Life

“Paradise Lost - Saved by the Cross”
Genesis 3:15, Selected passages for Genesis to Revelation

- I. Introduction**
- II. God Spoke**
- III. God Created**
- IV. Man Rebelled**
- V. God Redeems**
- VI. God Wins**

Story 1

Jesus Birth and Early Life

Paradise Lost - Saved by the Cross

Genesis 3:15; Selected passages from Genesis to Revelation

***JESUS, GOD'S SON, IS THE ONE AND ONLY HOPE FOR
MANKIND AND THE ONLY WAY TO GOD.***

Story Outline:

- I. Sovereign God creates perfect paradise
- II. Sin and death enter the world through Adam and Eve
- III. Savior is sent to make payment for sin
- IV. Satan continues spiritual war until Christ returns

Life Application Principles:

1. God desires and values an intimate personal relationship with his children.
2. Mankind was created in the image of God to reflect the character of the Most High God.
3. The choice to reject God leads to death of body, soul and spirit.
4. Evil is rejecting God's will, His word and His way.
5. God's love is greater than all our sin.
6. The only way back to God is through Jesus.
7. God sent Jesus not to condemn us but to rescue us.
8. Our battle is not with flesh and blood, but with demonic enemies.
9. Victory over Satan comes through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus.
10. The word of God and prayer are the believer's weapons in fighting the spiritual battle against Satan.

NAME OF JESUS

Devotional Reading

“THE SEED OF THE WOMAN”

The **SEED OF THE WOMAN** is perhaps one of the least used and least studied of all the many names of Jesus found in the Word of God. However, the understanding of this name is vitally important in comprehending the truth of who Jesus is and why He came. In fact, this particular name of Jesus is the key to understanding the whole of the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, it is the **SEED OF THE WOMAN** that is the main subject upon which all history, past, present and future rests.

The Bible begins with the book of Genesis and opens with the words, *“In the beginning, God . . .”* As we read further it is easy to see why Genesis is called the *“Book of Beginnings.”* Not only does it cover the story of God’s creation and all that is in it, but also the beginnings of fellowship, worship, marriage, nations and unfortunately, sin. When Adam and Eve violated God’s command and sinned against Him, God immediately intervened and set forth the most important beginning found in all of scripture: the beginning of redemption. The very moment Adam and Eve chose to yield to Satan and their fleshly desires, God responded with Good News. In His great mercy, before correcting them or declaring any judgement on them, God introduced into the world the plan to reverse the effects of sin and redeem for Himself that which He perfectly created.

Thus, in Genesis 3:15, speaking first to the serpent, whom Satan had entered in order to tempt Eve, God said: ***“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.”*** This strong and scathing statement was an eternal curse pronounced upon Satan and an eternal promise of hope declared to all humanity, the outcome of which rests solely in the life of the promised **SEED**. Through this curse, God boldly declared to Satan: *“You think you have turned Adam and Eve and the entire human race against Me*

*and my Word, but you are wrong. I am and always will be Sovereign. Not only will I put deep, abiding animosity and hatred between you and the woman, but also between your seed and her **SEED**, My beloved Son.”*

To further understand this curse we must understand who Satan’s seed is and also the woman’s. When Satan fell from heaven, he took with him one third of the angels. They, along with all unbelieving, unconverted men are now considered by God as Satan’s offspring or “seed.” The woman, whom Adam named Eve, as revealed in Genesis 3:20, is the mother of all living. The entire human race can be traced back to her and is considered her “seed.” Many of her seed will have great animosity and hatred toward Satan because they have come to believe in Her ultimate **SEED**, Jesus, the One sent by God Most High to save people from their sin. It is these who will be redeemed and restored to a right relationship with God. They will forever hate Satan and worship Christ which can only be accomplished through Eve’s ultimate **SEED**, the divine Son of God, born without a human father to a virgin mother. (John MacArthur, sermon “*Hope through the Curse*”)

As we turn to the New Testament, we see this prophetic promise of the **SEED OF THE WOMAN** fulfilled. Both in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 2 we learn of the Divine conception and virgin birth of the Son of God. In Galatians 4:4, Paul affirms this fulfillment when he refers to Jesus being born of a woman. On the Cross at Calvary, we see the fulfillment when the **SEED OF THE WOMAN** was bruised, His body battered and broken beyond recognition. Although it appeared so, this bruise was not eternally fatal. Like a bruise to the heel, it took Christ Jesus down for a few days, but only to accomplish God’s great promise of redemption. There is always a price to be paid for sin in order to be restored to a right relationship with God and to receive eternal life. Thus God, in His great mercy, justice and love, allowed His Son, the promised redeeming **SEED OF THE WOMAN**, to be punished on our behalf. As Satan looked on, he surely thought he had won and proven to the world that God was a powerless promise keeper. Little did Satan know that just 3 days later the **SEED OF THE WOMAN**, Jesus Christ, would triumphantly rise from the dead rendering him powerless and ineffective over the children of God and His creation once for all.

By providing the atonement that paid the price in full for the sins of all whom God would redeem, by satisfying the justice of God and paying the full debt owed to God, by conquering death and the grave, by opening heaven to the children of God through His resurrection, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the **SEED of the WOMAN**, bruised unto death the head of Satan. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the promised crushing blow to Satan's head.

At the beginning of the most beautiful story ever told, before God spoke of the judgment to follow for Adam and Eve's sin and revealed the punishment to be laid on their backs, and subsequently ours, He places hope in our hearts. Because He is by nature a Savior and a Redeemer and a gracious and merciful God marked by lovingkindness, God made a way to reclaim His own. Through the **SEED OF THE WOMAN** God has given all who read His word and come to believe by faith in the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son, the hope of salvation, the hope of regeneration and the hope of eternal life with Him in a new and perfectly restored world.

**“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son,
That whoever believes in Him should not perish
But have everlasting life.”
John 3:16**

The DOCTRINE of the Gospel

I. The GOSPEL Prophecy of Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3:15 is referred to by theologians as the Protevangelium. The word means “*first gospel*,” first (protos) gospel (evangelion). This word is used in reference to the message of redemption God spoke after the fall of man. Speaking to Satan (embodied in a serpent) God said, “*From now on, you and the woman will be enemies and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.*” In this proclamation, God promises a Deliverer who will destroy Satan in an ordeal in which he himself will suffer. This refers to Jesus’ death on the cross. In suffering that death, Jesus defeated him who had the power of death, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)

II. The GOSPEL Changes Everything!

The very first time we hear Jesus’ voice in the gospel of Mark, he says: “*Repent and believe the good news (gospel)!*”

The word “*repent*” means to reverse course or turn away from something. It refers in the Bible specifically to a turning away from the things that Jesus hates to the things that he loves. In this case, Jesus was supplying the key of repentance as the means of opening the door to the best news a person can ever hear.

The word we find in our first story of the life of Jesus from Genesis 3:15 is a prophecy of the reality and certainty of this future “*gospel*” – this good news that Jesus would inaugurate at his first coming. The good news is realized in a life only through the open door of repentance. However, because Jesus came, repentance is possible, and this is very good news! “*Euangelion*” is the theological word, which in Greek is translated “*good*

news” or gospel. It is an insightful word as it combines the Greek word “*angelos*,” the word for one who announces news, and the prefix “*eu*” which means “*joyful*.” The “*gospel*” therefore, means news that brings great joy. This word actually carries within it the meaning of news that is history - making - life-shaping - life altering, as opposed to simply daily news. The gospel was the news of some event that altered life in a most meaningful way. It could be the gospel of an ascent to power of some monarch to a nation’s throne, or it could be news of a significant victory. Not only is this word used in a biblical sense, but it was often used in regard to secular contexts as well. For example when Greece was invaded by Persia and the Greeks won the great battles of Marathon and Solnus, they sent heralds (or evangelists) who proclaimed the “*gospel*”- the good news of victory to the cities: “*We have fought for you! You are no longer slaves! You are free!*”

A gospel, therefore, is an announcement of something that has happened in history, something that’s been done for you that changes your status forever!

III. The Difference the GOSPEL Makes

With only a simple understanding of the meaning of the word, we can see the difference between Christianity and all other religions, including no religion. The essence of other religions is merely advice; Christianity on the other hand, is essentially news. Other religions say, “this is what you have to do in order to connect to God forever; this is how you have to live in order to earn your way to God.” But the gospel says, “this is what has been done in history for you. This is how Jesus lived and died to earn the way to God for you.” Thus, Christianity is completely different from all other religions or philosophies. It is joyful news that changes everything!

Just think of how you feel when you are given good advice as to how to live your life. A friend or teacher may say –

“Here’s the love you ought to have for that hard –to –love husband, or . . . Here is the integrity you should be exhibiting in that particular situation. You must be

loyal, faithful, honest, and courageous in those situations. People are watching you!”

Yes, perhaps this is good advice that is full of high standards we should try to live up to, and when we hear of these character traits in other people, we are genuinely inspired. In contrast however, just think of how you would have felt if you had been one of those citizens of ancient Greece who heard the heralds shouting that victory had been won and that there was no longer a threat to your survival! The good news of victory was an announcement that changed everything!

The gospel of Jesus Christ is that God connects to you not on the basis of what you’ve accomplished or done or even what you haven’t done, but on the basis of what Jesus has done, in history – at a specific point in time - FOR YOU. And that makes Christianity absolutely different from every other religion or philosophy this world has ever known.

When Jesus came into his earthly ministry he announced the good news of the Kingdom of God,

“The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

IV. What is the GOSPEL of the Kingdom of God?

In Genesis 1 – 2 we see that we were created to live in a world in which all relationships were healthy, transparent, and whole. This was because God was the King. Genesis chapter 3 however tells the next part of God’s story – that we have each chosen to be our own king. We have gone the way of independence and self-centeredness, and self –centeredness destroys relationships. Why do we have wars? Class struggles? Family breakdowns? Why are our relationships constantly challenging and conflicts are the norm? The answer? It’s the darkness of self-centeredness. When we decide to be our own center, our own king, everything falls apart – physically, socially, spiritually, and emotionally. But the irony is that a longing of what it’s supposed to be remains with us. We long to be brought back to what we know deep in our heart is right and true. This longing is embedded in the

legends of many cultures and though the stories are all different, they each have a similar theme: A true king will come back, slay the “evil dragon”, wake us out of our sleep of death, rescue us from our imprisonment “in the tower”, and lead us back into the garden paradise where we were meant to be. A true king will return to make everything right and renew the entire world. The good news of the kingdom of God is that this is literally true! Jesus Christ is that true King, and He has indeed come to accomplish all of the above.

I am reminded of a line from Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*; “*The hands of the king are healing hands, and thus shall the rightful king be known.*”

As a child blossoms under the authority of a wise and good parent, or a team flourishes under the direction of a skillful, brilliant coach, so when you and I come under the healing of the royal hands of the Savior, under the kingship of Jesus Christ, everything in your life and mine begins to heal, to make sense, to be restored. And when He comes back, everything will finally be made right. His return will usher in the end of all fear, suffering and death.

V. The GOSPEL According to Jesus

Jesus was authorized by God and anointed by the Spirit to proclaim the gospel. At the heart of his preaching stands the announcement . . . “*the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel* (Mark 1:15). The message is good news for several reasons:

1. The kingdom is coming.

The God whom Jesus proclaims is sovereign over all He has made. Yet paradoxically His rule is yet incomplete. His will is not done on earth as it is in heaven; wrong, not right, prevails presently. But these conditions are not final according to Jesus. With the coming of the kingdom, God’s rule will ultimately be completed, wrong will be judged, righteousness established, and God’s people will be blessed.

2. The kingdom is NOW being inaugurated.

“The time is fulfilled,” declares Jesus. The time appointed for the fulfillment of all the Old Testament promises has arrived.

3. The consummation of the kingdom is therefore no longer a distant prospect; the full realization of God’s rule is *“at hand.”*
4. God is establishing his rule for redemptive purposes. This is implied in Jesus’ call to repentance and salvation.

Jesus came to set us free! When invited to read the Scripture in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus, in what became essentially his first *“sermon”* turned to Isaiah 61 and read the words written centuries earlier of the precise fulfillment he was now to bring about:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to **preach good news** to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **release** to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to **set at liberty** those who are oppressed, to **proclaim** the acceptable year of the Lord.”* (Luke 4:18-19)

The gospel is far more than a report of past events and an exposition of doctrine. Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 1:17 and again in Romans 1:16 that the gospel is *“THE POWER OF GOD”* – not merely a witness to his power but an expression of his power. God’s singular purpose in exercising his power is to change people’s lives, to liberate them from sin and death and to reconcile them to Himself – in short, to save them. Thus, the gospel has the power to accomplish the salvation it announces and to impart the life it promises. If people are to experience salvation, they must hear and believe the gospel. It is precisely in and through this message that the saving power manifested in the person and work of Christ is conveyed to men and made effective in their lives. In a similar way, it is in association with the gospel, or as a direct result of the reception of the gospel that the Holy Spirit is imparted to believers.

The gospel is the decisive place of encounter between the sinner and God, the Savior.

Questions for Reflection

“WHY HE CAME”

Read Genesis 1-2

1. From these chapters describe the pleasant conditions under which Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden.
2. What was the 1 restriction God gave Adam and Eve in the Garden? Why do you think He gave it?
3. In Eden there was only one forbidden tree, but there were many other trees provided for man’s needs. How do we face the same kind of situation today?
4. What were the consequences of Adam’s choice to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit? How is this one act of disobedience still manifesting itself in the world today?

Read Genesis 3

5. In Genesis 3, we see evil lurking in the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent. Whom did the serpent represent? What are some of his other names used throughout scripture? (cite references). What do these names tell you about his nature and character?
6. List 3 ways the serpent tempted Eve. Compare them to the ways he tempts us today.

7. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. How was Satan's temptation of Jesus similar to that of Eve's? How was it different?
8. Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan, disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit ushering sin into the world. How did God respond? (see Genesis 3:14-15)
9. In your own words, explain as best you can the prophecy of Genesis 3:15. How has your study of the **SEED OF THE WOMAN** changed your understanding of Who Jesus is and Why He came?
10. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? In what ways does your life reflect God's image to the world? What are some things you can do to become a clearer reflection of Him? How might this impact those around you for their good and the glory of God?
11. All authority on earth, lost by Adam, has now been reclaimed by Jesus at the Cross by His death and resurrection, yet many have yet to hear this good news. What will you do to bring this good news to others?
12. How has this lesson, either from your personal study this week or the teaching, changed your thinking, challenged your lifestyle or comforted your heart?

A SALVATION CHALLENGE:

God sent His beloved Son, His SEED, into the world to make right what had been lost through sin. Have you come to understand that your sin separates you from God and that only through faith in the Gospel, the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ, can you be forgiven and restored into a right relationship with Him? If you are unsure, review the "Steps to Salvation" on the following page and do what is necessary to get right with God today.

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

Salvation is a personal decision between you and God. If you are ready to begin a relationship with the Most High God, here's how:

Steps to Salvation:

Step 1: You must understand that God deals with you based on what you are, not by what you do.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23).

Step 2: You must understand how God chose to solve your problem.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Step 3: You must understand you have to make a choice!

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Step 4: You must accept the gift of God – Jesus Christ!

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” (Romans 10:9-10)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I believe that Jesus is Your Son, and that He died on the cross and was raised from the dead. Because I am a sinner and need forgiveness, I now invite Jesus to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, and save me. Thank You for this amazing gift of salvation. Help me to live the rest of my life in obedience to your word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

