

God's Plan for the Ages

Understanding the Dispensations

Lesson 4 – The Dispensation of Innocence

Time Period

The first dispensation began with the creation of mankind and ended with the fall of mankind from God.

Scripture

The Scripture portion which covers the first dispensation is Genesis 1:26-3:24

1. Man's State at the Beginning

a. Adam was created in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26,27)

What is an image?

Two examples:

Matthew 22:20 - _____ 2Corinthians 3:18 - _____

Adam was created to _____ God and to mirror God!

This was man's responsibility. Adam was to be like a mirror and this mirror was to reflect God and what God is like. (Genesis 5:1-2)

Adam was given the opportunity to _____ and _____ God.
He was to show:

God's truth	God's goodness
God's sinlessness	God's righteousness
God's holiness	God's love
God's faithfulness	God's purity

When God looked at Adam, He would have seen a reflection of Himself, showing His own character. (Revelation 4:11)

b. Adam was perfectly _____ and was without sin.

Innocent means freed from guilt or the effects of sin.

This accurately describes Adam and Eve's situation. They did not experience sin therefore, they were innocent. **They were not morally neutral;** they were holy and good. They did not yet have a sin nature and as such they enjoyed perfect peace, harmony and fellowship with God.

2. Man's Responsibility

God gave Adam certain privileges:

- Fill the earth_____ (Genesis 1:28)
- _____ the earth
- Rule over the _____
- Tend the _____ (Genesis 2.15)
- Eat _____ (Genesis 1.29,30, 2:17.)

But with privilege came a responsibility (Genesis 2.17):

- The Command - _____
- The Consequences:
- Obedience - _____ and fellowship with God
- Disobedience - _____ - separation/enmity with God
- The Choice

3. Man's Failure

a. Adam by his own _____ chose to disobey God and to break God's simple command.

- Genesis 3:6,7 - and **he did eat.**
- Adam knew what he was doing (1 Timothy 2:14)

b. Adam was no longer innocent and the first _____ was born.
Adam was now separated from God.

c. Adam's life would now be completely _____ from what it was before.

4. God's Judgment

a. Because of Adams sin, God _____ him from the Garden of Eden.
(Genesis 3:23,24)

b. Adam and Eve no longer had access to the _____.

5. The Consequences

Adam's disobedience to God's command completely changed our world! This earthshaking event had consequences and results that were more harmful and disastrous and far-reaching than any other event that has ever taken place. Today the results of Adam's sin can be seen and noticed almost everywhere we look!

Here are some of the consequences of Adam's sin:

- **Romans 5:12** Sin entered into the world - death passed on all men.
- **Genesis 3:16** Pain and sorrow in bringing forth children.
- **Genesis 3:17,18** The ground is cursed
- **Genesis 3:19** Difficult toil is required in order to eat.
Physical death – return to the dust.
- **Romans 5:18** All men condemned.
- **Romans 5:19** Many were made sinners.

Can you see the results of Adam's sin in your own life?
How has the fall of man affected you?

Remember, Adam's sin has affected every member of the human race. One lit match could fall in a forest and as a result thousands of trees could fall (compare Romans 5:12). Adam fell and as a result the entire human race fell:

"IN ADAMS FALL WE SINNED ALL!"

When Adam sinned the image of God that was in Adam was marred and spoiled and ruined. This means that Adam no longer had the capacity to reflect God. Instead of reflecting God, began reflecting SIN, SELF and SATAN.

After his fall into sin, Adam gave birth to several children.

Who did Adam's children reflect? (Genesis 5:3) _____

Every child that has been born into this world (except for Jesus Christ) has been born in Adam's likeness!