

Lesson 4 — The Human Race

- We're a mess, or are we?
- Is there hope?



*Remember, as you work through each daily lesson,
pray and ask God to help you know, understand,
and apply His truth to your life.*

The Human Race - Day One

Read: Genesis 1:27 • Genesis 2:15 • Genesis 1:31a

Where did I come from? Why do so many bad things happen, and why is there so much evil in this world? Is there any hope? All these are legitimate questions, and God has provided the answers in His Word.

1. Read Genesis 1:27 and answer the following:

· Where did mankind (the human race) come from?

· What genders are they?

· In whose image are they made?

In Genesis we learn that God called the first man *Adam*. God then took one of Adam's ribs and created a woman, whom Adam named *Eve*.

2. From Genesis 2:15, where did God place the man and what was he to do there?

God did not intend for people to be idle, but, as we will see, work at that time was not unpleasant toil.

3. What did God say regarding His creation, including the man and the woman, in Genesis 1:31a?

Today's Bible Reading

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

— Genesis 1:27

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

— Genesis 2:15

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

— Genesis 1:31a

As we look around our world, we see people doing evil and we see many things that are not good, such as sickness and death. We may wonder, "What happened?"

As we continue with our study we will discover that God has given us the answer, and He has given us hope.

Additional reading:
Ecclesiastes 2:24
Genesis 2:7-25

The Human Race - Day Two

Read: Ezekiel 28:12b-17a • Isaiah 14:13-14

God does not reveal to us the origin of sin. However, many Bible scholars believe Ezekiel 28:12b-17a and Isaiah 14:12-17 refer to Satan¹ and reveal to us the first record of sin.

1. From Ezekiel 28:12b-17a:

- What was Satan like before “wickedness was found in” him?

- Why did Satan become proud?

2. From Isaiah 14:13-14, what did Satan say he would do?

¹Satan is known by many different names, among them the devil, the serpent, Lucifer, and the deceiver.

In Isaiah 14:12,15 and Ezekiel 28:16-17 we learn of the evil one’s expulsion from his heavenly position. In Revelation we read of his final judgment that is yet to take place. Of this being, who originally was so wonderfully created, Revelation 20:10 says, “The devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

During the intervening time, he has caused great trouble for humanity, and will continue to wreak havoc right up to his final judgment.

Today’s Bible Reading

You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you...Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth.

— Ezekiel 28:12b-17a

You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

— Isaiah 14:13-14

Additional reading:
Isaiah 14:12, 15-17
Revelation 20:2a,10

The Human Race - Day Three

Read: Job 1:6-7 • Revelation 12:9 • 2 Corinthians 11:14 •
2 Corinthians 4:4 • John 8:44 • 1 Peter 5:8

Today we will learn a little more about our enemy, Satan, the evil one, who has created so many problems for the human race.

1. Unlike God, Satan is a created being and is not omnipresent (present everywhere); however, he is not limited to hell. From Job 1:6-7, to what places does Satan have access?

2. The serpent, Satan, is described as “crafty”¹ in Genesis 3:1. From the following verses, describe the character and activity of Satan.

· Revelation 12:9

· 2 Corinthians 11:14

· 2 Corinthians 4:4

¹According to the Oxford Dictionary, *crafty* means, “Clever at achieving one’s aims by indirect or deceitful method.”

· John 8:44

· 1 Peter 5:8

As you can see, our enemy is a powerful, crafty being. He has been deceiving the human race and leading people away from the truth for thousands of years.

Ephesians 2:2 tells us that he is “the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.” He does not want to be your friend—he wants to steal, kill, and destroy (see John 10:10)—but Jesus Christ came to destroy the devil’s work (see 1 John 3:8b) and to give you an abundant life.

Today’s Bible Reading

One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

— Job 1:6-7

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

— Revelation 12:9

...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

— 2 Corinthians 11:14

...has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ...

— 2 Corinthians 4:4

He was a murderer...there is no truth in him...he is a liar and the father of lies.

— John 8:44

Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

— 1 Peter 5:8

Additional reading:

Genesis 3:1

Ephesians 2:1-2

John 10:10

1 John 3:8b

The Human Race - Day Four

Read: Genesis 2:16-17 • Genesis 3:1-6

As we previously learned, when God finished creating the world He saw that everything He had made was good, including Adam and Eve (the first people). And yet, when we look around our world, we see a creation filled with sin, sickness, death, and the accompanying sorrow and decay, and we ask, “What happened?”

1. What command did God give to the man in Genesis 2:16-17? What would the consequences be for disobedience?

Adam and Eve were living in the Garden of Eden, a paradise. There was nothing unpleasant for them to experience, and they were free to enjoy everything. Only one command was given to them. Just think, only one rule.

2. Read Genesis 3:1-6 and answer the following:

- How did the serpent (Satan) approach the woman—what question did he ask her?

- How did she reply?

- Satan contradicted what God said. What did Satan say would happen if she ate the fruit?

- Why did Eve take the fruit and eat it?

- After she ate it, whom did she give it to, and where was he?

Adam and Eve had a choice to make and act upon—whom would they believe? It was a simple choice. Believe God and His warning that eating the fruit would bring death, or believe Satan and his lie about the benefits of eating the fruit. **We** know that they chose to believe Satan because they ate the fruit.

We all have the same choice before us that they had: believe God or don't believe Him. Like Adam and Eve, we often think that God's rules are His attempt to withhold something good from us, rather than His warning to protect us from something that will harm us. And, like Adam and Eve, our choice is reflected in our actions.

3. Can you think of choices you've made that you believed would bring you pleasure or good, but instead they have harmed you or brought you grief?

Today's Bible Reading

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die."

— Genesis 2:16-17

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

— Genesis 3:1-6

The Human Race - Day Five

Read: Genesis 3:12-13 • Genesis 3:16-19

Genesis 3:7-24 tells of the results of Adam and Eve's unbelief. Although they did not immediately die physically, the process of decay began that led to their eventual death.¹ Their disobedience (sin) did, however, bring about their immediate spiritual death (see Ephesians 2:1), and they hid from God.

But God knew where they were and what they had done, and He called them to account for it; nor did the serpent avoid God's judgment.

1. Read Genesis 3:12-13 and Genesis 3:16-19 and answer the following:

- When questioned by God, whom did the man blame for his disobedience?

- Whom did the woman blame?

- What was God's judgment on the woman?

¹ Adam died at the age of 930 years (Genesis 5:5)

- What was God's judgment on the man?

Today's Bible Reading

The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

— Genesis 3:12-13

2. These judgments that God placed on the human race are a constant reminder that we live in a fallen world. At every turn in life, God has placed His reminders to call us back to Himself. Have you turned from going your own way and turned to God? Won't you do it now?

Now we know what happened to creation. We see why sin, death, sickness, toil, sadness, sorrow, and suffering exist. You may think that God is unfair or harsh. As we continue our study, we will discover God's remedy and the hope He has given us.

To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return"

— Genesis 3:16-19

Additional reading:
Genesis 3:7-24
Ephesians 2:1

The Human Race - Day Six

Read: Genesis 3:21 • Genesis 3:22-24

Prior to disobeying God, Adam and Eve had been naked and unashamed. After sinning, Adam and Eve made a futile attempt to cover their nakedness because they had become ashamed.

1. Read Genesis 3:21 and answer the following:

- What did God make for Adam and Eve?

- What would have happened to an animal in order for its skin to become a covering for Adam and Eve?

God brought about the death of an animal in order to cover the nakedness caused by Adam and Eve's sin. This was the first physical death. Although it is mentioned here in just one sentence, in upcoming lessons we will see just how important this was and how it pictured the hope God would extend to the human race.

2. From Genesis 3:22-24, what was God's concern, and what did He do about it?

Adam and Eve had known God, who is life. They had walked and talked with Him in the Garden. Now their sin had broken that relationship and had allowed sin and death (and all the accompanying sorrows) to enter God's perfect world.

3. In mercy, God kept them from the tree of life. Write out what you think this fallen world would be like if there was no physical death to stop evil people and to end the suffering of sickness and disease in the physical body.

Today's Bible Reading

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

— Genesis 3:21

And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

— Genesis 3:22-24

The Human Race - Day Seven

Take a few minutes today to re-read the Bible verses from this week. Write down what has been most meaningful to you.

We hope you are learning to trust God, even when He says, "No."