

Why do two year olds act so badly?

Why are there so many mean people in the world?

Why can't all the countries in the world get along?

Questions like these bother people every day? Do they bother you? In our lesson today on **the beginning of sin** we will try to answer these questions.

HAPPINESS IN THE GARDEN

Adam and Eve were very happily settled in their new home - the Garden of Eden. There was no house for them for the climate was so perfect that they needed none. They needed no clothes partly for the same reason, but also because God had covered them with light so that they were not ashamed.

They were not bothered by lots of rules since there was only one rule. Do you remember what that one rule was?

Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Don't eat of the fruit of that one tree.) Imagine if there was only one small rule in your house.

But the most important reason that they were happy was something we mentioned in another lesson: **God Himself was a daily visitor to this wonderful place. His presence in a home or even in a life will bring much happiness and joy to those who live there.**

TROUBLE WAS ON THE WAY

But while all this happiness was going on here, some bad things were happening in Heaven. The number one angel

(Lucifer) had decided that he no longer wanted to honor and worship God - in fact Lucifer decided that he should be worshiped. And to make matters worse a large number of angels decided that he was right and God was wrong.

Of course God was not taken by surprise and he handled the matter quickly: He threw Lucifer (now known as Satan) and the other wicked angels out of Heaven.

From now on Satan and his angels would be chained in darkness (unable to be seen) until they would finally be put in Hell (recently made for them). However, they were allowed to be on the earth: though they could not be seen.

TROUBLE ON EARTH

Once Satan was on earth things began to go bad as they always will when Satan is around. Eve was alone in the garden looking at the tree with the fruit she was not allowed to eat. Apparently that rule had begun to bother her. Isn't it strange how even small rules bother us?

A strange voice spoke to her with a question, "Yea, hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" When Eve looked, it was a snake speaking to her. (Satan had chosen this snake to help him tempt Eve.) Eve and the snake (Satan) spoke for just a little with Satan telling Eve that she would not die if she ate the fruit.

Eve believed his lie and ate of the fruit. She then gave the fruit to Adam and he ate of it. Now Satan is a liar, but **God does not lie**. Immediately Adam and Eve lost their beautiful clothes of light, and had to make clothes of their own out of fig leaves. But they didn't know the worst of it yet. **Believing Satan's lies will always produce trouble in your life.**

SERIOUS TROUBLE

Adam and Eve's favorite friend (God) came for His daily visit and they hid. (Imagine hiding from your best friend.) Finally Adam and Eve came out to meet God who asked Adam "Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?".

Adam blamed Eve who then blamed the snake: they didn't even realize that they had indeed died like God said that would. They were dead in sin - no longer would they want God to be with them every day - no longer would they be able to live in a world free from the awful results of sin - no longer would their consciences be clean and pure.

Sin was now in the world, and it would poison everything. Because of their sin, every baby born from then on would be born in sin. Romans 5:12 "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Why do even small children sin, why are people so mean, and why can't the countries of the world get along? **All people are born in sin and act just like what they are - sinners.**

IS THERE ANY HOPE?

God had the answer for Adam and Eve: He put a lamb to death, took its skin and made clothes for them. God made the first sacrifice, forgave them for their sin and made it so that Adam and Eve could finally go to Heaven after their bodies died.

But God was to solve the problem for all of us. Jesus was sent to the earth with the final solution: He took the punishment for the sins of all (from Adam and Eve to you and me, and to all future peoples on this earth) by dying on the cross and making the only sacrifice for sin that will

please God. Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? **If you ever want to be able to live right, If you ever want to have a conscience free from guilt, and if you ever want to go to Heaven when you die, you must have Jesus in your heart.** Will you right now believe that He died for you on the cross, was buried, and rose again the third day - all of this to save you from sin? Then invite Him into your heart to be your Savior forever. If you will do this from your heart, He will come into your life and save you for all time.

Here are your questions. Answer each question and e-mail just the answers: as soon as we receive your answers back, we will send out your next course.

1. What kind of clothes did Adam & Eve have at first in the Garden? I _____
2. How many rules did God have for them in the garden?
 - A. Lots of rules.
 - B. Only one rule.
3. Who was the number one angel in Heaven? L _____
4. After leaving heaven, Satan and his followers were allowed to be on the e _____ though they weren't allowed to be s _____.
5. Which creature did Satan use to help him tempt Eve? s _____.
6. Adam and Eve didn't know at first that they were dead in s _____
7. How many babies are born in sin?
 - A. Everyone's babies.
 - B. Only the babies of unsaved people.

Send your answers to bmason6@bellsouth.net.

