

LESSON 1

WHY MUST I BE SAVED?

Required Bible Reading:

Genesis Chapters 1-3

John 10:10

John 3:16

Luke 4:18

Read Romans Chapter 5, ten times

God said let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26

God gave authority on the earth to Adam. In verse 28 God told Adam *to subdue it (the earth) and have dominion*. In other words God made Adam god of this world. Adam was in charge. If Adam saw something he didn't like, it was up to him to change it. If something went wrong, it was Adam's responsibility to fix it. And it was this authority that the devil (Satan) was after.

God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This tree was not in the garden to tempt Adam and Eve. It was there because God loved them so much that He gave them the choice to know good and to know evil.

The choices you make today determines your future. God told Adam in **Genesis 2:17** *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shall surely die*. When Adam took and ate of the fruit that day, he died spiritually. Spiritual death means that Adam was separated from God. On that day he also began to die physically. You may say but he didn't die that day. No, not according to our time table, but notice what it says in **2 Peter 3:8**, *that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*. If one day with the Lord is a thousand years and Adam only lived to be 938 years old, then in the eyes of God, Adam died that day. No man has ever lived complete day on the earth in Gods eyes. The oldest man in the Bible was Methuselah, and he lived to be only 969 years old.

This leaves us with a problem. Adam handed his authority over to the devil, making Satan the god of this world. God, however, had a plan that would give man back his authority and also bring him back in right standing with God. God showed us the chief expression of His love by giving. He would send His son into the world to take the punishment for our sins. (Look up **John 3:16**) He sent His only son, Jesus, to come into the world to take our place.

Jesus said that the thief (or the devil) came to steal, kill and destroy. But Jesus came so that you might have a more abundant life. (Look up **John 10:10**) The abundant life Jesus brings is a life far better than you can imagine. In **Luke 4:18** we see that Jesus came to preach the gospel to the poor. He came to heal the brokenhearted and to preach deliverance to the captives. He came to give sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised. He was sent to the earth to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Jesus came to preach the gospel. Gospel means good news. Jesus preached good news—not bad news. Jesus preached the acceptable year of the Lord. In the Old Testament, the acceptable year of the Lord was the year of Jubilee. The Year of Jubilee happened every fifty years. During the Year of Jubilee, anybody who owed a debt was released from it. If you were a slave, you were set free. Jesus was saying” I’m your Year of Jubilee”. Come to me, and be set free.

Jesus had to die on the cross and then be resurrected so that we could walk in the fullness of these promises. (Study **Romans** chapter **5**) Jesus came and took your place. He paid the penalty for Adam’s disobedience. All the anger that God had toward man was put at the cross. **Romans 5:8** says *He showed His love for us that while still sinners, Jesus died for us*. Jesus spent three days in hell and then rose from the grave with the keys to death, hell and the grave. When we were enemies to God, we were reconciled to God by the death of His son, Jesus. (**Romans 5:10**) This means that when we were living in sin and doing things that were not right in the eyes of God, He had already forgiven us. Right standing with God was already ours. All we have to do is accept it.

No man goes to hell for the sins he commits in his life. You go to hell because you don’t accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Change the circumstances of your life by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and accept the free gift of righteousness. When you do, you will have right standing with God. You can then walk into His presence without any guilt or condemnation. You have been washed clean, and you can walk in a place with God the way Adam did. You don’t have to live a poor, barely get along life. You can now start living the abundant life that Jesus purchased for you. You don’t have to let the devil rule your life anymore. When you accept Jesus into your life, you have been given authority over the devil. Now you rule him.

