

## ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 1 | LESSON 04

### The Pentateuch – The Promise Given Through the Royal Gift Covenant

#### God is a PROMISE Making God

God 1) **CREATES** a place where 2) He will **MEET** with his People 3) for their **JOY**. 4) His People reject Him. 5) God binds Himself through **PROMISE (i.e. The Royal Gift Covenant)** to 6) **RESCUE** His people from their sin and 7) **RESTORE** them to Himself for their **JOY**.

**ILLUSTRATION** – What is a promise? A promise is when you tell someone you will do something in the future and you do it. Can you remember a promise you’ve made or you had made to you? If you have ever wanted a pet, you might have promised to your parents to take care of the pet. And your parents might have said, “Okay, you can have the pet [dog, cat, turtle, goldfish, gerbil, etc.], but you have to take care of it every day.” You agree to it and you get your pet. Initially, it is easy, but there are some days where it is hard. But no matter what, you keep your promise, your commitment.

Well, God gave us a promise. Throughout history, it has not always been easy, but God kept His commitment even when it was hard. In Jesus, God did the hard thing. This lesson tells us about God’s first promise to Satan, Adam, and Eve.




VIDEO – beginning playing at the 2:55 mark. **Superbook - Satan Lies to Eve - L3**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjnu24Rwbs>

## “The Seed Promise and the Blood Picture”

### The Promise and a Counterfeit Offer

#### Genesis 3:1-24

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. . . <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how the Bible records the beginning of humanity’s broken condition through the disobedience of their first parents.            Q – Why do we live in a broken world marked by sin and death?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose the Biblical record for the origin of all things both in its brokenness and in its rescue.            Q – What is your “heart” like? Are you born with a broken heart and have you been born again with a new heart?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray we will accept as true all that God has said concerning humanity’s brokenness and rescue.            Q – After looking at this Lesson, “What might you begin to do differently?” Is there someone or something you can begin doing to share the message of the SEED PROMISE and the BLOOD PICTURE?</p>

## EMPHASIS

In our last lesson, we noted how Adam and Eve were the pinnacle of God's good earth. In this lesson, we learn that Adam and Eve will fail terribly [catastrophically].

Adam in his role of leadership failed to guard the entrance into the Garden and allowed Satan access to Eve through whom he fell in rebellion against God. God graciously provided a way to redeem Adam and his offspring through a Seed Promise (Gen. 3:15) and a Blood Picture (Gen. 3:21). This Promise is a ROYAL GIFT COVENANT. The Royal Gift Covenant is unconditional and is Seed Promise related. God would do for humanity what humanity could not do for itself.

God made everything for our joy and His glory. Our sin is a rejection of God's invitation for joy. Sin destroys God's design for us and His world. Humanity rejects God's invitation for joy by disobeying His Word. Adam and Eve decided NOT TO LISTEN TO GOD [yikes, from this point forward things do go horribly wrong].

Satan promises Adam and Eve the ability to be a god; like God. The offer is empty. It is a counterfeit offer to God's genuine offer for joy. Satan desires to be a god, but there is only one God and He alone governs all that is created.

This same appeal is made among all people at all times in every land. When you look at all the attractions this world offers, it is simply the desire to fill the emptiness caused by sin. Humanity's quest for god-likeness is empty and futile in the absence of God.

1. Just as in Genesis 1 God's existence is assumed and unexplained, so also in Genesis 3 we have the introduction of the Serpent. How he got here is not yet explained.
2. The Serpent is an angel created by God.
3. The Serpent is God's enemy. He is seeking to steal from God His glory. Who God is stands in contrast to everything else. God alone creates; everything else [including the Serpent] is created.
4. Just like Adam and Eve, the Serpent was to obey and listen to God.
5. Our *Story* tells us that the Serpent said "no" to God's invitation for joy.
6. The Serpent is determined to become like God, like a god.
7. In his quest to become like God, he will seek to destroy God's image on earth by getting Adam and Eve to say no to God.

## LITERARY CONTEXT

In chapters 1 and 2, we learned how Adam and Eve were the pinnacle of God's good earth. In chapters 4 and following, we will learn of sin's catastrophic impact on Adam and Eve's descendants, the insidious

attack against the SEED PROMISE by the Serpent, and God's faithfulness to fulfill His promise to the Serpent, to Adam, and to Eve.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Moses records this event thousands of years after the actual event. Genesis 3 happens in what we call primeval history. Moses heard of this through oral transmission and the story's truthfulness is assured through divine inspiration.

## BIBLICAL CONTEXT

In the Old Testament, Eve is only mentioned twice in Genesis and nowhere else (Gen. 3:20; 4:1). Adam's transgression occurs in Job 31:33 and Hosea 6:7.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Have you ever been in trouble at school and they called your name over the loudspeaker to come to the principal's office? Do you remember how it felt or how you would feel? Well, Adam and Eve did something very bad and God called their names out over the loudspeaker of time and warns us not to do the same.

In the New Testament, Eve is known as one who was deceived by the serpent (2 Cor. 11:3) and in her relation to Adam (1 Tim. 2:13). Satan, as a liar, is also noted (John 8:43-45).

- John 8:43-45  
<sup>43</sup> "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. <sup>44</sup> "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. **Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** <sup>45</sup> "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.
- 2 Cor. 11:3 But I am afraid that, **as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness**, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.
- 1 Tim. 2:9-15  
<sup>9</sup> Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, <sup>10</sup> but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. <sup>11</sup> A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. <sup>12</sup> But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. <sup>13</sup> For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. <sup>14</sup> **And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived**, fell into transgression. <sup>15</sup> But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

In both the Old Testament and New Testament, Adam and Eve's transgression is noted.

## STRUCTURE

Let us "tease" out the passage for our study.

- I. The Serpent is crafty (3:1)
  - What does this tell us about the Serpent?
  - What does this tell us about sin?

Satan is tempting Eve to do wrong and not to listen to God.

- II. The Serpent is questioning [Sin leads to a *distrusting* of God's Word (Gen. 3:2-5)]
  - Notice the nature of his questioning. **He wants Eve to doubt God's wisdom and goodness.**
  - He is inviting her to become a god, like God. This will not work. It is impossible for the creature to become the Creator.
  - Adam was to be guarding the Garden and Eve. Adam failed to protect his family.

- III. Sin leads to a *breaking* between God and His people (Gen. 3:7, 10)

Sin naturally separates us from God.

- IV. Sin leads to a *removing* of God's presence (Gen. 3:8, 23)

As a consequence of sin, the sinner is removed from the presence of God. God, however, does not leave us in our sin. God reaches down and begins to pull us up.

- V. God begins to *restore* humanity and creation to its proper design (Gen. 3:15, 21)

- A. God gives a SEED PROMISE (Gen. 3:15)

God tells the Serpent that the SEED OF THE WOMAN [Jesus] will one day crush his [Satan's] head, but his seed [Satan] will bruise the heel of the woman's seed [Jesus].

- B. God gives a BLOOD PICTURE (Gen. 3:21)

**ILLUSTRATION** – Have you ever did something wrong and then tried to fix it only to make matters worse? I once spilled paint on my garage floor and when I tried to wipe it up, it only made it worse. Well, when Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to clean it up and only made it worse.

Adam and Eve tried to cover their shame and remove their guilt by the work of their own hands (Gen. 3:7). This becomes the foundation for “work’s righteousness.” Here is humanity’s attempt to answer the sin and death question. It failed then, and it fails now.

God, however, provides covering. He kills an innocent animal and clothes Adam and Eve in the skin of this animal (Gen. 3:21). This is the beginning of the trail of blood from Gen. 3:21 all the way to the cross on Calvary where Jesus becomes the fullest and final blood sacrifice for the sins of His people.

These two ideas will now “color” the entire Bible *Story*.

## **JESUS IN THE TEXT**

Jesus, in His temptation, will succeed where Adam failed (Matt. 4:1-11). Paul speaks of Jesus as the second Adam and the antitype to the first Adam and type in Romans 5:12-15. Jesus becomes “the one act of righteousness resulting in justification of life to all men” (Rom. 5:18). Jesus in his obedience is contrasted with the disobedience of one (Rom. 5:19).

ILLUSTRATION – in baseball, there is a player called **the designated hitter**. The designated hitter (DH) is a baseball player who bats in place of another position player, most commonly the pitcher. He is the pitcher’s substitute. Well, Jesus is our designated hitter. He takes our place and fortunately, He has never missed a **pitch**.

What Adam was supposed to receive and enjoy through his obedience to God, he lost through his disobedience and passed on this “sin” to his children. Fortunately, God made a way for this loss to be reversed. Through the working of one [Jesus], humanity can receive and enjoy the provision and promise of God for His people.

The serpent and his seed continue seeking the destruction of God’s good gift. Yet, in Jesus, he can never fully and ultimately succeed.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the SEED PROMISE and the completion of the BLOOD PICTURE.

## **APPLICATION**

What you and I cannot do, God can, and Jesus did!

What is truly exciting is to read of God’s initial response to this rejection. How would you respond? You would probably be hurt and anger and perhaps really sad.

God, however, immediately made a way for Adam and Eve to enjoy His presence once again by making a promise and providing a picture.

The promise is found in a SEED (Gen. 3:15). The picture is found in the shedding of BLOOD (Gen. 3:21).

In Genesis 3:15, God made a promise to Adam and Eve that would impact their children and great grandchildren forever. He would provide a future deliverer who would crush the Serpent's head. He also provides an immediate solution to Adam and Eve's problem. He sacrificed an innocent animal, shed blood, and clothed them in the skin of that animal (Gen. 3:21). That blood confirmed the cutting of that covenant.

**ILLUSTRATION** – I LOVE receiving gifts! But the strange things about a gift is having to receive it. You have to take the gift in order for the gift to be opened and enjoyed. God has given us a gift, but in order to enjoy the gift, we have to receive it. Have you received God's gospel gift?

**ILLUSTRATION** - Have you ever been invited to a birthday party or perhaps had a birthday party? Have you ever said "no" to the invitation or have someone not want to come to your birthday party? How did this make you feel? Well, when Adam and Eve said no to God, they were rejecting His invitation for joy. They were rejecting Him.

Adam and Eve had to accept what God promised and provided. Fortunately, they did. As we will see in our next study (Gen. 4:1ff), their son, Cain, did not. Their rejection of God had immediate consequences. As a result of their disobedience, they were kicked out of the Garden (Gen. 3:24).

One of the problems with sin is that we pull away from people. We see this when Adam and Eve pulled away from God and God pulled away from them. Fortunately, God made a way for them to be **reconciled** to Him.

One of the ugly consequences of sin is us wanting to pull away from others. It is for this reason that we go to church every Sunday. Sin makes us want to pull away, but God and His grace pull us closer. When we gather at church, God uses His people to give us a "hug."

**ILLUSTRATION** - When you take a white piece of cloth and dip it into a bucket of dye, the cloth takes on the coloring of the dye. Well, in a similar way the biblical *Story* is colored by the dye of Genesis 3. It is no longer "white," but "red."

## MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

# RESOURCES