



# Genesis 2011 - Lesson 3D

## Chapter 3:17-24

P.O. Box 702107  
San Antonio, Texas, 78270  
210.319.5055

©2011. Verse By Verse Ministry International.  
All rights reserved

[versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_3d](http://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_3d)

- God has responded to the sin of the Garden by punishing Satan and then dealing to the Woman
  - We saw last week that God never curses woman
    - And the three decrees given to Woman is actually grace
    - She goes largely unpunished, except that she will share in the punishments handed out to Adam
    - And those punishments are severe
      - But yet there is a measure of grace for him as well

**Gen. 3:17** Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;  
Cursed is the ground because of you;  
In toil you will eat of it  
All the days of your life.

**Gen. 3:18** “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;  
And you will eat the plants of the field;

**Gen. 3:19** By the sweat of your face  
You will eat bread,  
Till you return to the ground,  
Because from it you were taken;  
For you are dust,  
And to dust you shall return.”

- God reserves the longest statement for Adam
  - He listened to his wife’s voice...was this wrong?
    - No, except by comparison
    - Who’s voice should he have listen to? God’s
    - And notice, Adam didn’t listen to the serpent’s voice – only the Woman’s voice
      - This suggests to us that man wasn’t eaves dropping on the conversation between the woman and Satan
  - Man was culpable for his decisions and is therefore the one who brought sin into the world
- So God issues His second curse
  - Notice, He curses not Adam but the ground
    - God has deemed the earth to be irreparable
      - A curse means that the object of the curse will cease to be
      - By this curse, God declared that the earth must be replaced
      - Earth no longer considered suitable for eternity
    - Adam’s sin has become a contaminant
      - Remember that Adam was made from the earth, so when Adam fell, the

“earth” itself became contaminated by sin as well

- God has now declared that the earth will deteriorate and eventually be replaced
- We can see in play the second law of thermodynamics – all matter and energy go from a higher state to a lower state, never the reverse

**Is. 34:4** And all the host of heaven will wear away,  
 And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll;  
 All their hosts will also wither away  
 As a leaf withers from the vine,  
 Or as one withers from the fig tree.

**2Pet. 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

**2Pet. 3:11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

**2Pet. 3:12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

**2Pet. 3:13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

- Before this curse, Adam was instructed to work the ground in the garden to serve God
  - And that work would have been enjoyable and rewarding
    - In fact, it wasn't work at all, in the way we think of work today
  - Now, his efforts to work the ground will be a chore and a fight against the decree God has instituted
  - Work will be a “two steps forward, one step backward” kind of experience
    - God's curse guarantees that our work will result in the world seeming to work against our best efforts
    - Yard work isn't fun, gardens have weeds, things will wear out and need repair
- Before the fall, Adam's work didn't include these kind of set backs
  - After the restoration of the earth, we will find a wonderful kind of work serving God, in the way Adam first experienced in the Garden
- Why does God curse the ground?
  - First, like Woman's pain, it is a chastisement that also forms a memorial of the mistake
    - Today we can remember how sin led to this situation
  - Second, this change becomes an object lesson to teach us the futility of man's work in the face of sin
    - Our flesh wants to solve its own problem

- We are tempted to work our own solution
- But now man's fruitless efforts at work will serve as a contrast to God's perfect work in Christ
- We simply can't rely on our own work, because that work is never finished
  - When we pull a weed, a new one emerges
  - When we paint the house, it needs new paint in a few years
  - If our own work can't ensure permanent solutions in the garden or the shingles, how can our work save us from our sin?
- Finally, the curse will ensure that God eventually puts an end to everything contaminated by sin
  - This is the origin of physical death for everything that comes from the ground
    - Adam's body, animal's bodies, trees, plants
    - It is the wisdom of God to create a plan where He can curse the contaminated world without cursing Adam's spirit
  - Only the physical body is cursed by this pronouncement
    - Which is why we must receive a new body upon our resurrection
- This curse is ultimately a blessing for God's children
  - Man's corrupt body must be replaced
  - And because Woman was made from Adam, she shares in these same pronouncements
- If not, man would live forever eternally sinful

**Psa. 102:24** I say, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days,  
Your years are throughout all generations.

**Psa. 102:25** "Of old You founded the earth,  
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

**Psa. 102:26** "Even they will perish, but You endure;  
And all of them will wear out like a garment;  
Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.

**Psa. 102:27** "But You are the same,  
And Your years will not come to an end.

**Psa. 102:28** "The children of Your servants will continue,  
And their descendants will be established before You."

- Also, the ground will be replaced too
  - And when the earth is made new, the curse will be gone

**Is. 65:21** "They will build houses and inhabit them;  
They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

**Is. 65:22** "They will not build and another inhabit,  
They will not plant and another eat;

**For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people,  
And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.**

- So then the chapter wraps up with a number of significant details

**Gen. 3:20** Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

**Gen. 3:21** The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

- It seems the story has abruptly changed course
  - Adam decides to give his wife a new name
    - Remember, Adam had already given her a name

**Gen. 2:23** The man said,  
“This is now bone of my bones,  
And flesh of my flesh;  
She shall be called Woman,  
Because she was taken out of Man.”

- But now Adam decides to rename Woman to Eve
  - Why is this renaming happening, and why did Adam decide to do it here in the midst of such a haunting moment?
- First, the name Eve means mother of all the living
  - The word Eve is *chavvay* in Hebrew – which means life or living
  - Her name tells us why Adam has renamed her and why he did so here
- Adam has just heard God declare that He would bring a solution to this problem through the Woman
  - The solution would result in the destruction of the serpent
  - And it would come through a seed that Woman would provide
  - This solution, later to be called the Messiah, would be the source of all the living
- So Adam hears God make this promise, and he takes action in response
  - The word God spoke said Woman would bring new life, and Adam renamed her Eve, meaning life or living
    - Adam is showing proof that he received this word from God and believed it
    - We know God had spoken to Adam before concerning the tree
      - Adam didn't believe that word
      - So sin came into the world
  - But the Fall of Adam brings us a troubling question
    - If Adam didn't believe God's word, was Adam saved?

- Did he receive grace and was he saved from the sin he produced?
- Here we have our answer
  - Having heard God's promise concerning Adam's wife, Adam believe God's word this time
  - In fact, he renames his wife to make clear that he believed
    - This is also a direct reversal of the last time
    - Last time Adam heard a word of God and didn't believe and acted contrary
  - But now he acts in keeping with belief
    - And he takes an action consistent with his belief
  - In this moment we can say that Adam becomes a believer by faith in God's word
- In response to that faith, God then demonstrates that forgiveness is available
  - God makes Adam and Eve animal skins for clothes
  - Remember that Adam and Woman had tried to cover themselves with plants
    - But that covering hadn't been enough
    - They still felt vulnerable
  - Now by faith, God grants them a covering made of animal skins
    - This means that animals had to die to provide their skins
    - An animal was sacrificed to provide a covering for man – both spiritual and physical
      - The atonement was a picture of the atoning work of Christ on the cross
  - Where before man tried to cover himself by his own work in making leaves, that work was insufficient to provide true covering for sin
    - But now in faith, Adam has found a true covering
    - And God provides animals skins by His own hands
      - God's work can do what man's work cannot
  - This is the first death recorded in the history of creation
    - An animal sacrificed to cover the first sin (limited atonement)

**Gen. 3:22** Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” —

**Gen. 3:23** therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

**Gen. 3:24** So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

- First, we immediately notice that God uses a plural when referring to Himself

- What a simple way to see that even in the first pages of the Bible God is referring to Himself as the Godhead
  - He says that man became like one of Us (plural reference to God – *Elohim*)
  - Trinity clearly on display
    - The term “one of us” combines a singular and a plural reference
- This statement is a comment by God for the benefit of mankind
  - It explains why we (man) were excluded from the Garden God made available
  - The Garden included a tree that provided eternal physical life
- This is grace in two ways:
  - It is grace to provide for the replacement of the corrupted body
    - It is grace to ensure that men aren’t left alive to be used by Satan indefinitely
      - To live forever in a sinful body is a curse
      - By forcing them out of the Garden, the man and woman will know physical death, but this is a good thing for believers
  - Secondly, God must prevent Adam and Eve from entering God’s presence in the Garden again
    - Though they are saved by faith, nevertheless they still carry around sin in their bodies
    - This sin cannot be in the presence of God and live
  - So God “drives them out” and they are expelled from the Garden
    - The sense in Hebrew is that they weren’t necessarily willing to leave the Garden
    - But God used His angels to force the ejection
- To be sure they don’t try to re-enter, God stations angels at the entrance
  - This must have been a dramatic scene for many years
    - In fact, this guard was in place for 1,630 years (until the flood)
    - Adam and the next generation would have discussed how they were excluded from the Garden
    - This was grace in that it preserved the human race to ensure that God’s plan of redemption would have time to play out as God intended
    - Instead of coming to an untimely end by meeting God in judgment in the Garden
  - The reference to the flaming sword is actually a reference to the Shechinah glory of God Himself
    - So God used angels and His glory to keep men out of the Garden
    - Before, Adam enjoyed the direct fellowship with God
      - But now sin had produced a barrier that prevented him from having that intimate, personal relationship with God in the Garden
      - The barrier was obvious and foreboding in the form of this angels and God’s glory

- As long as sin existed in Adam and the world, access to God was impossible
- Only if something removes that barrier can true fellowship return
  - We know that Jesus by His blood cleansed us and the world of that sin
  - And in a future day, we will enter in His presence without fear because the atoning work of Christ will have removed that barrier
- Today we have access in Spirit because of Jesus' work
  - In a future day, we will also receive new bodies, and we will walk into Christ's presence