

Paradise Recovered

God's plan all along was to rule in the earth through human beings. He started by placing dominion over His earthly creation in the hands of Adam who subsequently handed much of that authority over to the Devil. This class delves into these issues and reveals God's solution for Adam's descendants. See Psalm 115:16

1) Genesis 1: 26-28 NKJV

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

1a) In whose image was man made?

1b) What does man have dominion over?

1c) Why does God refer to Himself in the plural?

1d) What do you think man was supposed to subdue in the Garden?

2) Genesis 2: 15-18, 25

¹⁵ Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ¹⁸ And the Lord God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*" ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

2a) What does this say about the abundance of God's provision?

2b) What was the only thing God withheld from man in the Garden?

2c) Who was the helper God made for man?

3) Genesis 3: 1-5

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

3a) Did the woman quote God’s command not to eat of the tree correctly?

3b) What was the lie that the serpent told?

4) Genesis 4: 6-10

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” ¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

4a) What enticed the woman to eat?

4b) After the man and the woman ate of the tree, what were the immediate consequences?

5) Genesis 4: 14-15

¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

5a) Can you find God’s plan here through which He will restore Adam’s authority in the earth?

6) Genesis 4: 17-19

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':"Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return."

7) Romans 5: 19

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

7a) God cursed the earth and declared all men sinners because of Adam's disobedience. Why would He curse all because of one man's transgression?

8) 2Corinthians 5: 17-21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

8a) What does it mean to be a new creation?

8b) How does being called ambassadors for Christ show a restoration of authority?

8c) What is the "Great Exchange"?

9) Mark 16: 17-18 ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

9a) What in these verses shows that believers in Jesus now have the same authority that Adam had before the fall?