

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

Lesson 3

Genesis – Part Two

ENTER THE ENEMY

I. Genesis: The story.

In the Garden of Eden, God made Adam and Eve, gave them a purpose, and proceeded to walk with them on a daily basis. This was not the end of the story. In some ways, it was just the beginning. We read that the Garden was invaded by Satan. Taking the form of a serpent, Satan came and tempted Adam and Eve into rebellion against God. Genesis itself does not tell us why Satan did this. We are not told Satan's motive. However, we see here certain fundamental answers to elements we experience in our own lives. We also begin the saga that takes up a constant theme and story line throughout scripture.

II. The Theme:

Satan is an adversary against God involved in an all out war. Man becomes a casualty in the war. God has a redemption he works for all men who choose it. The redemption not only promises a new paradise with eternal life for mankind, but also the redemption ultimately spells condemnation for Satan, the Tempter.

III. The Prophecy:

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God pronounces the curse that mankind has earned for him and the earth (more on that next week). As a part of that prophesy, God addresses Satan. God tells Satan that from the seed of woman will come one who will bruise Satan. With that prophesy, humans are in the middle of the spiritual war between God and Satan. Now, Satan clearly turns his attention to the seed of woman.

IV. The Saga:

Let's take a bird's-eye view of how scripture unfolds this saga. Consider the spiritual battle that is being played out in the following stories:

- a. Cain & Abel – Satan tries to bring God's prophecy to naught at the earliest opportunity. In fact, if the seed of woman is going to destroy Satan, then Satan can win his war by destroying the seed of woman. He tries this by working through Cain to kill Abel. Once Abel is dead and Cain is a murderer, Satan figures he's won. God's plan, however, is not through the obvious children of Cain and Abel. God works through another child ð Seth. We see here further details of God's prophesy. The "seed" of woman for purposes of the prophesy is Seth ð the new child born to Adam and Eve.
- b. The "remnant" theme – Throughout the Bible, we will see a constant theme that God works through a "remnant." Put another way: When all doors are shut, we see God open another door not previously seen.
- c. Remnant & spiritual battle examples:
 - i. Noah and the flood.
 - ii. Abraham, Hagar Sarah.
 - iii. Israelites in Egypt.
 - iv. The captivities.
 - v. The Messiah's birth.
 - vi. The Messiah's death.
 - vii. The Revelation promise.

V. Points to take home:

- a. God is real.
- b. Satan is real.
- c. Temptation is real.
- d. Victory is real.
- e. Because Jesus is real.
- f. And God's promises are real.