

# The Fall Into Sin



## SABBATH—OCTOBER 11

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Genesis 1–3; Romans 3:9–18; Romans 5:10–21; Romans 6:16; 2 Peter 2:19.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “What a terrible failure I am! Who will save me from this sin that brings death to my body?” (Romans 7:24, Nlrv).

**KEY (IMPORTANT) THOUGHT:** To look at the Fall<sup>1</sup> and the horrible results it brought to people.

**WHEN HUMANS<sup>2</sup> LOST THEIR FREEDOM** by Adam and Eve's sin, what did it mean? The word *fall* suggests that sin lowered us from one level to another. For example, we fall from a high spiritual (godly) condition<sup>3</sup> to a lower level of suffering and being enslaved by sin.

Not much is shown about the Fall in Eden. But we have enough information from the Bible to understand that something happened that damaged not only human nature<sup>4</sup> but even the planet itself. The result of that Fall is not encouraging. In fact, it would be all but hopeless if it had not been for the promise of our atonement (forgiveness and cleansing) through Christ. But, we still need to understand what has happened to us. This is because when we see ourselves as we really are, the glory of the Cross will reach us in its saving beauty and power.

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1. the Fall—the loss of eternal (forever; without end) life that took place in Eden after Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

2. humans—men, women, or children.

3. condition—the way a person or a thing is or becomes; a state of being.

4. human nature—any of the qualities or aspects of humans (men, women, and children) that make us who we are. Without God, our natures are sinful, fallen, selfish, proud, unkind, and so on.

**SUNDAY—OCTOBER 12****REBELLION<sup>5</sup> IN THE GARDEN  
(Genesis 2:16, 17)**

**What proof from the Bible can you find in Genesis 1–3 to support the view that Adam and Eve rebelled against God? (Read, for example, Genesis 2:16, 17; Genesis 3:2, 3, 6.)**

The word *rebellion* is not used in Genesis 1–3 to describe the sin of Adam and Eve. But the idea is there. They openly disobeyed God’s command. But by disobeying, Adam and Eve changed loyalties. Eve listened to the reasoning of the enemy (Satan) and thought it more trustworthy than the clear word of God. She decided that God’s command was too strict. She also thought that she would develop more if she were “independent [free]” from her Creator. This was rebellion. Adam listened to the voice of his wife instead of the voice of God. He then joined her in the rebellion.

**What are some of the quick results of sin? Isaiah 59:2; compare<sup>6</sup> to Genesis 3:23, 24.**

Adam and Eve’s rebellion brought an end to the kind of close relationship that they had with God in the beginning. The nature of their rebellion was such that it spoiled how they related not only to God but to each other. Instead of mutual love, their

rebellion against God led to mutual shame (Genesis 3:7). Their relationship was no longer close and peaceful (verse 12). This rebellion led to their separation from God. As a result they believed that God was someone to fear, someone from whom they needed to hide (verses 8–10). God and humans were no longer united (joined together as one) in love and peace. *What was needed was an act that would bring sinners back to God.*



**Adam and Eve’s sin led to their separation from God.**

**What has been your own experience with sin? How does it influence<sup>7</sup> your relationship with God and with others?**

5. rebellion—a fight or struggle against any kind of power.

6. compare—to show how two things are the same.

7. influence—to have power, or an effect over persons or things.

**MONDAY—OCTOBER 13****SLAVES TO SIN (2 Peter 2:19)**

**According to Romans 6:16 and 2 Peter 2:19, what does sin do to sinners?**

Paul shows the terrible power of sin by describing it as a tyrant.<sup>8</sup> Sin “entered the world through one man [Adam]” (Romans 5:12, NIV), rules over humans in death (Romans 5:21; Romans 6:12), fools people (Romans 7:11), lives in humans (verse 17), enslaves (Romans 6:20), and causes death (Romans 7:13). The sin of Adam and Eve caused everything to fall under the terrible power of sin. Satan became the prince of this world (John 12:31; John 14:30). In their search for power, Adam and Eve exchanged the Lordship of God for the enslaving lordship of Satan. Sin became a universal (everywhere; worldwide) power so that humans have not been able to escape by themselves (Romans 5:12).

**What does Romans 3:9–18 say about the situation of the human race under the rule of sin?**

Paul also teaches that the fall of Adam and Eve brought the natural world under the power of sin. The damaging power of sin reached

God’s creation on this planet. Nature falls under the authority (power) of Satan. His power has robbed it of its true beauty and meaningfulness. This was the result of sin entering into this world (Romans 5:12). Nature is now “failing” because everything here is purposeless and useless.



**Sin damages our planet through destructive forces in nature.**

Both nature and humans live in a sinful world because of sin. What was needed was an example of power from outside the world of humans and nature that could save it. This would happen through Christ.

**Try to think what this world would be like if it had not fallen into sin. How different would it be? How different would our lives be? What should this tell you about just how the power of sin can destroy people?**

<sup>8</sup>. tyrant—a cruel ruler.

**TUESDAY—OCTOBER 14****SPIRITUAL DEATH (Romans 8:6, 7)**

Sin damaged the inner life of human beings (people). The strong sense of goodness that ruled over God's universe<sup>9</sup> no longer rules over the natural human<sup>10</sup> heart. Humans know that there is something wrong with them. And they wish for something better. At times they try to do what is good and right only to discover that "the way a sinful person thinks leads to death. . . . The sinful mind is at war with God. It does not obey God's law. It can't [cannot]" (Romans 8:6, 7, NlrV).

Human nature is spiritually weak. Humans cannot fight the power of sin. Wherever there is a human, there is sin and wickedness. Sin is so bad everywhere that "there is no one . . . right with God, no one at all" (Romans 3:10, NlrV). Sin is a condition of the human nature in its separation from God. Because of the Fall, the "human heart is more dishonest than anything else. It can't [cannot] be healed. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9, NlrV). The "heart" is described in the Bible as the mind of a human. It is very dishonest and undependable.

Humans cannot fully understand what is inside them. They cannot live a clean, honest life (Ecclesiastes 9:3). They struggle with their deep feelings because they are afraid of loneliness. They struggle to do what is right but

often find that they cannot (Galatians 5:17). They cannot fully understand themselves and the world in which they live. So they live in darkness without God (Romans 1:21–25). This sinful condition shows itself in sinful acts against oneself, against others, and against God (Matthew 15:19).

The terrible power of sin knows no limits. Only God can set limits to its influence (power). God also fully can remove sin from the universe. After the Fall, if there was something good left on the planet, it was because God did not let Satan take full control. He said to Eve and to the serpent: "I will put hatred between you and the woman [God's church]" (Genesis 3:15, NlrV). They were not to live in peace. A part of freedom was saved for humans that would let them hate evil and choose life. God's decision (choice) to act for the good of humans made it possible for Him to limit sin's power.

Humans need a way out of the terrible situation caused by sin.

**Read the verses listed in today's lesson. How should these verses help you better understand your need of a Savior?**

**WEDNESDAY—OCTOBER 15****PHYSICAL AND ETERNAL DEATH  
(Romans 5:10–21)**

God's words to Adam—"you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the

9. universe—all the matter (things), light, and energy (forces in nature that do work) that have been discovered (found) or that we know of.

10. human—having to do with men, women, or children.

knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die' ” (Genesis 2:17, NIV). This shows that death is the result of rebellion against God. Death and sin cannot be separated. This death is not only spiritual. It also means both the physical and eternal (forever) death of sinners. Because of its connection with sin, death is not a simple part of our biology.<sup>11</sup> Instead, it is a fearful knowledge that we are eternally (forever) separated from God. It is a separation that leads to eternal removal. Death is like sin in that it is universal and sure to happen (Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27). When sin came into the world, the human race almost was ready to disappear from the universe. God's creation on planet Earth was on its way to complete destruction.

**How does Romans 5:10–21 explain that death happened? What caused it? What is our only way out?**

Death and suffering came together into the world as a result of sin. No one born and raised on this planet escapes pain and suffering. We may not be able to explain what suffering is. But we know very well what it is through our experience. In the Bible there seems to be a strong connection between us as sinners and pain and suffering. Death is so powerful that even before we die, we know it is coming through the pain we feel in our bodies and minds. This pain comes from sickness, uncertainty,

and fear. As a result, life itself is made weaker, and we become depressed (very sad).



**No one born on this earth escapes the pain of suffering.**

Sickness is another result of sin. It means coming “near the grave” or being “counted among those who go down to the pit” (Psalm 88:3, 4, NIV). Death in daily human life is part of the human experience as a result of sin. Humans needed Someone who could give them life by dying in their place and freeing them from sin and from pain, suffering, and death.

**What have you learned from your own experience with death by facing your own or seeing others die? What is it about death that should show us our own helplessness? How can we use the knowledge that death is real to bring ourselves closer to the Lord?**

11. biology—the science that studies living things and the way they live and grow.

**THURSDAY—OCTOBER 16****GOD'S ANSWER TO HUMAN SIN  
(Genesis 3:8–13)**

**How does Genesis 3:8–13 explain the way that the Lord dealt with Adam and Eve after they sinned? What was the purpose of the questions He asked them?**

The Lord wanted to find Adam and Eve so that He could test them for the crime they had done. He wanted to test them before He could pass judgment on them. The Lord was acting as Judge. He was asking Adam and Eve questions to help them understand that they were guilty and that there was no reason for their rebellion. What happened was that they were separated from the Lord and then driven out of the Garden of Eden.



God questioned Adam and Eve about why they had disobeyed Him.

**How does God feel about sin? Ephesians 5:6. How are we to understand the idea of God's anger?**

12. advantages—things, events, or conditions (the way things are; a state of being) that can help a person gain what he or she wants.

We should keep several things in mind when we talk about God's anger. First, human anger is not an example for understanding God's anger. Our anger is often without any good reason and does a lot of damage. God's anger is untouched by sin and is for the purpose of healing (Hebrews 12:6; Revelation 20:15–21:1). Second, God's anger against human sin shows that He takes us seriously. It also shows that He does not forget us—even in our rebellion. God tells us that we are important to Him. Third, God's anger against us will not last forever. But it shows how He feels about sin and evil. There is always a reason for it. Sin brings it on (Deuteronomy 4:24, 25). So, God's anger lasts but a short time. But His love lasts forever (Isaiah 54:8).

Because of sin, we need Jesus. "He saves us from God's anger, and his anger is sure to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10, NIV).

**If you love someone who is suffering or being hurt, would you not feel anger about what was happening to him or her? How can this example help us understand the meaning of God's anger?**

**FRIDAY—OCTOBER 17**

**ADDITIONAL STUDY: Sin and Separation From God:** "Christ knew that, in Eden, Adam had advantages.<sup>12</sup> These advantages might

have helped Adam to resist the temptations<sup>13</sup> of Satan and conquer him. But man had been separated from God since the Fall. And separated from the light and love of God since the Fall, Adam could not resist the temptations of Satan in his own strength.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Maranatha*, page 224.

**Sin and Lack of Harmony:**<sup>14</sup> “In breaking God’s law, Adam became a law to himself. By disobedience Adam was brought under slavery. So, a rebellious attitude [feeling], born of selfishness, entered man’s life. Man’s will and God’s will no longer will be united [joined together as one]. Adam had united with sin. And he wanted to have his own way.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, June 13, 1900.

**Sin and Rebellion in Nature:** “Among the animals Adam had stood as king. . . . But when he sinned, he lost this power. Adam’s spirit of rebellion then spread throughout the animal creation. The life of man, the nature of the beasts, the trees of the forest, the grass of the field, and the very air he breathed all told the sad lesson of the knowledge of evil.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 41.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ❶ It is clear to almost anyone that things are not right in our world. As Christians, we believe things are this way because of sin and the Fall. But some people do not believe in the idea of sin or the Fall. How do they explain the condition of the world? What are some other explanations that people give? For example, how would a person who believes in evolution<sup>15</sup> explain our present condition? What are these other views? How would you answer them?
- ❷ All around you the terrible influence of sin can be seen. We can never remove sin or its results in this world now. But what useful steps can we take to reduce as much of the damage as possible? What are things you can do, both as an individual and as a church group, to lessen some of the suffering?
- ❸ What is a “spiritual death”? How can someone know if he or she is spiritually dead? Would someone who is spiritually dead even know it? What can you do to help someone who feels that he or she is spiritually dead?

13. temptations—things that can turn us away from God and that try to get us to do, think, feel, or say what is wrong.

14. harmony—everyone getting along together; agreement and peace.

15. evolution—the belief that we became humans (men, women, or children) by slowly changing from a lower form of life to a higher form of life.