

Lesson 2 - The Probation of Man

Central Point: Mankind exercises their free will

In Genesis 2:15, God told Adam to *“take care of it or to keep it.”* Which implies to guard and protect it from intruders. This is the first reference of an enemy to God and man.

- God created man with a free will to choose
- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 30:19**

Adam was created with the potential of immortality. Death would occur only if Adam disobeyed the command of God relative to eating from the tree of the knowledge of good/evil.

Man was created in God’s image. He was endowed with intelligence, emotion and will. He was a free moral agent, therefore, he was capable of making a choice.

Since man was created for God’s glory (Isaiah 43:7), and since he could best glorify God by freely choosing to worship and serve Him, it was necessary that Adam be given an opportunity to make a choice.

- Just as the angels were given a time to choose- 2/3 remained faithful- Rev. 12:4
- **Question:** “Why is having a free will so important to our identity and future?”

For Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden was not only a home in paradise; it was also a place of probation, a place to test their obedience and loyalty to God.

The probation of Adam and Eve was based upon a clear direct commandment, a simple law of works. The law had two parts:

- 1) A positive part, consisting of a glorious provision
- 2) A negative part, consisting of a clear prohibition

Genesis 2:16-17

“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” *The Word Death in its simplest term means “To Separate”*

The most disastrous consequence of the Fall was the introduction of death into the world

- Death: Spiritual Death, Physical Death & Eternal Death in the Lake of Fire
- Ezekiel 18:20, *"The soul who sins is the one who will die."* Ro. 5:12-14
- **Please Read: Romans 6:23**

Sin entered into the world through Adam and Eve's high treason; their rebellious act of aligning themselves with Satan. As a result, death came into the world, reigning and dominating mankind.

- Spiritual Death- taking on the very nature of Satan- he becomes one's spiritual father
 - o **John 8:44-45; Acts 13:10; 1 John 3:10**
- Physical Death- the separation of the soul and spirit from the physical body- James 2:26
- Eternal Death- being eternally separating from God and cast into the Lake of Fire
 - o **Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8**

When Adam and Eve submitted their will and obeyed the devil, he became their new master. That is why the world is in such a mess.

Luke 4:5-7

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

1 John 5:19, "We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."

Question: Has anyone ever asked, "If God is so good why is there so much evil in the world?"