

Lesson
21

Effects of the Fall

Because of sin, God cursed the
universe.

Memory Verse

Genesis 6:5

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**How much of God's creation was
affected by the Fall?**

A Cursed Creation

- The curse on the serpent included parts aimed at the serpent (crawling and eating dust) and parts aimed at Satan (hatred between the seed of Satan and the woman, and a Savior who would eventually crush Satan). The curse is split into two different aspects directed at two different creatures. We will see similar layering of prophecy as we move through the Bible.
- The punishment on Eve included increased pain in childbirth and a desire to rule over her husband.

A Cursed Creation

- Adam's sentence included hard labor to produce food from the ground and his eventual death (returning to dust).
- The ground was cursed and would now bear thorns and thistles.
- Since the serpent was cursed "above all" the other animals, we can infer some sort of curse on all animals, even though the details are not spelled out.

A Cursed Creation

- What authority structure did God establish at the creation of Adam and Eve?

Adam was to lead, under God's authority, and Eve was to be the helper of Adam. This is confirmed throughout Scripture and expressly described in Ephesians 5:22–33 and other passages.

Genesis 1:29–30

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

Genesis 1:31

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Deuteronomy 32:4

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Genesis 9:1–3

1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

Defense/Attack Structures

- Originally, these features had a good purpose, but as the environment changed, the purpose for these features changed as well.
- God added new features to creatures at the Curse so they would be able to withstand the onslaught of violence provoked by sin.
- Although unnecessary in a perfect world, God designed the original creatures with the features they would need to live in the fallen world God knew was coming.
- God placed designs for these features in the genes of the original creatures, but they did not become active until after the Curse.

Romans 8:19–22

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Revelation 22:1–2

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 21:3–5

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

God's Word in the Real World

We have been using the phrases “the Fall” and “the Curse” throughout this lesson and others to refer to the events of Genesis 3. What things do we need to watch out for as we speak to one another and others with this type of biblical jargon?

God's Word in the Real World

To be fair, many people who claim to be followers of Christ and accept evolutionary teachings have never thought through these issues. What approach might you use to demonstrate the inconsistency in this type of thinking?

God's Word in the Real World

How might your view be different if you believed the original state of God's creation included animals eating each other to survive?

God's Word in the Real World

How can an understanding of the nature and extent of the Fall help you understand the evil that exists in the world?

God's Word in the Real World

How can understanding the Fall help you find comfort when you face a situation like cancer, the death of a parent, or the chaos of a tornado striking your town?

God's Word in the Real World

How could you use that knowledge to proclaim the gospel to someone you know who is facing those trials without Christ as their Savior?