

## **Understanding Sin (Before, Now, and to Come)**

### **Introduction:**

Many churches all over America and other parts of the world are gathering today in the name of Jesus. Jesus, our savior that came to save us from our sins. There will be songs sung, sermons preached, and Sunday school lessons taught on this very topic today. Jesus died to save us from our sins. This simple statement is one of the core beliefs that Christianity is founded upon. Its truth has been passed down from the disciples, to the leaders of the early church, and from generation of believers to the next all the way to us today.

However, I have a feeling that while we haven't lost the message in general, we have lost an understanding of what exactly this means, or at least what it meant to the early church. We have taken for granted the gift Jesus gave us on the cross, primarily because we have watered down the gospels to fit our modern views of the world.

I believe, and I pray that you believe so as well, that as written in Isaiah 40:8 The word of God stands forever. So in order to paint a clear picture of what exactly Jesus came to save us from, we must first understand what exactly that something is, sin.

### **I. The World BEFORE Sin**

Before the earth was created, and the galaxies and stars were put into place, there was God, and infinite being, who has always existed, and will forever exist. God is love, and God is good.

Being a good and loving God, he felt compelled to share his love and goodness with creation, and this is where scripture begins, in the beginning.

#### **The order of Creation**

Day 1 - Light (Day and Night)

Day 2- Sky

Day 3- Separated the land from water (plants and vegetation)

Day 4- Sun and Moon (days, years, seasons)

Day 5- Fish and Birds

Day 6- Animals and humans (humans were to rule over all the wild animals)

Day 7- He saw that it was VERY GOOD

### **Genesis 2:8-9 NLT**

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. <sup>9</sup> The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden, he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

### **Genesis 2:15-17 NLT**

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. <sup>16</sup> But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— <sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

### **-Temptation and the fall**

### **Genesis 3: 1-7 NLT**

**3** The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

<sup>2</sup> “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. <sup>3</sup> “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup> “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup> At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

## II. Consequences of Sin (NOW)

### Genesis 3:8-24 NLT

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.

Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,

but he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife

and have eaten of the tree

of which I commanded you,

‘You shall not eat of it,’

cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust,

and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” <sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

God is just, holy and pure. This will never change. So when Adam and Eve allowed sin to enter, God had to act as just, holy, and pure. At this moment, Heaven and Earth were separated. Gods sphere and mans sphere were driven apart, by a wedge of sin.

### **III. Gods Plan to Defeat Sin (TO COME)**

#### **Revelation 21:1-5a NLT**

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!”

#### **Revelation 22:1-5 NLT**

**22** Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup> It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit,<sup>[a]</sup> with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

<sup>3</sup> No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever

#### **Hebrews 9:11-14 NLT**

<sup>11</sup> So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come.<sup>[a]</sup> He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. <sup>12</sup> With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

<sup>13</sup> Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. <sup>14</sup> Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds<sup>[b]</sup> so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

### **Romans 5:18-19 NLT**

<sup>18</sup> Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. <sup>19</sup> Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

### **Conclusion:**

- God did not create us to sin, but he loves us despite our sins.
- The Bible tells us the mission of God, and his plan to redeem his people, and rescue us from the power of sin.
- If we wish to return to God, we must allow Gods mission to come to life in our lives, we must repent.