

## HOW FAR DID MAN FALL/ GO ASTRAY?

### Genesis 3

**Introduction:** God created the world, then He made man whom He put into a perfect environment. All was so perfect that God visited His creation and had fellowship with the man He had made. The scriptures continue the account and reveal that the perfect man, living in a perfect environment, fellowshiping with almighty God, rebelled against God by listening to God's enemy, Satan, and to the woman whom God had made for him to be his companion.

God had to withdraw Himself from fellowship with the man for all was not perfect anymore. Man had gone astray by disobeying God and doing "his own thing." How far did man go astray from God? Can man find his way back to God through his own planning and creativity?

### I. HOW FAR DID ADAM FALL? (GO ASTRAY?)

- Humanism (human nature) says that man didn't fall from anything, that he is actually on his way up (evolution).
- Sacerdotalism (Catholicism) says that man slipped over the edge, but may be pushed back by the sacrament of confirmation, bread, wine and teachings, that baptism takes away that original sin, that pieces of bread turned into the flesh of Jesus Christ takes away death and continuing sins, extreme unction (anointing) removes more sins at the moment of death and that in purgatory man can purge more of his/her sins. (This leaves little for God to have to do.)
- Some denominations say that man did fall, but only to a lower level, and that when/if he/she chooses to do so, he/she can make his/her way back up.
- Others believe that man fell all the way into a pit described as death.

### II. HOW FAR DID MANKIND FALL (GO ASTRAY?)

- No need to consider human nature's idea that man didn't fall, that he's on his way to bigger and better things. Just take a look around at the morals of mankind today.
- No need to consider the Roman Catholic's doctrine that man slipped but can be rescued by sacraments administered by a priest.
- One has only to read the Bible to see that these two theories are false, leaving only two thoughts:
  - Either man fell a long way but can climb back by himself if he wants to, or that he fell all the way and does not have it within himself to lift himself out of his lost and separated from God condition.
- The Bible teaches "total depravity" (corruption). It is not saying that man is not any good at all, but that there is no good in man that can SATISFY GOD.
- The Bible does not teach that there is no good in man from MAN'S POINT OF VIEW, but that there is no good in man from GOD'S POINT OF VIEW. For God can require no less that perfection which He is and the state from which mankind started out from.
- A person can dress up in a pilot's uniform, talk like an airline pilot, hang around an airport, but that doesn't make that person a qualified airline pilot.
  - In the same manner, a person thinks of him/herself as good, goes to great lengths to prove his/her goodness, dresses up in the uniform of goodness, but IN GOD'S EYES, that

person is certainly not perfect and is still a sinner, utterly destitute of any and all that could be called good BY GOD'S STANDARDS.

- Goodness required by man of men is an imperfect goodness and cannot be compared to any goodness required by God (*Romans 10:3*).
- Many not knowing Jesus as Savior are finer people than many who do know Jesus as Savior and often we'd sooner trust some things to certain non-believers than to believers.
- When measured by man's standards, many qualify for public honor and trust, and high places of personal esteem, but ARE UNELGIBLE FOR HEAVEN.
- Qualities that make men eligible to be sons in law do not make them eligible to be sons in the family of God.

### III. HOW THEN IS MAN TO BE RESTORED (SAVED)?

- Has Satan won the war by getting man detached from God and into a place where the laws of God's wrath must operate against man and his sins?
- It must be admitted that God would have been justified in destroying Adam and Eve, the first two humans, immediately upon their rebellion against God.
- God would have been justified in allowing the human race to multiply then wipe it into the firey pits of hell.
- When God destroyed the human race, except for one man and his family, He was justified in doing so. (Noah and the flood).
- Any time a creation of God rebels against Him, God is justified in destroying that creation.
- *One can never come into any growth in the knowledge of God until he is ready to admit that he personally deserves the wrath of God.*
- Satan can do nothing for fallen man and history shows that fallen man can do nothing for himself.
- How then is man to be saved?
  - God must do everything for man that has to be done to bring man back to his unfallen position.
  - God did that when He left His throne, laid aside His robes of righteousness, stepped into His created world and became a living, breathing human being.
    - He willingly took upon Himself His own judgment, His own curse, His own punishment for man's sin.
- When Jesus died on the cross, sin, from the very beginning to the very end, was overcome.
  - The wrath of God was vented, justice was done, the penalty was paid and man was redeemed from his fall, going astray.

### CONCLUSION:

- How far did man fall/go astray? Into the very pits of hell.
- How is man to be saved/restored? By believing that Jesus paid the price and by accepting Jesus as the one who redeemed him/her, only then, will one be saved, restored, redeemed back to God.