

BIBLE WOMEN – LESSON 1

Eve – Adah – Zillah – Noah's Wife and Daughters-In-Law

I. WOMAN - HER ORIGIN

- A. Just as man was created in the image of God, so was woman.
1. **Genesis 1:27** – *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*
 2. **John 4:24** – *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*
 3. After His resurrection Jesus said in **Luke 24:39** – *"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."*
 4. Mankind then was made in the spiritual image of God. It is through the spirit that God connects with mankind.
- B. We have a "soul", because God has a soul.
1. **Matthew 12:18** – (the word of God from the prophet Isaiah) - *"Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles."*
 2. **Psalms 11:5** – *"The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence, His soul hates."*
- C. We have a "heart" or emotions because God has a heart (emotions).
1. **Genesis 6:6** – *"And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."*
 2. **2 Chronicles 7:16** – God said regarding the Temple that Solomon built: *"For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."*
- D. We have a "mind" with which to think, learn and make decisions because God has a mind.
1. In **I Samuel 2:30-34** God pronounces judgment upon Eli, the high priest and his evil sons and gives His plan to replace them with one more faithful. **I Samuel 2:35** – *"Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever."*
 2. In Jeremiah chapter 14, Jeremiah begs God to relent from withholding rain which has caused desolation in the land, but God refused because their sin was great. God's reply to Jeremiah was: **Jeremiah 15:1** – *"Then the LORD said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth."*

- E. Because of his spiritual connection to God, mankind has always been superior to all other creatures on the earth.
1. As the crowning achievement in creation, mankind was given dominion over "the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (**Genesis 1:26**)
 2. **I Corinthians 15:39** – *"All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds."*
 - a. Since mankind's flesh is different from all other creatures, he could not have "evolved" from lower forms of life.
 - b. Even those who believe in the theory of evolution cannot explain how the female sex evolved. Only the Bible explains that.
 - c. Those who believe in evolution also cannot explain the evolution of the "soul", therefore, most evolutionists do not believe in God at all and discount the existence of the soul.
 - d. Some try to reconcile what "scientists" say regarding evolution with the Bible account of creation by saying that "evolution was God's way of creating life", but that is in direct opposition to the creation account in the Bible.
 - e. Either we fully trust the Bible as God's word, and accept that He created all things that exist, just as He said, OR we cannot trust the Bible at all.
- F. With the creation of woman, God instituted marriage.
1. God recognized that the man was incomplete in a world with no other creatures like himself. (**Genesis 2:18**)
 2. The woman was created from a rib taken from the man to emphasize that she was not only like the man, but part of him.
 - a. The other creatures were created from the dust of the earth (**Genesis 2:19**)
 - b. When Adam saw her, he also declared, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh."
 - c. He called her woman because she was taken out of man. (**Genesis 2:23**)
 3. There was no delay in instituting the marriage relationship. (**Genesis 2:24**)
 - a. God declared that a man must leave his father and mother, even though no father or mother existed at that time.
 - i. This "leaving" of father and mother is not as much a physical leaving (although it can be), as it is an emotional transference of loyalty and responsibility from his parents to his wife.
 - ii. A new independent family unit must be formed.

- iii. This does not eliminate ties to his or her parents, it simply establishes that their parents cannot be the primary priority in their new family.
- b. God declared that a man must be joined to his wife so that they would become one flesh – inseparable for life.

II. SIN ENTERS THE WORLD

- A. One might ask why God would allow sin to enter the paradise He created for Adam and Eve.
 - 1. Sin and evil already existed because Satan had already rebelled against God in his position as an angel. It was just that Adam and Eve were created in innocence and had no knowledge of evil or sin.
 - 2. Satan's rebellion resulted in losing his position as an angel of God. Jesus confirmed in **Luke 10:18** – *"And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."*
 - 3. Satan began his work of placing temptation in the path of mankind in the garden of Eden.
 - a. His goal was to get Adam and Eve to disobey God, knowing it would shatter the personal one-to-one relationship they had with God.
 - b. Satan used arguments with Eve that made her doubt that God's commandment was given for her own good.
 - c. Satan said, "God doesn't want you to eat that fruit because He knows that it will make you WISE like He is, then you will be able to know good from evil.
 - d. This type of argument is still used today. Arguments like this:
 - i. "IF there is a God, why does He let bad things happen to people?"
 - ii. "IF God is a loving God, then He would not send anyone to Hell to be punished eternally."
 - iii. "IF God is there, why didn't He save my loved one that I prayed for?"
 - 4. Satan's goal is still the same today – to separate Christians from God. We are his favorite targets. Satan will try hard to make you doubt God.
- B. It was necessary for God to allow mankind to have "free will" and the ability to make decisions for himself.
 - 1. God wanted his creation to love Him and to serve Him by choice.
 - 2. When the ability to choose is available, then the opportunity for making bad choices is also present.
 - 3. Satan takes advantage of our freedom to choose by tempting us with things that look wonderful without revealing the consequences that always result.
- C. In order to test whether Adam and Eve would obey God by choice, He placed the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" in the center of the garden.

1. God commanded them not to eat the fruit of that tree or they would surely die. **Genesis 2:17**
 2. In fact, according to Eve, they were told not even to touch the tree. **Genesis 3:3**
 3. Apparently it never occurred to Adam or Eve to eat from that tree until Satan tempted Eve with his lies.
- D. Satan, in the form of a serpent, approached Eve and asked: “*Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’*” **Genesis 3:1**
1. **Genesis 3:1** – “*Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.*”
 2. God created the serpent, but Satan was able to enter and control the serpent to disguise himself for the purpose of tempting Eve.
 - a. **Luke 22:3** – “*Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed *Iscariot*, who was numbered among the twelve.*”
 - b. **Acts 5:3** – “*But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?”*”
 - c. **2 Corinthians 11:14** – “*For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*”
 3. Satan cannot enter the heart of anyone without his cooperation, nor can he force anyone to sin; it requires a willingness on the part of the one upon whom Satan has directed his temptation. Eve cooperated in several ways:
 - a. She listened – **John 8:44** – “*There is no truth in the Devil and he is the father of lies,*”
 - b. She looked – **I Thes. 5:22** – “*Abstain from every form of evil.*”
 - c. She desired – **Romans 12:9** – “*Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*”
 - d. She took – **Romans 12:21** – “*Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.*”
 - e. She tempted someone else – **Romans 14:13** – “*...let us resolve not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.*”
 - f. She hid – **Psalms 69:5** – “*O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You.*”
 - g. She blamed someone else – **I John 1:9** – “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” and **Romans 14:12** – “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

- A. Surely, Adam and Eve could not have imagined the severity of the consequences that their disobedience put in place.
1. The consequences began immediately.

2. They realized for the first time that they were naked and suddenly they thought it was shameful to appear before God naked. (**Genesis 3:10**)
 - a. Their guilt could only have come from eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
 - b. God asked them if they had eaten of the forbidden fruit. (**Gen. 3:11**)
 - c. Immediately the man blamed his wife, and she blamed the serpent.
- B. Adam and Eve attempted to sew coverings for themselves from fig leaves once they felt shame in their nakedness. (**Genesis 3:6**)
 - a. When Adam and Eve heard the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they reacted by trying to hide from God because they knew they were naked.
 - b. God made their first permanent clothing because once their innocence was lost, they needed clothing.
- C. Punishment was inevitable after their disobedience.
 1. Even the serpent who was used by Satan was punished for his involvement in this sin.
 - a. In verse 14, God cursed the serpent more than “every beast of the field”. This may indicate that he was originally like other beasts of the field.
 - b. Also in verse 14 God pronounced that the curse he would have to endure was to crawl “on his belly” and “eat dust all the days of his life”.
 - c. Could this indicate that the serpent once had legs, but God removed them as his punishment?
 - d. From that day forward serpents have been despised and feared by mankind.
 3. In verse 15 Satan himself was cursed for his deceitful lies to Eve when God said: “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*
 - a. This was the first prophecy pointing toward the Savior of the world.
 - b. While Satan might be able to “bruise the heel” of this Savior, Satan would ultimately be defeated through the Seed of a woman.
 4. Eve’s punishment affected her and every woman after her.
 - a. God said, “*I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children.”* (**Genesis 3:16**) Apparently God had not made pain a part of child bearing originally.
 - b. The second part of her punishment (verse 16) was to place her in a submissive role to her husband. (“*Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”*)
 - c. While Adam was just as guilty, it was Eve who was deceived and it was Eve who urged her husband to join her in the disobedience.

5. While Adam blamed Eve for offering him the fruit, he did not escape punishment either.
 - a. He was evicted from the Garden of Eden where all of his needs were abundantly provided.
 - b. He would be forced to till the ground to grow his food and he would have to suffer the thorns and thistles that would make that job more difficult.
 - c. The pronouncement of the physical death they would have to suffer in the future was given when God said, "Out of the dust you are, and to the dust you shall return." (**Genesis 3:19b**)
 - d. Do you think that Adam realized that he had cursed mankind forever with death? I doubt it.
 6. Because the Tree of Life still existed in the Garden of Eden, God placed cherubim to guard the entrance of the garden and he placed a flaming sword to guard the Tree of Life, so that they could no longer eat from that tree and live forever. (**Genesis 3:24**)
 7. While Satan did deceive Eve, she still had a choice to make. She could have refused to believe the serpent, since she fully understood the commandment from God.
 - a. Resisting temptation is still the duty of all children of God.
 - b. **I Corinthians 10:13** – *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*
- D. Adam and Eve suffered other personal consequences as a result of their disobedience and the introduction of sin to mankind.
1. Earning their livelihood was the first of the consequences they experienced.
 2. Eve had two sons, where she experienced the pain of childbirth.
 3. But these consequences could not have been nearly as painful as having their first son murder his younger brother.
 - a. The sin of jealousy had taken root in Cain.
 - i. Jealousy unchecked gives birth to hate and hate gives birth to violence.
 - ii. **I John 3:15** – *"Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."*
 - iii. **I John 4:20** – *"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"*
 - b. Cain tried to hide his sin from God like his parents had done.
 - i. God said to Cain, **Genesis 4:10b** – *"The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."*
 - ii. Cain was cursed for his sin, like his parents had been.

- **Genesis 4:11-12** – ^{v1} *So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.*
- c. Cain complained that his punishment was more than he could bear, which is still a common complaint from criminals today.
 - i. In verse 14 Cain realized that his banishment would separate him from God when he said, *"I shall be hidden from Your face."*
 - ii. Secondly, he expressed fear for his own life when he said, *"...anyone who finds me will kill me."*
 - iii. God declared that whoever killed Cain would face vengeance from God multiplied seven times. Then God placed a mark on Cain to warn all other people that they must not kill him.
- d. Some think death is an easier punishment than having to live with what you have done the rest of your life. Cain would be forced to live with the consequences of his sin for the rest of his very long life.
- e. While we can trust that God will forgive us for any sin that we sincerely repent of, we still have to live with the consequences of our sin for the rest of our lives
- 4. Adam and Eve were the first parents ever to experience the death of a child.
 - a. Their remaining son was banished to a foreign land east of Eden where the people did not know God.
 - b. Their sorrow must have been great, knowing that they had opened the Pandora's box of troubles which had such a devastating effect of their own family.
 - c. At the age of 130 years, Eve gave birth to a third son whom she named Seth saying, "God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel whom Cain killed." Later they had other sons and daughters.
- 5. When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of Enosh and then a very interesting statement is made in **Genesis 4:26**. "Then men began to call on the name of the Lord." Beginning with Cain, mankind began to drift away from God; but it seems that Adam and Eve and their son Seth were still faithful to God.

IV. ADAH – ZILLAH - THE DEGRADATION OF WOMANHOOD BEGINS

- A. During the first 1625 years recorded in the Bible, only four women are mentioned.
- B. No women were mentioned until the sixth generation from Adam, through Cain. **Genesis 4:16-18**
 - 1. Lamech, the fifth generation from Cain, took for himself two wives, Adah and Zillah. By ignoring God's plan for marriage and giving in to their lustful, fleshly natures, polygamy became a way of life.

2. This arrangement was the beginning of the degradation of the dignity of women.
 3. Adah means "*gorgeously adorned woman*", while Zillah means "*one whose approach can be recognized at a distance by a jingling of her jewelry*"
 4. There seems to be no modesty or virtue attributed to these two women.
 5. In addition to polygamy, men also took concubines for themselves totally outside the marriage relationship. Quickly this became a socially acceptable practice as well.
- C. These practices of polygamy and concubinage were born from the lustful, fleshly nature of men and without authorization from God, who had designed marriage for one man and one woman. **Genesis 4:19-24**
1. These practices reduced women from a partnership with her husband to property which the man owned. She had no rights that her husband did not grant. We might say they were slaves in their own homes.
 2. Adah had two sons, Jabal, who was the father of those who dwell in tents; his brother Jubal was father of those who play the harp and flute.
 3. Zillah had one son named Tubal-Cain, who was a craftsman in bronze and iron. Zillah also had a daughter named Naamah.
 4. The children of these two women learned polygamy from their parents and the practice continued to grow throughout the Old Testament.
 5. Mankind continued to go farther and farther away from God. They no longer sought to be righteous.
 6. Lamech was also guilty of killing a young man. He feared that he, like Cain would be killed by the family of his young victim.
- D. Our mother, Eve, was the first to experience so many things:
1. She was the ONLY being who was NOT created from the dust of the ground. She never experienced childhood.
 2. She had an intimate relationship with God.
 3. She was the first wife. Marriage was instituted based on her relationship to Adam (one man and one woman)
 4. She heard the first lie when Satan deceived her.
 5. She was first to disobey God.
 6. She was first to have to figure out how to create a home for her family, after being banished from Eden.
 - i. She had to learn how to help her husband.
 - ii. She had to learn to prepare food for her family
 - iii. She had to learn how to make clothing for her family.
 7. She was the first to become a mother, never having seen a baby before.
 8. She was first to have a child die.
 9. She was first to have a child murder his sibling.
 10. She was the first mother-in-law, never having a mother-in-law herself.
 11. She was the first grandmother. Never having a grandmother herself.

- E. We must remember that we are all daughters of Eve and there is so much we can learn from her that will help us.

V. NOAH'S WIFE AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

- A. "God was grieved that He had made man." (**Genesis 6:6**)
1. Within the span of ten generations from the creation, mankind had become so corrupt that "*every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" (**Genesis 6:5**)
 2. One major contribution to the decline in man's morality began when "*the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful, and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*" (**Genesis 6:2**)
 3. The wording of this verse has given rise to several interpretations, including some that are incorrect such as:
 - a. The "sons of God" are fallen angels who left their position with God to marry women on earth.
 - b. The "sons of God" were a royal line who had power over others and therefore, married whom they chose among the daughters of common men.
 4. The more widely accepted answer among Bible scholars is this:
 - a. When Cain murdered his brother, Abel, God banished Cain to a land far away from Adam and Eve. Perhaps to protect them from his evil influence.
 - 1) Cain's descendants are listed in **Genesis 4:16-24**. Their worldly accomplishments are listed, but none are attributed with being faithful to God.
 - 2) In the fifth generation from Cain, Lamech was the one who introduced polygamy by marrying two women. (**Genesis 4:19**)
 - b. Seth was born to Adam and Eve some time after Cain's banishment.
 - 1) Seth's son was Enosh. (**Genesis 25:26**)
 - 2) After the birth of Enosh, "*men began to call on the name of the Lord.*" (**Genesis 4:26b**)
 - c. Apparently, the descendants of Cain were ungodly, while the descendants of Seth continued to worship God.
 5. The wicked descendants of Cain were very influential upon the people of earth, including the descendants of Seth.
 - a. The "sons of God" (Seth's descendants) began to marry the "daughters of man" (Cain's descendants) because they saw that they were beautiful. (**Genesis 6:2**) Apparently physical beauty was the priority rather than spiritual purity.
 - b. "The unsanctioned and improperly motivated marriages between these two groups (**Genesis 6:2**) led to the total moral breakdown of mankind (**Genesis 6:5**), the exception among them being Noah and his family

Genesis 6:8)." (Commentary by Trevor J. Major, M.Sc., M.A. of Apologetics Press - apologeticsdpress.org)

- B. Eight souls were saved on the Ark.
1. The names of the men were given (Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, Japheth), but the names of the women were not mentioned.
 2. One of the women was Noah's wife.
 3. The other three women were the wives of Noah's sons.
- C. Apparently, Noah and his sons had married godly wives or at least had influenced them toward godliness.
1. Remaining faithful to God when everyone scoffed at Noah for building the ark must have been a challenge.
 - a. Standing firm in the minority is often very difficult. Imagine the pressure these women felt as the entire population of the earth was mocking their husbands and their obedience to God.
 - b. They refused to follow the majority into destruction, unlike many others in Bible accounts:
 - 1) The majority died in Sodom and Gomorrah. Only four souls were allowed to leave before the destruction took place. (**Genesis 19**)
 - 2) The majority of Jacob's sons wanted to sell their brother Joseph. (**Genesis 37**)
 - 3) The majority of the twelve spies were afraid to go into the land of Canaan, which resulted in 40 years of wandering in the desert. (**Numbers 13**)
 - 4) The majority screamed "crucify Him". (**Matthew 27**)
 - 5) The majority will choose the "broad way" that leads to destruction. (**Matthew 7:13-14**)
 2. It is reasonable for us to assume that the families of these women died in the flood (unless they died prior to the flood).
 - a. These women may have had to sacrifice their relationships with their families in order to support Noah's enormous task.
 - b. These women may have had to reject the religious practices of their families, who obviously were not serving the one true God and they were among those condemned to die in the flood.
 - 1) It is still a very difficult thing for many to accept the truth of the Bible when it goes against what their parents believe.
 - 2) Many refuse to accept that Mom or Dad or Grandma may not have known the truth of the New Testament. They feel that to admit this would condemn their parents, particularly if they have already passed away.
 - 3) We cannot and do not condemn anyone. That is not our job. However, everyone is obligated to "*Be diligent to present yourself*

approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

3. While Noah’s job of building the ark was enormous, the women of that family must have contributed to this work.
 - a. One of the jobs to be done in getting the ark ready was the collection of “all food” for the people and for the animals.
(Genesis 6:21)
 - b. Food preparation has historically been the responsibility of the women of the family.
 - c. Planting, cultivating and harvesting food for an unknown period of time would be an enormous task.
 - d. Imagine how much work must have been involved while they were on the ark for one year and ten days.
 - e. Feeding eight people every day.
 - f. Feeding and watering seven pairs of all of the “clean animals” and two pairs of all of the “unclean animals”.
 - g. Keeping all of the ark clean enough so that disease would not overtake them or the animals. (Although, I am sure they were under the protective hand of God.) However, cleanliness would have to be required since they had to live there 375 days.
- D. Even though we don’t know their names, we can respect these four women.
 1. They supported their husbands in a task that no one else believed in.
 2. They contributed to the work of preparing the ark.
 3. They remained faithful to God while the rest of the world mocked them and their husbands.
 4. Would we be as faithful if we were faced with such overwhelming discouragement all around us?