

# **Sentenced Before Birth**

## **Part 1**

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**Study Guides For Discipleship**

# The State of Being Lost

The Bible says that man is hopelessly lost due to sin. Adam and Eve were perfectly created creatures and was specifically created to fellowship with Him and to worship Him. Bible that man is a sinner and therefore cannot inherit heaven. Or be in the presence of God.

Why?

Because God is so holy, pure, just and perfect that He cannot tolerate any sin in His presence. Sin has to be tossed out of God's presence, judged and punished.

The Bible says in the beginning God created Adam and Eve and the world they were to live in. They were created in God's image and after creation enjoyed perfect communion with each other, with God Almighty and their world. A solid paradise of perfect love.

Let's take a moment to read the most beautiful construction story ever written....



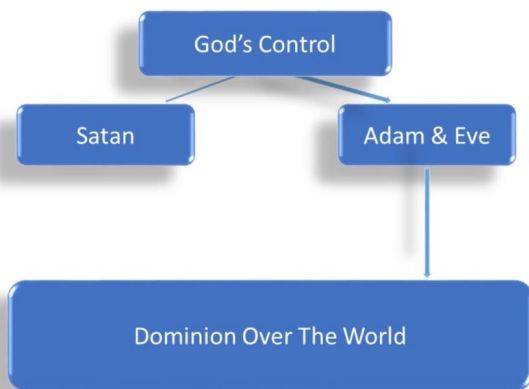
*(Genesis 1:1-31) 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was <sup>l</sup>formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was <sup>l</sup>moving over the <sup>l</sup>surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

*6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the <sup>l</sup>expanse from the waters which were above the <sup>h</sup>expanse; and it was so. 8 God called the <sup>h</sup>expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.*

<sup>9</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; <sup>15</sup> and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. <sup>17</sup> God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.” <sup>21</sup> God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.



<sup>24</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the

earth.” <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; <sup>30</sup> and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



**Genesis 3 describes the “Fall” of mankind from God’s Grace to becoming a sinner.**

*(Genesis 3) Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from [any](#) tree of the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;<sup>3</sup> but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”<sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!<sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

*They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the [c]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. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was*

*“naked; so I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 The Lord God said to the serpent,*

*Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.” 16 To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”*

*17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;*

*Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”*



<sup>20</sup> Now the man called his wife's name [h](#)Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. <sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from 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 cultivate the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

We can note the following from this reading ....

- Eve was deceived by Satan, Man sins,
- Sin is punishable by physical and spiritual death.
- Physical death is the termination of life as we know it and being buried/cremated
- Spiritual death is eternal separation from God.
- Punishment for sin must be paid. This is an absolute truth God says He requires.

Because of sin, man was cast out of Paradise into a whole new world totally different.



As a result of sin, Man no longer enjoyed perfect communion with each other, with God Almighty and their world. Satan became the new world ruler and by default all mankind was a 'citizen' of this world and joint heir with the future of Satan.

Sin, as defined in the original translations of the Bible, means "to miss the mark." The mark, in this case, is the standard of perfection established by God and evidenced by Jesus. Viewed in this light, it is clear that we are all sinners. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 3:23: *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

Why does anyone need salvation and salvation from what to what?

- Genesis 1-2 describes the beginning of our universe, world and mankind.
- Genesis further describes the paradise given to "sinless" Adam & Eve and their obligations

God said man will die physically and spiritually. The natural course of life today is birth, growth, maturity, death. No one who is born can escape the end of the eventual process -- death.

Physical 'life' means to be living, breathing, conscience and fellowshiping with others within this physical world as we know it. It therefore would logically mean that being Spiritually 'alive' means to be living, and fellowshiping with God.

Since and because of Adam and Eve's first sin, death entered God's creation. When one is physically dead, they can no longer communicate with other physical beings. Physical death has terminated this privilege. Spiritual death also terminates the privilege of an individual to live and fellowship with God Almighty in the spiritual life (afterlife, heaven). Adam and Eve could have chosen to-not-sin, or to-sin. In that single incident, the original sin, Adam and Eve lost forever the ability-to-not-sin. Since God elected mankind to multiply through procreation, the nature of Adam & Eve, the ability-to-sin, has been passed down to all their descendants.

The problem is that not only when we are born into our physical life that is destined to physically die, we are also born into Spiritual death, condemned to eternal separation from God and all His glory.

This is what Jesus was telling Nicodemus in John 3:1-8 3

*Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; <sup>2</sup> this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these <sup>1a</sup> signs that You do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born <sup>1b</sup> again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

*<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus \*said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born <sup>1c</sup> again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

So what about the second part of God's judgment: Spiritual death: In Ephesians 2:1 we read *And you <sup>[a]</sup>were dead <sup>[b]</sup>in your trespasses and sins*

The Bible is clear that when we were born, we were born into Spiritual death. If at physical death, we are still spiritually dead, than we cannot inherit the Kingdom of God according to Jesus. We must be born of the water (physical life) and the Spirit (the Holy Spirit). If at physical death, we are spiritually alive, than we inherit the Kingdom of God. In some miraculous fashion, our position before God changes at Spiritual birth.

We are therefore born into physical life but we are spiritually dead.

- This is the fundamental reason we are unable to save ourselves.
- A physically dead man cannot climb out of his own grave and live again.
- A spiritually dead person cannot save himself/herself
- Being spiritually "Dead" means dead toward God – unable to communicate with Him or be in His presence.. Many rightfully say, man is depraved (about as bad off as one can get.) in their standing (position) before God.
- The sinless spirit that Adam & Eve had in the Garden of Eden was made "dead" by Sin.
- All mankind 'inherits' the sin nature from Adam & Eve, thus all mankind is 'lost' from birth.
- To be saved means to be restored eternally to God as in Adam and Eve's original created position.
- Man's natural nature is to sin and he has no ability-not-to-sin.
- Man has no ability to save himself.
- The punishment for sin requires eternal, spiritual death
- We have no ability to live a perfect, sinless life and 'earn' our way to heaven.
- God must give us new life through Spiritual birth if we are to be reunited with Him.

Jesus said *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10).

In Jesus teachings through parables he spoke about the 'lost' sheep, the 'lost' coin, the 'lost' son.

The apostle Paul wrote *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (2 Cor 4:3)*

To be lost is one of the Biblical terms used to describe man's position or standing before God prior to personal salvation. This is God's assessment of the natural man.

This implies that ...

- Man is in a desperate condition
- Man can do nothing to rescue himself from his position before God.
- The 'lost' man is unaware of his spiritual position until he is convicted of his moral plight by the Holy Spirit.



So the first step in understanding man's position before Almighty God is to explore the actual position and how it was obtained. This is the position one is rescued from as a result of 'salvation'. Once we comprehend more fully our salvation from a 'lost' position, then a proper consideration of whether or not a Christian can lose his salvation can be undertaken.

Let's be absolutely clear about one specific point: to lose one's salvation means that a person must return exactly and completely to the position which he once had before God prior to salvation; not just a partial 'lost' condition, but to a total 'lost' condition. Thus a full understanding of the 'lost' (unsaved) position is imperative in order to understand salvation.

In investigating why man is guilty before God, I shall look at the following 'evidence' brought forth by God in the Bible that renders God's verdict.

Man is Guilty before God because.....

- man has 'rejected' **God's Divine revelation** of Himself
- **man's relationship to the world** condemns them.
- **man's relationship to Satan** condemns them.
- **man sins.** (any lack of conformity to the character and will of God)
- **Man's rejection of God** and his lack of a relationship to God

