

Lesson 4; Genesis 3–4; Moses 4–5, The Fall of Adam and Eve

The Garden of Eden

First we get a little insight into our Heavenly Father's plan that was presented and debated during our first estate

Moses 4:1-4

1 And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying: That Satan, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning, and he came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.

2 But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto me—Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

3 Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

4 And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.

What did Christ seek to accomplish with His plan?

Provide a way for mankind to be saved
(Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever)

Robert D. Hales

"Jesus Christ, using His agency, said: 'Here am I, send me.' 'Thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.'

"Jesus, who exercised His agency to sustain Heavenly Father's plan, was identified and appointed by the Father as our Savior, foreordained to perform the atoning sacrifice for all. Similarly, our exercise of agency to keep the commandments enables us to fully understand who we are and receive all of the blessings our Heavenly Father has—including the opportunity to have a body, to progress, to experience joy, to have a family, and to inherit eternal life." (CR, April 2015)

What did Satan seek to accomplish with his plan?

(I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost
sought to destroy the agency of man
that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten)

J. Reuben Clark, Jr

"The plan called for redemption. One stood forth and said, 'I will redeem all mankind. Not one soul will be lost. I will surely do it. So send me' (Abr. 3:24-28.) That plan, when analyzed, involved, as the Lord has told us time and again, the destruction of our free agency. Just how we were to be redeemed under the plan and yet destroy our free agency we are not told. The proposer of that plan said to our heavenly Father, 'Give me thine honor'...

"Now this first personage, Satan... declared by his rebellion eternal enmity toward the plan that was adopted, and from that time until now, constantly sought to build the empire, the kingdom for which he planned, by leading us astray. He has never relented for a moment. Having our agency, he was to lead us to do evil." (CR, Oct. 1953)

While in the Garden of Eden, Satan came to Eve and tempted her to eat the forbidden fruit

Moses 4:7-12

7 And he said unto the woman: Yea, hath God said—Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (And he spake by the mouth of the serpent.)

8 And the woman said unto the serpent: We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;

9 But of the fruit of the tree which thou beholdest in the midst of the garden, God hath said—Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

10 And the serpent said unto the woman: Ye shall not surely die;

11 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

12 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it became pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make her wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and also gave unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

What did Satan promise Eve that she would receive if she ate of the forbidden fruit?

(Ye shall not surely die;
your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil)

George Q. Cannon

"The devil in tempting Eve, had told a truth when he said unto her that when she should eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they should become as Gods. He told the truth in telling that, but he accompanied it with a lie as he always does. He never tells the complete truth. He said that they should not die. The Father had said that they should die. The devil had to tell a lie in order to accomplish his purposes; but there was some truth in his statement. Their eyes were opened. They had a knowledge of good and evil just as the Gods have." (JD, 26:182)

Now they hid from God because they saw that they were naked

Moses 4:17-19

17 And I, the Lord God, said unto Adam: Who told thee thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat, if so thou shouldst surely die?

18 And the man said: The woman thou gavest me, and commandest that she should remain with me, she gave me of the fruit of the tree and I did eat.

19 And I, the Lord God, said unto the woman: What is this thing which thou hast done? And the woman said: The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

What reason did Eve give for eating the forbidden fruit?

(The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat)

What reason did Adam give for eating the forbidden fruit?

(The woman thou gavest me, and commandest that she should remain with me, she gave me of the fruit)

Richard G. Scott,

"After they had partaken of the fruit, the Lord spoke with them. Their comments reveal some different characteristics of a man and woman.... Adam's response was characteristic of a man who wants to be perceived as being as close to right as possible. Adam responded, 'The woman thou gavest me, and commandest that she should remain with me, she gave me of the fruit of the tree and I did eat.'... Eve's response was characteristic of a woman. Her answer was very simple and straightforward: 'The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.'" (CR, Oct. 1996)

The Lord tells them of the trials that they will face because of their disobedience

Moses 4:22-25,29

22 Unto the woman, I, the Lord God, said: I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception. In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children, and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

23 And unto Adam, I, the Lord God, said: Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the fruit of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying—Thou shalt not eat of it, cursed shall be the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

24 Thorns also, and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

25 By the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, until thou shalt return unto the ground—for thou shalt surely die—for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou wast, and unto dust shalt thou return.

29 Therefore I, the Lord God, will send him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken

What do you think the Lord meant by, “cursed shall be the ground for thy sake”?

Eldred G. Smith

"We often hear it said that Adam was cursed because he partook of the forbidden fruit. The record says 'the ground' was cursed, not Adam. Then the Lord added 'for thy sake.' This means for his benefit; also for your benefit and mine.

"Adam and Eve had been in a state of stagnation: no progress—no growth—no reproduction. Without a change, they would have remained in that state forever. It was necessary for a change to take place. This change meant that Adam and all his posterity would have to work and overcome obstacles to provide the necessities of life." (CR, Oct. 1973)

Cain Chooses Wickedness

Adam and Eve continue to receive commandments and instructions from God and teach them to their sons and daughters

Moses 5:9,12-13

9 And in that day the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying: I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever, that as thou hast fallen thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will.

12 And Adam and Eve blessed the name of God, and they made all things known unto their sons and their daughters.

13 And Satan came among them, saying: I am also a son of God; and he commanded them, saying: Believe it not; and they believed it not, and they loved Satan more than God. And men began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual, and devilish.

“thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will” But -
What did many of the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve choose to do?

(they believed it not, and they loved Satan more than God)

Marion G. Romney

“We are endowed by our creator with agency. While in mortality, we live between powerful forces—the force of good and the force of evil. Between the two we must choose. There is no escape....

“Following their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were taught the gospel by heavenly beings and were instructed by the Lord to teach their children. This they did. Then 'Satan came among them, saying:

... Believe it not; and they believed it not, and they loved Satan more than God. And men began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual, and devilish.'

“This has been the pattern now for nearly 6,000 years. In each gospel dispensation, men have rejected the gospel and as a consequence have sunk into apostasy, debauchery, and darkness.” (“Choose Ye This Day”, Ensign, Feb. 1977)

We have our free agency, we understand good and evil, and we have to choose

Moses 5:16-21

16 And Adam and Eve, his wife, ceased not to call upon God. And Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bare Cain, and said: I have gotten a man from the Lord; wherefore he may not reject his words. But behold, Cain hearkened not, saying: Who is the Lord that I should know him?

17 And she again conceived and bare his brother Abel. And Abel hearkened unto the voice of the Lord. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

18 And Cain loved Satan more than God. And Satan commanded him, saying: Make an offering unto the Lord.

19 And in process of time it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

20 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel, and to his offering;

21 But unto Cain, and to his offering, he had not respect. Now Satan knew this, and it pleased him. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

What hope did Eve have for Cain, her newborn son?

(she conceived and bare Cain, and said: I have gotten a man from the Lord; wherefore he may not reject his words)

What did Cain choose for himself?

(Cain hearkened not, saying: Who is the Lord that I should know him?
And Cain loved Satan more than God)

Why do you think Cain made an offering of “the fruit of the ground”?

He chose to follow Satan's instructions instead of God's
(And Cain loved Satan more than God. And Satan commanded him, saying:
Make an offering unto the Lord)

Why was Cain's offering unacceptable?

Joseph Smith

“Abel offered to God a sacrifice that was accepted, which was the firstlings of the flock. Cain offered of the fruit of the ground, and was not accepted.... Shedding the blood of the Only Begotten to atone for man was the plan of redemption; and as the sacrifice was instituted for a type, by which man was to discern the great Sacrifice which God had prepared; to offer a sacrifice contrary to that, no faith could be exercised.” (HC 2:15–17)

Moses 5:22-27

22 And the Lord said unto Cain: Why art thou wroth? Why is thy countenance fallen?

23 If thou doest well, thou shalt be accepted. And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door, and Satan desireth to have thee; and except thou shalt hearken unto my commandments, I will deliver thee up, and it shall be unto thee according to his desire. And thou shalt rule over him;

24 For from this time forth thou shalt be the father of his lies; thou shalt be called Perdition; for thou wast also before the world.

25 And it shall be said in time to come—That these abominations were had from Cain; for he rejected the greater counsel which was had from God; and this is a cursing which I will put upon thee, except thou repent.

26 And Cain was wroth, and listened not any more to the voice of the Lord, neither to Abel, his brother, who walked in holiness before the Lord.

27 And Adam and his wife mourned before the Lord, because of Cain and his brethren.

How did Cain react when was told what would happen if he choose wickedness?

(Cain was wroth, and listened not any more to the voice of the Lord....)

Moses 5:29-33

29 And Satan said unto Cain: Swear unto me by thy throat, and if thou tell it thou shalt die; and swear thy brethren by their heads, and by the living God, that they tell it not; for if they tell it, they shall surely die; and this that thy father may not know it; and this day I will deliver thy brother Abel into thine hands.

30 And Satan sware unto Cain that he would do according to his commands. And all these things were done in secret.

31 And Cain said: Truly I am Mahan, the master of this great secret, that I may murder and get gain. Wherefore Cain was called Master Mahan, and he gloried in his wickedness.

32 And Cain went into the field, and Cain talked with Abel, his brother. And it came to pass that while they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and slew him.

33 And Cain gloried in that which he had done, saying: I am free; surely the flocks of my brother falleth into my hands.

Cain says he is the master of the secret. What secret?

(I may murder and get gain)

Why did Cain glory in what he'd done and believe that he was free?

(surely the flocks of my brother falleth into my hands)

Hugh Nibley

"The great secret he learned from Satan was the art of converting life into property—all life, even eternal life! The exchange of eternal life for worldly success is in fact the essence of the classic Pact with the Devil"

(Approaching Zion, pg 167)

"When he killed Abel he gloried in what he had done and was not ashamed. Why? Because he said, now I'm rich, and being rich will make me free" (Commentary on the Book of Mormon)

"And what Satan offers Cain here is money. You can have anything in this world for money, he says. That will see you through to get anything you want." (Ancient Documents and the Pearl of Great Price, pg 10)

Moses 5:34-38

34 And the Lord said unto Cain: Where is Abel, thy brother? And he said: I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?

35 And the Lord said: What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood cries unto me from the ground.

36 And now thou shalt be cursed from the earth which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand.

37 When thou tillest the ground it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength. A fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

38 And Cain said unto the Lord: Satan tempted me because of my brother's flocks. And I was wroth also; for his offering thou didst accept and not mine; my punishment is greater than I can bear.

When Cain understands that he will be punished, who does he blame for his actions?

Satan, God, and Abel

(Satan tempted me because of my brother's flocks for his offering thou didst accept and not mine)

Desire for Abel's flocks was the weakness Satan exploited
He may seek different weaknesses in others