

## LESSON -2

# DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE

**References** : Gen. 1 :3 -2 : 25

**Memory Verse** : Gen. 1 26 -27

**Objective** : God created man in the most excellent manner and placed him in Eden. But because of Sin he was separated from God and became subject to curse. The aim of this lesson is to stimulate and inspire us to enter into the eternal sinless dispensation through Jesus Christ.

**Introduction** : What is the cause of all sicknesses and sufferings in the world? How did Adam and Eve enjoy life before the fall? Don't you love to live in such a blissful state? What were the characteristics of that dispensation?

About creation we find in the Bible : "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good" (Gen 1:31). Think about the earth and its atmosphere, space and the planets! How marvelously has God arranged and set everything in order? The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Ps. 19 :1). God restored the earth and filled with beautiful plants and orchards. The animal kingdom was also in a happy state. All animals were friendly one with another and lived on herbs (herbivorous).

### THE BLISSFUL STATE OF MAN PRIOR TO FALL

- a) God created man in His own image and according to His likeness. He gave dominion to man over the creation.
- b) The whole animal kingdom was subject to man and accepted His lordship (Gen. 1:30, 2:19).

- c) Man was so wise, that he could name all living creatures.
- d) God also gave man a free will. Man was able to choose either to live in harmony with the will of God or to act according to his own wish (Gen. 2:16-17). God wants us to love and obey Him on our own and not on compulsion.
- e) Man enjoyed constant fellowship with God (Gen. 3:8). He lived in the most beautiful and the happiest garden of Eden. There, in the garden, were plants and trees bearing fruits pleasing to the eye and good for food. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden: from there it divided into four headwaters (Gen. 2 : 8-14).
- f) Man was given the responsibility of dressing and guarding the garden.
- g) It was in this dispensation of innocence that God established marriage (Gen. 2 : 18 -25). Besides, God blessed him to be fruitful and to increase in number.

***Oh, How blessed was the man in the sinless age!***

### **TEST AND FAILURE :**

In the dispensation of innocence, God had given man a condition.

"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it, you will surely die" (Gen. 2:16- 17). This, was a simple test for man's obedience to God's commandment. But he failed in the test. Man disbelieved the true word of God and believed satan's lying words. The man and the woman ate the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6). They yielded to the temptation of lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and the pride of life. Thus man stepped out of God's will. The first man failed in his test.

### **THE CONSEQUENCE OF DISOBEDIENCE:**

When man disobeyed God's commandment, he was under God's judgement.

1. Man lost his likeness to God and the divine qualities (attributes), such as glory, justice, holiness etc (Gen. 3:7, Rom. 3:23). His divine image was disfigured and he bore the image of satan. Thus he became sinner.

2. Spiritual death: He died spiritually in the sense that he lost fellowship with God (Rom. 5 : 22)
3. Body became subject to death (Gen. 3:29).
4. They were expelled from Eden so that they might not eat the fruit of the tree of life and live forever . Re-entrance into the paradise was denied (Gen. 3:23, 24).
5. Man was punished to eat his food with the sweat on his brow and the woman was punished with increased pains in child bearing (Gen. 3:6-19).
6. The beautiful earth was cursed and became subject to Satan. Ever since, the world has been under the power of satan (1 Jn. 5:19).

### **THE PROMISE OF A DELIVERER :**

God, by His unlimited grace, made the plan for delivering man and He gave promises of the same beforehand. God promised that the Messiah would be born as the seed of the woman and would crush the head of satan (Gen. 3:15). God also covered them with coat of skin. This was a symbol or type of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and of the justification obtained through His precious blood.

How blessed was the state of man in the dispensation of innocence? When man lost those blessings by sin, Jesus Christ suffered death for us so that He might deliver us and get us to a much higher position than that of Adam. Christ is alive for us today. When He comes back He will make us partakers of His glory and honour. Do you have this faith and hope?

### **EXERCISE -2**

#### ***Answer the following questions***

1. Why did man become subject to God's curse?
2. Why did the earth become formless and empty?
3. How did God restore earth from this formless and empty state?
4. What was the state of man before fall?
5. What was the test laid by God before man in the dispensation of innocence?

6. What was the test given for?
7. How did man fail his test?
8. What were the consequences of man's disobedience?
9. How did man die spiritually?
10. Why was man expelled from Eden?
11. Why Christ had to suffer death?
12. What is our faith and hope?
13. God gave the promise of redemption to Adam and Eve. How?

