

The “Back Story” of the Gospel

Study #2

Q: Why did God create mankind?

Q: How has God’s original creation been changed and who changed it?

Q: How have the changes to God’s original creation affected you?

If you’re not familiar with how God’s story began, you may want to go back and read the first three chapters of Genesis.

Read [Gen. 1:31](#)

*“God saw all that he had made, and it was **very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.” (NIV)*

Q #1: In the beginning, God created a much different world than the one we live in now. What was “original creation” like when it was “very good”?

- [Gen. 1:26-30](#); [Gen. 3:8](#).

Q #2: What went wrong with original creation?

- [Gen. 2:15-16](#); [Gen. 2:18-22](#); [Gen. 3:1-7](#); [Gen. 3:13-20](#); [Gen. 3:22-24](#)

Q #3: God promised Adam he would die *WHEN* he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but Adam lived to be 930 years old ([Gen. 5:5](#)). How can we explain this?

Read [Rom. 5:12](#)

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—” (NIV)

Q #4: What is sin and why does everyone have to die just because Adam and Eve sinned?

- [1John 3:4](#); [1John 5:17](#); [John 8:34](#); [Romans 3:23](#);

TRUTH TO REMEMBER: Sin is a ruthless destroyer of God’s good creation!

Jesus said if we hold to His teaching we would know the truth and the truth will set us free ([John 8:30-31](#)). The truth is God never wanted you to live in a world like this. He wants you to live in His presence and to rule over His creation, reflecting His image into the world. In our next study, we’ll look at what God did to make things right, to redeem and restore His creation and set all of us free!

Notes:

Q #1: What was “original creation” like when it was “very good”?

- When God was finished His original creation, He had what He wanted: A man and a woman, created in His image (which means mankind was created to reflect God’s character and authority) and a perfect creation they could rule over and subdue (**Gen. 1:26**) in His name. God said it was “very good.”
- There was no death and no decay in the original creation. In fact, neither man nor animals killed for food - **Gen. 1:29-30**. And **God walked with man in the Garden (Gen. 3:8)** because there was nothing to separate God and man. **It was literally Heaven on Earth!**

Q #2: What went wrong with original creation?

- **Gen. 2:15-16** God told Adam he could eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- **Gen. 2:18-22** Adam needed help to be God’s image bearer, to work in and care for the garden and rule over God’s creation, so God made Eve. But Satan tricked Eve into thinking she couldn’t believe God’s word, so she ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and so did Adam (**Gen. 3:1-7**). Because they sinned, sin entered the world (**Rom. 5:12**).
- **Gen. 3:13-20** Sin brought curses on Satan, the woman, the earth, and Adam.
- **Gen. 3:22-24** God drove them out of the garden and kept them from the tree of Life.

Q #3: God promised Adam he would die *WHEN* he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but Adam lived to be 930 years old (**Gen. 5:5**). How can we explain this?

- **Physical death** happens when the soul or spirit of a person is separated from their body.
- **Spiritual death** happens when a person is separated from God, who is the source of life.
- Adam died *spiritually* the moment he disobeyed God by eating the fruit, and then he died *physically* when he was 930 years old.

Q #4: What is sin and why does everyone have to die just because Adam and Eve sinned?

- The Hebrew and Greek words translated as “sin” throughout the Bible, revolve around two major concepts:
 1. **Transgression**, which means “to step across” or “to go beyond a set boundary or limit.” “*Sin is lawlessness*” (**1John 3:4**)
 2. **Missing the mark**, like shooting and missing. “*All wrongdoing is sin*” (**1John 5:17**).
- Adam changed the earth we were created to live in by letting sin and death (both spiritual and physical) enter the world, which allowed the Dominion of Darkness take over.
 - In effect, by seeking a better life through sin, Adam and Eve surrendered their commission to rule the earth in God’s name as His image bearers and let sin and death take over (**Rom 5:14, 21**).
 - Living under the Dominion of Darkness, we all eventually sin and find ourselves separated from God (spiritually dead - **Romans 3:23**) and slaves of sin (**John 8:34**).