

God's Unfolding Promise

From Shadows to SONlight



Laurie Vanden Heuvel



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Published by First United Reformed Church, 6159 Riverside Drive, Chino, California, 91710. www.chinourc.org.

Distributed by Reformed Fellowship, Inc., 3363 Hickory Ridge Ct. SW, Grandville, MI 49418. Phone: 616.532.8510 | www.reformedfellowship.net | sales@reformedfellowship.net.

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Book design by Jeff Steenholdt/Erika De Vries. Illustrations by Jeff Steenholdt.

ISBN 978-0-9833291-1-4

Printed in the United States of America

INTRODUCTION

In Deuteronomy 6, God's faithful servant, Moses, gathered Israel together to bind on their hearts the duty to "love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your strength" (verse 5). The method he commanded for accomplishing this purpose was *teaching*. He said: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.... Be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (verses 6–9, 12).

As a parent, a pastor, a Sunday School or catechism teacher, does your heart stir within you when you read these words? Do you long to have it said of you what was said to Timothy about his mother and grandmother: "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and I am persuaded, now lives in you also.... Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14–15)?

Do you marvel at the faith and love of the child Moses for his God as he grew up in the palace of a pagan king? His mother had done her work well.

Does your heart "burn within you" when you remember the grieving men on the road to Emmaus that Easter night when the risen Lord appeared to them saying, " 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them *what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself* " (the Old Testament Scriptures—the only ones available at that time) (Luke 24:25–27)? Do we and our children really understand, do we really have a *working knowledge* of the *unity of the Scriptures* and how, from Genesis through Revelation, it is *all about Christ*?

It is these yearnings of our hearts that have propelled us to evaluate the instructional program for our covenant children and young people today. In a world filled with chaos and confusion, groaning with sin and sorrow, are our children *prepared intellectually*, by the "renewing of their minds," and *fortified spiritually* with repentance and faith and love toward God, to do "battle" for the Lord in their own lives and families, as well as in the world they will confront in their own living rooms, and in the marketplaces of ideas and commerce, in science and the arts, in medicine and the media, in education and politics?

By His Word, God created His universe and all that is in it, culminating in the crown of His creation – man. He immediately drew that man, Adam, into fellowship with Himself. That fellowship was a covenant – a relationship of love and life between God and the man He made. Faced with a test that God put before him, the first man, Adam, failed it and broke covenant with God by succumbing to Satan. He plunged his entire posterity into spiritual death.

In amazing grace, God reached down to intervene in human history, promising Someone who would crush Satan's head by obeying God's law perfectly, paying the price of sin, and

restoring man to *a new covenant* relationship with God (Genesis 3:15). That Someone was His own Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

As a further provision of His grace, our sovereign God arranged for a *revelation* of Himself and His design for the redemption and restoration of man. He equipped human writers with the inspiration of His Holy Spirit to write, without error, the unfolding plan of redemption culminating in the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son Jesus Christ. That record of redemption history is called—the BIBLE. It is not simply a collection of interesting stories, poetry, wisdom literature, prophecies, and letters. It is, rather, one complete scroll of a tightly woven fabric of people, events, and writings which gradually unveils the plan and work of our sovereign God to gather, out of the whole fallen human race, a covenant people for Himself that are redeemed by His Son and will live with Him and for Him through all eternity. The "shadows" of the Old Testament become reality in the SONlight of the New Testament. This explains the title of our book—GOD'S UNFOLDING PROMISE: From Shadows to SONlight.

This is the *perspective* from which the Bible must be taught, from the Sunday School nursery class to the seminary lecture hall. Of course, in all Christian education classrooms, there will be close examination of small segments of the Bible—verses, chapters, doctrines, and books—but all the teaching must be consciously done *within the framework of God's total self-revelation* contained in His Word—the Bible. Each lesson taught on any level must ask and answer these questions: What does this lesson teach about the sovereignty of God? What does this lesson teach about God's *covenantal dealings* with His people? What does this lesson teach about redemption through Christ?

The book you are about to study is the author's humble attempt to select material from Genesis through Revelation that will best demonstrate that framework. It is not exhaustive. Far from it. But it is my hope that, at the completion of the study, each student will be able to give a good account of the shadows and the SONlight. It is my prayer that, through this study, each student will be able to testify to spiritual growth—in knowledge, understanding, love for God, determination to serve Him, and a longing for an eternity to enjoy Him forever.

Laurie Vanden Heuvel

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my loving pastor-husband, Thomas C. Vanden Heuvel, whose love and preaching have been, for me, a refreshing fountain of spiritual nourishment for many years. I dedicate this book to our godly children, their godly spouses, and our God-fearing grandchildren and great-grandchild as a *legacy of faith* for future generations.

Our Children

Geoffrey and Darlene Vanden Heuvel Jane and Drew Jelgerhuis Joel and Deborah Vanden Heuvel James and Ruth Vanden Heuvel Jonathan and Vicki Vanden Heuvel

Our Grandchildren

Robert Vanden HeuvelJoanna Vanden HeuvelJulie BussisNathan Vanden HeuvelTracie BushnellCody Vanden HeuvelBrian Vanden HeuvelKyle Vanden HeuvelJessica JelgerhuisWhitney Vanden HeuvelRoss JelgerhuisSydney Vanden HeuvelKeeley JelgerhuisCarly Vanden Heuvel

Our Great-Grandson

Micah Alan Bussis

These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.

– Deuteronomy 6:6–7

GENERAL EDITOR'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people have contributed to the writing and preparation of this series of books, Life In Christ. I want to thank the council of the First United Reformed Church, Chino, California for their vision, love for the truth, and commitment to prepare these instructional materials for young people in accord with the glorious truths of God's Word and the Reformed confessions. The council and congregation have graciously granted me time away from many of my regular pastoral duties to work on this project over the past five years, and have prayed for and contributed significantly towards its completion. We thank the many congregations in the United Reformed federation who have made this curriculum possible by their faithful prayer and financial support, as well as their evaluations. I am grateful to each of the authors for diligently preparing these lessons written out of their experiences as pastors, teachers, and parents who show their deep love for the Word of God, our confessions, and young people and others who will benefit from their insights. I deeply appreciate the careful attention to details demonstrated by our editors, including Rev. Doug and Grace Barnes, Laura Darnell, Annette Gysen, Glenda Mathes, Dr. Scott Swanson, and Marcia Vander Pol who each had a part in editing various aspects of the curriculum. The input and leadership of the members of the Committee of Oversight have been very valuable. Members have included Dan Dundon, Mike Meeks, John Rietkerk, Stacy Soerens, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Larry Vanden Berge, and Wilma Van Dyk. Joan Dundon, our church secretary, has graciously contributed in far too many ways to list. Special thanks goes to Jeff Steenholdt and his staff, as well as Henry Gysen, for the wise counsel they have offered and the professional work they have accorded this project.

Above all others I am profoundly indebted to my loving wife, Faye, my constant companion and encourager, best friend, most valuable critic, and insightful editor, without whose help these volumes would not have been completed, and my children who also greatly encouraged me. I am especially grateful to my son, Timothy, who provided the original concept for the logo and contributed to the basic design of the covers. And most of all I thank our gracious God who gave me eternal life, though totally undeserving, this privilege to write and edit *Life In Christ*, a love for His Word and the confessions, and a deep interest in the history of God's people.

Rev. Ronald Scheuers January 2011

AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My most profound thanks goes to our almighty, Triune God: to the Father for His self-revelation and plan of redemption; to the Son for His perfect obedience to the law and His atoning sacrifice of Himself in our place; and to the Holy Spirit for His inspiration of the Word of God, and guidance of me as a servant-writer.

I thank God for my loving pastor-husband – his enthusiastic support, encouragement, listening ear, and watchful eye.

I thank my parents, now deceased, for their high regard for the Word of God and their solid endorsement of catechism as a systematic and effective way to learn and understand the Scriptures. Their weekly insistence on my thorough preparation for catechism class was a convincing proof to me, as a child, of the importance of mastering the truth of God's Word. I thank God for them.

I thank our five children, their spouses and families, for the sustained interest and encouragement given to me in the research and writing process of this book.

I thank the general editor, Rev. Ronald Scheuers, who gave so tirelessly of his time and talents to guarantee a curriculum that is biblically solid, thorough, well-written, illustrated, and personally challenging.

To God be the glory! Laurie Vanden Heuvel

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Many Books - One Message

Did you ever watch someone mix flour, baking powder, sugar, butter, eggs, milk, and maybe a few spices, and then pour the batter into a pan and pop it into the oven? Were you amazed when some time later, one tasty cake came out? Thanks to *many* different ingredients, you had *one* delicious dessert!

Think about the loveliest tree you have ever seen. It actually has many parts: leaves, branches, trunk, roots, and maybe fruit or flowers. But when you look at it, you are aware of its wholeness, its *oneness*—not its parts. *Many* parts but *one* beautiful tree.

Think about exciting music you have heard. How surprising that four families of instruments strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion—can combine to produce *one* impressive piece of music.

Think of the artist who mixes colored paints, textures, shapes, and sizes to produce *one* stunning picture.

Where are we going with this idea of *many* and *one*? We are comparing the Bible to ordinary things we experience every day. The Bible, given to us by the Holy Spirit, has *many* books—sixty-six to be exact—but *one message*: Jesus Christ.

The Bible has *many* kinds of writing—history, poetry, moral lessons, doctrines, promises, warnings, commands, and prophecies—but only *one message*: Jesus Christ.

The Bible has many authors—Moses, David, Isaiah, Paul, Peter, and many more—but only *one message*: Jesus Christ.

Jesus Himself made this point when He said in John 5:39, "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify *about me*." He was speaking of the Old Testament because those were the only Scriptures that existed at that time.

KEY WORDS AND CONCEPTS

Prophecy – A message received from God by one of His servants who then passes it on to the people.

Priesthood of Christ – An office Christ held in which He *became* the sacrifice and *made* the sacrifice for the sins of His people, and continues to intercede (pray) for them to the Father.

Eternity – An endless period, without time, when people will enjoy the presence of God in heaven forever, or suffer punishment in hell forever.

Patriarchs – Holy men of God who walked with God and spoke to Him and for Him to His people in Old Testament times, especially Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Messianic Prophecy – Prophecy about Christ.

RENEW YOUR MIND

Complete the following statements which show that Jesus Christ is the focus of the Bible.

1. Hebrews 1:2 teaches that Christ (the Son) was active in the Old Testament event of

2. Hebrews 1:3 teaches that Christ (the Son) was and is active in ______.

3. Hebrews 1:13–14 teach that Christ (the Son) is superior to the ______.

4. Hebrews 3:3 teaches that Jesus has been found______than Moses.

5. In talking about God's house, Hebrews 3:5–6 say that Moses was a _____

in God's house, but Christ was a _____ *over* God's house.

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

It may seem strange to you that our study of the *one message* of the Scriptures, Jesus Christ, should begin in the New Testament. Our subtitle—*From Shadows to SONlight*—would seem to imply that we will begin at the beginning, Genesis. There is good reason, however, for starting with this event in Luke. See if you can uncover it.

RENEW YOUR MIND

6. Read Luke 24:13–49. Then read the passage again. Place the following facts in order by putting a number from 1–10 in front of each one.

- a. _____ While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- b._____ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.
- c. _____ Two of them were going to a village called Emmaus.
- _____ "The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and d.____ repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name."
- e._____ The travelers said, "We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."
- f. _____ "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"
- Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still g.___ with you. Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."
- h._____ Jesus said, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"
- i. _____ Jesus came up and walked along with them.
- j. _____ Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

What activity did Jesus do two times in this passage? He opened the Scriptures twice to show how they speak of Him. That is why we are starting with this New Testament event. It is clear from this story that Moses, the Prophets, the Law, and the Psalms all testify to Jesus Christ. How wonderful it would have been to hear Jesus "open the Scriptures." But we have the written Word, the Bible. Let's see what it says about Christ.



7. Below are some of the Old Testament prophecies about Christ (Messianic prophecies). Read each one and write the words that tell us about Jesus.

- Isaiah 7:14
- Isajah 9:2

Isaiah 9:6–7
Isaiah 11:1
Isaiah 11:10
Isaiah 53 (choose four)
Micah 5:2
Micah 5:4–5a
Zechariah 9:9
Zechariah 12:10
Malachi 3:1

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS Scripture: Luke 16:19–31

In the first half of this parable, we see the selfish rich man and the beggar. Both men were living on earth. In the second half, we see each man in eternity. Lazarus the beggar was in heaven (verse 22). The selfish rich man was in hell (verse 23).

The selfish rich man made two requests of Father Abraham. He first asked that Lazarus be sent to cool his tongue, for he was in pain from the flame of hell. Abraham said no because the selfish rich man had shared none of his comforts with Lazarus on earth. Abraham also reminded the selfish rich man of the big gap between heaven and hell, which no one can cross.

Then the selfish rich man asked that Lazarus go to earth to warn the rich man's brothers that hell was real.

Abraham answered, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them." Could the rich man's brothers have learned from Moses and the Prophets the way of salvation and the requirements of a godly life? They certainly could have. But the rich man thought a personal visit from Lazarus to his brothers would do more than the Scriptures. Abraham said, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Because the Bible is God's Word and Christ is the central message of that Word, we have a responsibility to *listen* to, *believe*, and *obey* that Word. Refusing to do this has tragic results.

STORE UP TREASURE

Acts 10:43

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Luke 24:44

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Heidelberg Catechism

19Q. How do you come to know this [Mediator, Jesus Christ]?

A. The holy gospel tells me. God himself began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; later, he proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs and prophets, and portrayed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; finally, he fulfilled it through his own dear Son.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

3Q. What do the Scriptures principally teach?A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

LESSON 2

Paradise Created, Lost, and Reclaimed

There is a story about a little boy who designed and built a small sailboat. Eagerly he placed it in the river and watched it float smoothly downstream. As he ran on the bank beside it, he spotted heaps of stones in the water. The quiet current of the river changed into a wild tempest that stretched ahead as far as the boy could see. His little boat flew through the air, crashed on the rocks, and disappeared under the rapids, bobbing up now and then until finally it was out of sight. The boy ran to catch up as fast as his little legs could carry him, but the boat was lost. Sadly the boy went home.

One day as he was walking by a shop in town, he saw his repaired boat in the window for sale. He dashed into the shop and shouted at the shopkeeper, "Sir, that's my boat in the window. I built it. I lost it in the rapids, and I'm here to pick it up!"

"I'm sorry," said the shopkeeper sternly. "That boat belongs to me, and you will have to buy it."

The boy hurried home and emptied his piggy bank. He rushed back to the shop and bought his boat that he had made. As he left the shop, he hugged his boat and said, "Now you are twice mine—I *made* you, and I *bought* you."

Although this little story cannot be compared to creation and redemption in every detail, it does capture the central idea of our lesson. God says about His children whom He loves, "Now you are *twice mine*. I *made* you, and I *bought* you!"

KEY WORDS AND CONCEPTS

Redemption – The act of Christ by which He bought back His children.

Imputation – The act of God by which He places Adam's sin on the record of every human being (except Christ), and places Christ's perfect obedience on the record of His believers.

Second Adam – Refers to Jesus Christ who came to undo what Adam did by dying on the cross, and to do what Adam did not do by keeping the Law perfectly.

Triune God – Refers to our one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Cultural Mandate – The responsibilities God gave to Adam at creation to care for and rule over the creation for His glory.

PARADISE CREATED

Scripture: Genesis 1 and 2 and John 1:1–3

The first two chapters of Genesis give us the beautiful story of the creation of our world: its sky, water, land, vegetation, and creatures, as well as the crown of all creation, man. Genesis tells the story of paradise, the perfect place where God lived with His people.

Sadly, today many people do not believe this description of the origin of the world. If they were to believe it, they would have to serve the Creator of it all, and they will not do this.

The Bible does not tell us everything we may want to know about creation. However, the Bible clearly tells us certain facts about the creation that may not be questioned.

1. The world was created in six creation days (Genesis 1). This is very clear from the words "first day" (verse 5); "second day" (verse 8); "third day" (verse 13); "fourth day" (verse 19); "fifth day" (verse 23); and "sixth day" (verse 31). It is confirmed in the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:11: "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them."

2. The world was created by God's command. Psalm 33:6a says, "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth." Psalm 33:9 declares, "For he spoke and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm." Hebrews 11:3 tells us, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

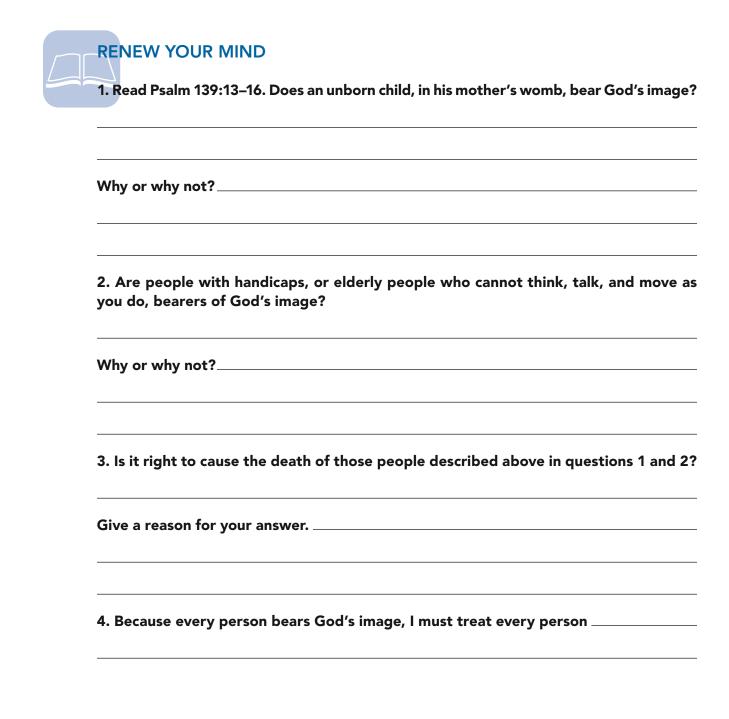
3. Different kinds of plants and animals were created "according to their kind" (Genesis 1:11–25). They did not develop from one creature as the theory of evolution teaches. First Corinthians 15:39 tells us, "All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another."

4. The creation involved each person of the Trinity. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Father made the creation by His power. Then verse 2 indicates that the Holy Spirit gave life to the creation by "hovering over the waters." John 1:3 teaches that, "Through him [Christ] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." The Triune God made Adam, for Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, 'Let *us* make man in *our* image, in *our* likeness.'"

5. God created man to be different from the animals. We are human beings, not animals. We did not come from animals. The Bible says that God created the other living creatures "according to their kinds." But the Bible says that God created man "in his own image." This cannot be said of anything else God created.

6. God created man in His image. When we look into a mirror, we see our image or reflection. As God's image we reflect what God is like in some ways. God is holy, and Adam was holy. God made Adam to have perfect friendship with Him. The Lord rules over all things, and Adam was given the task of ruling over God's creation for His glory (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8). This task of ruling God's creation is often called the "cultural mandate." God gave man the command, or *mandate*, to care for and rule over the earth for Him. As ruler, man uses science and technology to care for the earth and develop it. Man also uses the creation to express himself artistically. In addition, each person is created with a soul and an eternal future. The animals are not given these gifts. Only people are made in God's image.

7. When God finished His work of creation, He called it "very good" (Genesis 1:31). This means it was perfect in every way.



5. According to Genesis 2:2–3, what did God do on the seventh day?_____

6. Does Genesis 2:2–3 mean that God stopped working forever?_____

Explain your answer.

7. Because we have been given the cultural mandate, what responsibilities do we have toward the earth, animals, and plants?

PARADISE LOST

Scripture: Genesis 3

When God placed Adam and Eve in their home, the Garden of Eden, He tested them with a command. He said, "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." If they disobeyed God's command, someday they would die physically. But they would also die spiritually as soon as they sinned. Their friendship with God would be broken. Their minds and hearts would be sinful and evil. They would be guilty before God for their sin. Rather than loving God, they would hate Him. This is spiritual death. And unless someone would save them from God's wrath against their sin, they would spend eternity in hell.

A very sad and tragic thing happened in God's good creation. Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44), lied to Eve in order to destroy God's creation. The story of Satan's temptation included at least six parts:

- Doubt "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
- **Deceit** "You will not surely die . . . For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Satan did not tell Eve that she would *become* evil.
- **Discussion** Eve made the mistake of discussing the issue with Satan. She should have refused to talk with him.
- **Desire** Eve's discussion with Satan created a desire for the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:6 says, "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom" Sin is always attractive and appeals to our pride.

- Deed "She took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband . . . and he ate it."
- **Death** When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree, they brought physical and spiritual death to the entire human race. Because God had appointed Adam to represent us, when Adam fell into sin, we all inherited his sinful nature. We all stand guilty before God and need the Savior.

After this tragic event, God confronted Adam and Eve in the Garden. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. But God did not accept either explanation. He punished each of them. As a result of their sin, Eve would have pain in childbirth, and Adam would experience weariness from his work. Both of them would return to the dust from which they were made. It was a very sad day for Adam and Eve!

It was also a sad day for us. This is because Adam's sin was imputed to us. Imputation means Adam's sin was written on our records, and God regards each of us as guilty of his first sin. Adam and Eve needed the Savior. We all do! We are like the boat that the boy lost in our opening story. We need the Savior to buy us back or redeem us. We need Christ to give us eternal life. We also need Him to clear our sinful records in heaven because Adam's first sin was put on our accounts. God wipes our sinful records clean because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Then He places Jesus' perfect obedience on our records in heaven. God *imputes* Jesus' perfect work to all who repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. So, *imputation* works two ways: Adam's sin is imputed (applied) to every person born into this world (except Christ); Christ's righteousness is imputed (credited) to all those who repent of their sins and believe in Him.

PARADISE RECLAIMED

Scripture: Genesis 3:15

God cursed Satan. As He did, God also provided the very first promise of a Savior or Messiah (Genesis 3:15). He promised that the "seed of the woman," one of her descendants, would someday crush the "head of the serpent," putting an end to his evil plans. This "seed of the woman" is our Savior, Jesus Christ. This promise is often called the "Mother Promise." This promise of Genesis 3:15 *reclaimed* paradise but did not yet *regain* it. Regaining it would require the birth, perfect obedience, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paradise will be completely *regained* when Christ comes again the second time. What a precious and important promise this is!

The rest of the Old Testament points to Christ. If it were not for this promise and God's faithfulness in fulfilling it, we would have no hope for eternal life. This promise is the first ray of hope that will lead to the SONlight, the appearance of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

RENEW YOUR MIND

In order for Christ to save His people from their sin, He had to obey God perfectly, something that Adam didn't do. Before Jesus began His public ministry, the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Read the story in Luke 4:1–13 and complete the questions below.

8. Satan, the tempter, asked Jesus to do three things. List them below.

a			
b			
C			
9. In verses 5–7, 9	Satan lied when he sa	id,	
Satan's strategy	-	ceit, Discussion, Desire, Deed, and Death) of word where it fits in this description of Satan's as with a "d."	
Satan tried d	and d	when he tempted Jesus. Although Satan	
had a d	with Jesus, he was unsuccessful in causing d,		
d	, and d	Jesus silenced the devil each time by	

Jesus is called the "second Adam." Adam gave in to the devil's temptations. Christ fully resisted the devil's temptations. He did what Adam *did not do* (obey God perfectly). He also came to *undo* what Adam did (by dying for our sins on the cross). Because of Christ's work, God can say to His children, "Now you are twice mine. I *made* you, and I *bought* you."

RENEW YOUR MIND

In this lesson there are important doctrines, or teachings, in the Bible stories. Other parts of the Bible speak of these same doctrines. In the activity below, before each Scripture text, write the letter for the doctrine that text contains.

1 Corinthians 15:39	A. The world was created by God's command.
Psalm 33:6, 9	B. Man rules creation (cultural mandate).
Genesis 3:15	C. Adam's sin is imputed to us.
2 Corinthians 5:21	D. Christ's perfect work is imputed to His children.
Romans 5:12	E. Man bears God's image.
Genesis 1:27	F. God created "according to their kind," not by evolution.
Genesis 1:28	G. God gave the Mother Promise.

STORE UP TREASURE

1 Corinthians 15:39

All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another, and fish another.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Romans 5:19

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Heidelberg Catechism

6Q. Did God create man so wicked and perverse? **A. No. God created man good and in his own image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness.**

Westminster Shorter Catechism

1Q. How did God create man?A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

13Q. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created? **A.** Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

16Q. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression? **A.** The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Life in Christ

Instructional Materials for Young People

INTERMEDIATE

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God's Unfolding Promise: From Shadows to SONlight A Course that Traces God's Covenant History of Redemption from Genesis Through Revelation

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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