

**GOD'S PLAN OF RESTORATION**

God's holy Bible begins and ends with a perfect world. A study of the first two chapters of Genesis leads us to ask, "What ever happened to it? Why would anyone ever want it different?" A study of the last two chapters of Revelation forces us to admit that we surely are not there yet. The daily news--in the paper, on the radio or television--is surely not like the conditions described in God's perfect world to come.

What happened back in the beginning? How can the conditions we live in today be changed? How can I personally be qualified to be a citizen in the land that Revelation 21 and 22 talk about? Can I do anything about it now? Let's try to put real "flesh" on the bony structure of lesson one.

1. When we read Genesis 1 and 2, it is plain that man was in harmony with God, that there was no barrier between them. Imagine being in your garden and having God come there and talk with you! What was the one condition for things remaining that way there in that garden of Eden? Genesis 2:15-17. Summarize it in your own words.
  - (a) Why was there such a tree? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) What point did God make very clear? \_\_\_\_\_
2. But Adam and Eve disobeyed. Scripture calls it "sin." Read the story of the first sin: Gen. 3:1-6. What does this passage tell us about why they did this, especially when their wonderful God was perfect love?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The tempter promised Eve that she would gain something by disobeying God. Read Genesis 3:8-24 and as you read, list some of the things that she and Adam lost. What is the one "key" thing that they lost?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Could what we have just read and written be the source of the saying, "Sin doesn't pay?" Read Gen. 4:1-8 and 6:5,6 and see how quickly and how far the human race went down hill after being separated from God. In what ways was mankind affected by this course of "deterioration?"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Aren't we all glad that our story does not end here? If it did, we would all face only a very dark future, for we all have sinned (Romans 3:23). But where does the Bible point every one of us?

- (a) Review Psalm 119:11, 105 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Psalm 16:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) John 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_
6. In John 8:12, Jesus calls Himself "the light of the world." In John 1:9 John called Jesus the "true light." How does Luke summarize His work?
- (a) Luke 5:30-32 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Luke 19:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ alone can "heal" the disease of sin, the inability to love, and set us back on the track that He originally planned for mankind. Read ever so carefully John 13:35; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a; 1 John 4:8-11.
7. In addition to helping us love again, our blessed Lord plans to "restore" everything to us that was lost when Adam and Eve sinned back in the beginning. God plans an end to all deterioration and a wonderful restoration to the image of God. (Review Genesis 1:26,27.) Make a list of some of the many things that He promises to restore to us, if we accept His Son and follow His will.
- (a) Revelation 21:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Revelation 21:3,23 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Revelation 21:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Revelation 22:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Revelation 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Memorize the Bible's greatest promise to all of us: John 3:16.

