

What Went Wrong?



SABBATH—MARCH 27

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Psalm 100:3; Acts 17:26; Genesis 1:28, 29; Genesis 3:15.

MEMORY VERSE: “Then God said, ‘Now let’s make humans who will be like [very much the same as] us.’ . . . So God created [made] humans in his own image [a copy of God]. He created [made] them to be like [very much the same as] himself. He created [made] them male and female” (Genesis 1:26, 27, ERV).



God does not make anything else that looks the same as Himself. Only humans.

THE BIBLE tells us the story about how human life started. This story is filled with hope, happiness, and a perfect earth. God made the earth in six days. At the end of each day, God announces that everything He makes is good. For sure, this good work does not include storms, earthquakes, food shortages, and sickness.

So, what went wrong?

After the 6th day, God says that everything He makes is very good. On that day God makes humans. These humans are a copy of God. God does not make anything else that looks the same as Himself. Only humans. The first humans are perfect in every way. Of course they are! They are copies of God, right? These first humans are not killers, robbers, liars, or cheaters. So, if God did not make these evil people, why is the earth filled with them now?

This week, we will read the story in Genesis about how God makes the earth and the sky. Then we will study what happens to that perfect earth. Finally, we will look at what God is doing to make things right again.

HOW DID WE GET HERE? (Genesis 1:1)

“In the beginning God created [made] the sky and the earth” (Genesis 1:1, ICB).

We all live on this earth. Sure, no one chose to be here. But why are we here? How did we get here? Where are we all going to end up?

These questions are the most basic questions about life that people ask. The questions, Who are we? and How did we get here? are important. Our answers help us decide how we will behave while we live on this earth.

Read these verses: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 40:28; Acts 17:26; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2, 10. How does each verse answer some of the questions we asked in the paragraph above? What do all these verses show us about God?

Do you see that Genesis 1:1 and all the other verses do not try to explain or prove that God made the earth? The verses simply say that God made the earth and the sky. The Bible expects us to accept this Bible truth. Faith is the only way that we can accept what the Bible says. We must accept the Bible story about how life started for one simple reason: no human was there to see God make the sky and the earth. That was not possible. So, we must accept in faith what the Bible says about how life on earth started. People who do not believe in God also must have faith for the same reason that we do. No human was there to see how life started.

God asks us to believe that He made us. But He does not ask us to believe without giving us good reasons to believe. That is why faith is so important. Write down reasons why it makes sense for us to believe that we are here because God has a plan for our lives. Why does that idea make more sense than believing that we are here because of chance or by accident?



Faith is the only way that we can accept what the Bible says.

A COPY OF GOD (Genesis 1:27)

The Bible says that God made the first man and woman “in his own image [a copy of God]” (Genesis 1:27, ERV). Think some more about this idea. Then answer the questions:



Our minds make it possible for us to have a close and loving friendship with God.

1. What does this verse mean? How are we the same as a copy of God?

2. Read Genesis 1. Does the Lord make anything else “in his own image [a copy of Himself]” (Genesis 1:27, ERV)? Or, are humans the only ones who are copies of God? If yes, then how does that make us special? Why are we more special than anything else that God made? What does this teach us?

3. Look at Genesis 1 again. What else in this story shows us that humans are the most special thing that God makes?

We must use human language to talk about God. But when we do, let us remember that God is a spiritual Person (John 4:24). He is holy, too. Much of God is a mystery to us. All we can say now is that our bodies, minds, and spirits show in some way who God is. Our minds make it possible for us to have a close and loving friendship with God. Other things that God made cannot have this friendship.

Do you see in Genesis, how God makes woman? Both men and women are copies of God. Do you also see that God makes the man and the woman equal? God Himself makes both Adam and Eve from things that come from the earth. This shows that God makes them both equal from the start. God puts the man and the woman together in a special friendship with Him. Both Adam and Eve have the same chance to become the same as God in their hearts. We do, too. Being like God in our hearts is how we give glory to God.

“God Himself gives Adam a female companion who is the perfect match for him. God also makes Eve to help Adam. Eve can love Adam and care for him. Eve is made from a rib that God takes from the side of Adam. This shows us that she must not control Adam. But Adam must not control Eve. God does not view her as lower than her husband. God made her to stand by the side of her husband. Eve is the equal of Adam. His job is to love and protect Eve.”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 46, adapted.

GOD AND HUMANS TOGETHER (Genesis 1:28, 29)

Let us look at the first words in the Bible that God says to humans. What does God say? First, God talks about humans and babies. Humans can make more humans. God made them that way. God also talks about the earth that He made. Then God tells humans to fill it, control it, and to be good managers of everything He made. God also talks about the plants that humans can eat. What do all these words show us? God cares about the needs of the man and the woman. God also puts them in charge of everything He made.

What does Genesis 1:28, 29 show us that God thinks about all the beautiful things He made? Do the verses show us that these things are somehow bad? Are we wrong to enjoy them? What do these verses teach us about how we should feel about all the beautiful things that God made?

Genesis 1:28, 29 show that friendship between God and humans starts with God. God leads the way. God talks to the man and the woman. He gives them commands. He tells them what to do. God gives the man and woman work. God makes the first humans His managers. They are responsible for everything that God made on the earth.

Genesis 1:28 says that God blesses Adam and Eve. What does that mean? What does this show us about the friendship that Adam and Eve have with God?

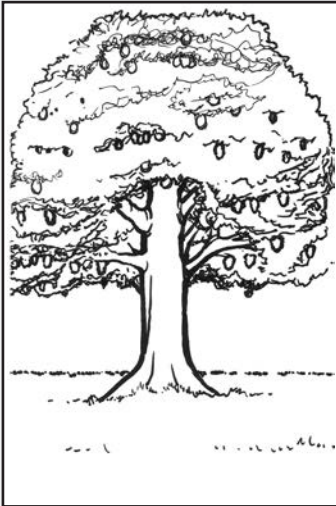
Do you see that God talks to Adam and Eve as if they are very smart? Why should God bother doing this at all if He does not want humans to be close to Him? This shows Adam and Eve that God wants to be friends with them. Adam and Eve must depend upon God for His blessings and care. They are His children. He gives them everything they need. They do not do anything to earn the gifts that God gives them. God simply gives these gifts to them because He loves them.

The Bible shows us that God wants to be close to humans before sin happened. We also can see that God wants to be very close to humans after sin came. What did you learn today that helps you understand how much God wants to be your Friend right now, too?



God cares about the needs of the man and the woman.

AT THE TREE (Genesis 2:16, 17)



“Do not eat from the forbidden tree.”

In Genesis 2:16, 17, we read about a test that God gives to Adam and Eve. The test God gives Adam and Eve will show how much they love God. The test also shows that God made Adam and Eve free. God gives Adam and Eve the freedom to choose between right and wrong. This power to choose is named free will. What if God did not allow Adam and Eve to disobey Him? Then Adam and Eve are not really free. If Adam and Eve do not have free will, God will not need to warn them not to disobey Him.

“Everything that happens before Genesis 2:16, 17 leads to this important test. The future of the human family depends on what Adam and Eve choose to do. God does not make the test hard. He makes the test about only one thing. This simple test shows the mercy of God. Then God makes the test really easy. How? God gives Adam and Eve permission to eat from all the other trees in the garden.”—H. C. Leopold, *Exposition of Genesis* (Columbus, OH: Wartburg Press, 1942), volume 1, page 127, adapted.

What does the command of God to Adam and Eve show them? The command shows that God is saying, “I am the One who made you. You are a copy of Me. I make your life possible. I am the reason you live, breathe, and move your body. I gave you everything you need to live a good and happy life. I gave you food, a home, and friendship. I made you the king and queen of this earth under Me. If you love Me, you will accept My offer of a special friendship with Me. Then I will be your God. You will be My children. You can show Me how much you love Me and trust Me. How? By obeying this one easy command I give you: Do not eat from the forbidden tree.”

In the end, our friendship with God can continue and be a success only if we choose to accept His plan for us. When we turn away from His plan, we show that we want to be free from Him. We show that we do not need Him. That choice will bring us the knowledge of evil. Evil will separate us from God and end in suffering and death.

The test God gave Adam and Eve is about trust. Will Adam and Eve be loyal to God, who gave them everything? Or will they go their own way? Will they have enough faith to believe God and do what He says? Do we face these same tests today? If yes, what tests are they?

THE BROKEN FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD (Genesis 3:1–6)

For the most part, we believe the people we know. We normally do not trust people we do not know. So, Eve should not trust Satan. Anything Satan does to attack God will turn Eve against Satan. So, what does Satan do to trick Eve into trusting him? (Read Genesis 3:1–6 for the answer.)

“Eve sinned. Her sin is awful. Her wrong choice will no doubt bring suffering to the whole human family in the future. But her choice does not mean that the whole human family must be punished for her sin. The choice of Adam is different. Adam fully understands the command of God is not to eat the forbidden fruit. Adam chooses to disobey God and eat the fruit anyway. His choice, and not the choice of Eve, makes sin and death a part of life for every human on earth. Why? The answer is simple. Eve believes the lies of Satan. Adam does not.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 1, page 231, adapted.

What happens after Adam chooses to disobey God? The friendship breaks between God and all humans. Before sin, Adam and Eve talk with God face to face. Now they run away from Him and hide in fear (Genesis 3:8–10). Sin separates humans from God. Fear replaces love for God. Sin now is part of every human life. All the ugly things that sin causes are part of human lives, too. If God does not do something, the human family will be lost forever.

What promise does God make to give hope to His children after they sin? (Read Genesis 3:15.)

God gives Adam and Eve a surprising message about the future. He says that He will put hate between the snake and the woman and between her children and the children of the snake. This hate will continue until One comes who is a future Child of the woman. This future Child is Jesus. He will hit the snake hard on the head. The snake is a word picture for Satan. The blow from the Child will be strong enough to kill the snake. But Satan, the snake, cannot kill Jesus. Satan will hurt His heel only a little.

God gives Adam and Eve this promise to give them hope. The promise of Jesus and His win over Satan and sin changes the lives of Adam and Eve forever. The hope this promise gives them removes the fear from their hearts put there by sin.



Before sin, Adam and Eve talk with God face to face. Now they run away from Him and hide in fear.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: The Bible is filled with invitations from God to sinners to come back to Him. Read about some of these examples in Psalm 95:7, 8; Isaiah 55:1, 2, 6, 7; Luke 15:3–7; and Luke 19:10. What other invitations from God to sinners can you find in the Bible?

Read Ellen G. White, “The Creation,” pages 44–51; “The Temptation and Fall,” pages 52–62; and “The Plan of Redemption,” pages 63–70, in *Patriarchs and Prophets*.

“Adam and Eve run away from God. So, God goes looking for them. His question reaches the couple where they hide in the bushes: ‘Where are you?’ This question is really a sermon about the Good News. The Good News is that God does not want to lose Adam or Eve. He goes looking for them. In the same way, God will come in the Person of Jesus to find and save lost sinners.”—Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Treasury of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1962) Old Testament, volume 1, page 11, adapted.



“God will come in the Person of Jesus to find and save lost sinners.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① God is kind and caring. That is why He goes looking for sinners. He wants to save us. How can we answer this love from the Father and Jesus Christ today? How does the Lord expect us to answer Him?
- ② The Bible teaches that humans fell away from God and their perfect life in the Garden of Eden. Popular science teaches a different story: that humans come from apes. Which idea offers us more hope, and why?
- ③ Why are loving friendships and close connections with other people so important to us? Why is a living connection to God necessary to our other friendships? Think about your connections with parents, children, friends, your wife or husband, boss, and coworkers. How do these healthy friendships and connections make our lives better?

Summary: God made humans as copies of Himself. He wanted a loving friendship with us. But sin came and destroyed the connection between God and humans. God wants to heal His broken friendship with us and save us from sin. We depend on God for our life. We will understand what life really means when we become friends with the One who gives us life.

FIRST DEAF STUDENT STUDYING TO BE A PASTOR AT MONTEMORELOS UNIVERSITY

When I was a baby, my mother found out I was deaf. We lived in Merida, Mexico, at the time. When Mother spoke my name, I did not hear her.

Mother asked for help when I was two years old. She sent me to a special-needs school. The teacher there taught me sign language. She also showed me how to speak. She taught me the sounds of letters and words. I put my hand to her throat when she spoke. Then I tried to make the same sound with my own throat.

I went to a deaf school for two hours every day. I also studied at an Adventist school for two hours daily. The church school taught me how to read and write. Most important, the school taught me about God.

I went to the Adventist school until I was eight years old. But the school did not have teachers who knew sign language. So, Mother sent me to a public school with teachers who knew sign language.

The first time I met other deaf Adventist young people was at a big meeting at Linda Vista Adventist University. It was wonderful to meet other Adventist young people with the same needs I had. I was invited to come to this meeting every week for two years. Then our church leaders in Mexico started a special-needs meeting at Montemorelos University in Monterrey, Mexico. At the meeting, I decided to study to be a pastor. But I did not have enough money to afford school.

At the end of the meeting, the university president made an announcement. The president was Ismael Castillo. President Castillo asked, "Do any of you want to study here?"

President Castillo offered a gift of money from the university. The gift paid for a student to study there for free. Then I knew for sure that God wanted me to be a pastor. I stood up and accepted the invitation from the president.

I am the first deaf student studying to be a pastor at Montemorelos University. I am in my second year there. No one knows sign language, so it is hard. I study very hard, too. I try to read the lips of my teachers. I failed several classes my first year. So, I must take those classes again.

I already led several meetings for the deaf in different cities. I led a meeting in Mexico City. Churches with deaf people invite me to preach.

I want to finish school and be a pastor. I dream about going to Spain to tell the deaf about Jesus. Please pray for the deaf. Deaf people have dreams, too. We want to do big things for the Lord.

INSIDE
Story

by JOSE RODRIGO MARTINEZ PATRON



My mother sent me to a special-needs school. The teacher there taught me sign language.

