THE DEVASTATING CATASTROPHE

Sin is catastrophic on many levels: One of the ways is that it poses a serious challenge to God’s goal and method of education. As seen last week, the purpose of education was for Adam and Eve to reflect the image of God in every facet of their being. To accomplish this, God created them capable of development, both in capacity (quantity) and in vigor (quality). These two ingredients were necessary for the first human pair to fulfill their purpose of reflecting the image of God—they needed “equipment” that was capable of development, as well as the “time” (eternity) to develop.

If our first parents had bodies that could develop infinitely but did not have an infinite amount of time to develop, this would prevent them from fulfilling their goal of education. Equally, if they could live forever, but had a limited capacity to grow, it would be impossible for them to achieve God’s purpose for them—even if they could sustain the perfection which they possessed at creation. Although suffering these two consequences of sin would have made it impossible for Adam and Eve to accomplish the object of their creation, their situation was far more critical.

Sin almost obliterated the entire image of God from humanity. It not only impeded progress, but it caused degeneration. It damaged the four areas of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, making godliness a near impossibility.

How would God answer this devastating problem? He institutes a redemptive system of education! In a provisional and experimental time period, humanity would have the ability to live a life of righteousness by faith in a Redeemer.
Write out Genesis 3:1–15 from the translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, you may write out Genesis 3:6–9. You may also re-write the passage in your own words, outline, or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Genesis 3:1–15. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

How have you experienced God’s wisdom, power, and love through Jesus Christ?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/edu03-3
Knowing God as Redeemer

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What aspects of Satan’s worldview from Eden need to be removed from your mindset?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/edu03-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Romans 6:23
Isaiah 59:2
Ephesians 1:7–10

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with how God redeems us?

Where do you see Jesus in Genesis 3:1–15?

In what ways have you seen the battle for your mind occur between Christ and the world?

What is Jesus saying to you through the main text?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/edu03-6
Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What practical applications must you make regarding your worldviews?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/edu03-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Describe a hypothetical scenario of having the capability for development but not enough time.

Describe another scenario of having enough time, but not the capability for development.

How has sin almost obliterated the image of God in humanity? Why is it “almost”?

Name aspects of the worldview presented by Satan in Genesis 3 also found in contemporary worldviews.

How do modern theories and values of education reflect God’s values?

How do modern theories and values of education reflect Satan’s values?

How are redemption and education linked?