



# FIRST STEPS

STUDIES TO BEGIN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST  
By Marlon Furtado

## *“Gospel Foretold in OT”*

## Sin's Entrance

The Gospel is the greatest story in all of history. The word "gospel" means *good news* and this good news began shortly after the creation of mankind. It is good news in response to the bad news that all of mankind is doomed to death because of our sin.

We don't know how long it was after Adam and Eve were created that sin entered the picture. But while Adam was alone, before Eve was created, God had told him in **Genesis 2:16-17**, "*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.*" Adam was responsible to communicate that restriction to Eve and to make sure they never ate of that tree.

However, **Genesis 3:1-12** records the events of that fateful day when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Read it and then answer the questions below.

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."*

1. Who was this serpent? (see **Revelation 12:9**)
2. Satan wanted Eve to doubt God's goodness. What did he claim was God's *real* reason for restricting them from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
3. Where was Adam all this time satan was tempting his wife?
4. How did they attempt to cover their guilt?
5. God attempted to talk with them as usual. How did their sin affect their response to His approach?



# God's Immediate Responses to Sin Is the Gospel

## First Response

God was not caught unaware by man's sin. While He never wanted it to happen, He was fully aware that it would. And knowing that mankind would disobey, God developed His rescue Plan of Redemption before He ever made our universe. **1 Peter 1:18-20** reveals this truth that Jesus, in eternity past, was prepared to come as our Savior.

*"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake."*

That's hard to understand, but God is never caught off guard. As soon as man sinned, He began to reveal glimpses of the Gospel. The first one is contained in His guaranteed curse of the devil in **Genesis 3:15**.

*"And I will put enmity [hatred, animosity] between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

This verse is often called the **protoevangelium**, meaning "the first good news." This is the immediate promise that God made, revealing His solution to man's sin problem. This is the first peek into God's plan that would ultimately bring us to the crucifixion of Jesus. This Man will Himself suffer death when He deals the death-blow to satan.

## Second Response

The second peek into the Gospel is just a few verses later, recorded in **Genesis 3:21**, *"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."* This was the first death in the history of the world. And God slew this animal to provide garments in place of the fig leaves Adam and Eve used to cover their nakedness. God killed an innocent animal to reveal that death was the terrible consequence of our sin. But here an innocent one could be their substitute. Centuries later, the innocent Jesus would be the substitute for all of us.

## Snapshots of the Gospel throughout the Old Testament

Throughout the Old Testament, God provides snapshots and clues as to the identity and work of this Man who will crush satan's head. They are referred to as shadows, being glimmers of things to come, but not the substance itself. The events and rituals gave an idea of the Savior's work, but only when Jesus came were the shadows replaced with the reality of His presence.

**Colossians 2:17** *"These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ."*

**Hebrews 10:1** *"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship."*

### Genesis 6 - ARK

As man began to multiply, so did his sin. Eventually man's wickedness became so bad that God decided to send a world-wide flood to destroy every living person and animal on the earth. To give man an opportunity to be saved from His judgment, He commanded Noah and his sons to build a huge boat called the **Ark**. God guided two of every animal to the Ark to preserve them through the year-long flood. God gave the opportunity for anyone to escape His coming judgment by entering the Ark. But Noah and his wife and their three sons and daughters-in-law were the only ones that boarded the Ark before the flood began. The Ark is a picture of Jesus. God's coming judgment of sin is sure. Jesus is the only means to escape that judgment of God.

## Exodus 12 - PASSOVER

The Jewish people had been slaves in Egypt for 450 years. God calls a man named Moses to lead them out to freedom. God sends a series of 10 plagues, the last one finally convincing the Pharaoh of Egypt to let them leave. The last plague is called the **Passover**. That night the angel of death would kill the firstborn of every household in Egypt. The only way to escape God's judgment was to kill an innocent lamb and smear its blood across the doorway of the home. Then the angel of death would **Pass over** that house and the child would live. It was a picture of the Gospel. When we place our faith in Jesus, His blood covers us and God's judgment for our sins Passes Over us.

## Leviticus 1 - SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

The day following the Passover, all the Jewish people exited Egypt. Before settling in a new country, God gave them His laws for how to conduct life. Along with these, God provided a variety of sacrifices to cover sin and maintain a daily relationship with Him. One of the distinguishing marks of these sacrifices is that they had to be without blemish or defect. This pictured the Gospel because Jesus was both *innocent* and *sinless*. **1 Peter 1:18** says, *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."*

## Leviticus 16 - DAY OF ATONEMENT

God instituted a number of annual feasts for the Israelites to celebrate His goodness to them. But the **Day of Atonement** was more special than all the rest. Each year Israel looked forward to the Day of Atonement because God would wipe the slate clean of their sin to give them a fresh start with Him. Two goats would be offered to the Lord. One of them would be sacrificed and its blood offered as a substitutionary sacrifice for the peoples' sins. The other goat was designated the **Scapegoat**. The high priest would place his hands on its head and confess the sins of the nation. Then it would be led out into the wilderness and released, never to return. Together these goats beautifully picture the Gospel. The goat that lost its life pictures the *Death of Christ* to pay for our sins. The living goat pictures the *Resurrection of Christ*, that He would be the ever-living One who, took away our sins and, according to **Hebrews 7:25**, *"always lives to intercede for us."*

## PROPHETS

**1 Peter 1:10-11** says, *"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow."* Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God revealed through the prophets other signposts to identify this Savior who was promised to Adam and Eve.

Look up the verses and fill in the blanks.

- Isaiah 7:14 - He would be born of a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Isaiah 9:6 - He would be both a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Genesis 49:10 - He would be from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Micah 5:2 - He would be born in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Zechariah 9:9 - He would ride into Jerusalem on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Zechariah 11:13 - He will be betrayed for \_\_\_ pieces of silver, used to buy the \_\_\_\_\_ field.
- Isaiah 53:5 - He would be \_\_\_\_\_ for our transgressions.
- Psalm 16:10 - He would die but not remain in the \_\_\_\_\_.

As you read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John you will find many references when the writer says, *"This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet..."* God provided all these signposts so that there would be no mistaking the identity of the Savior He promised.

## Three Phases of the Gospel

Sometimes Christians reduce the Gospel to the essential facts that Jesus was born, lived a sinless life, was crucified, and resurrected. While these are true, the *Good News of Jesus* spreads far beyond just the forgiveness of my sins and a free ticket to Heaven. When a person comes to know Jesus as their personal Savior, He intends to radically impact their entire way of life. The Gospel shows us how to live the rest of our lives under the guidance and control of Jesus. He wants to be our Lord and Master as well as our Savior.

To distinguish these different aspects of the Gospel, students of the Word use three different terms, *justification*, *sanctification*, and *glorification*.

- **Justification** deals with my PAST. The moment I trusted Jesus the Penalty of Sin was cancelled.
- **Sanctification** deals with my PRESENT. As I follow Jesus I experience victory over the Power of Sin.
- **Glorification** deals with my FUTURE. In Heaven Jesus will remove the very Presence of Sin.

Here's another way to distinguish the different phases, or aspects, of my salvation.

### "I have been saved from sin."

It means that in the **PAST**, the moment I received Jesus, I was saved from the **PENALTY** of sin. I will never be judged or condemned for any my sins. Jesus' blood has made full payment for them.

➤ This phase of the Gospel is called **JUSTIFICATION**.

See Romans 4:25; 5:1; 8:1

### "I am being saved from sin."

It means that in the **PRESENT**, I am being saved from the **POWER** of sin. Until I die, there will be a struggle against sin. But as I walk with Jesus I will enjoy greater and greater victory over temptation.

➤ This phase of the Gospel is called **SANCTIFICATION**.

See 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Romans 12:2

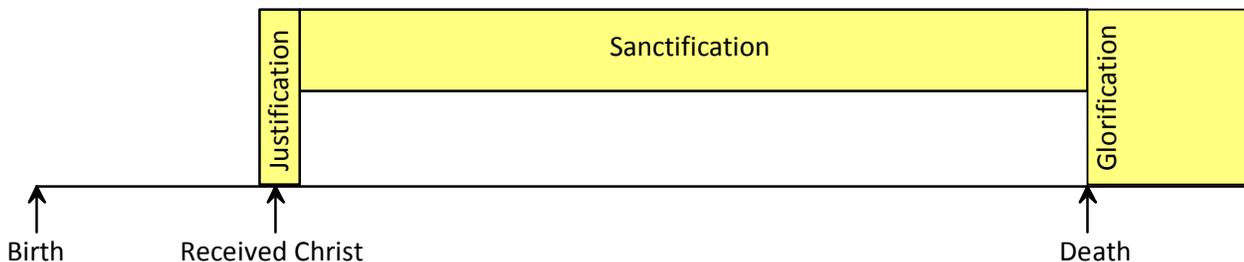
### "I will be saved from sin."

It means that in the **FUTURE**, I will be saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin. When I pass from this life and take up residence in Heaven, then my salvation will be complete!

➤ This phase of the Gospel is called **GLORIFICATION**.

See Romans 8:23,30; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Peter 1:5

This diagram and table summarize the differences between these terms.



Theological Term	Relationship to Sin	Statement
Justification	Penalty of sin	"I <b>have been</b> saved."
Sanctification	Power of sin	"I <b>am being</b> saved."
Glorification	Presence of sin	"I <b>will be</b> saved."

## The Gospel is about Transformation

As you understand these differences, you will notice that most of the New Testament is written to people who have already placed their faith in Jesus, who are JUSTIFIED. This is because God's intention is that after we come to know Him we will be transformed more and more into His likeness, cooperating with the Holy Spirit to develop Jesus' character qualities in us.

### Romans 8:29

*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."*

### 2 Corinthians 3:18

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into his likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

### Romans 12:2

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

## HOMEWORK:

1. Rewrite Romans 12:2 in your own words.

2. From the moment you receive Christ until you die, life will be a series of victories and defeats, advances and retreats. The period of Sanctification is not without struggle and sin. None of us reach perfection, so there is always more than one area Jesus is working to change.

Share with each other one area for which you can be praying for each other. Take a few moments to pray with each other before you end your meeting.