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SCHOOL OF KNOWING AND SERVING GOD  
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## **TEACHING ON BASIC DOCTRINES**

### **UNIT 1**

## **“THE WAY OF LIFE”**

*By Zacharias Tanee Fomum*

### **LESSON 2: THE OLD CREATION**

## REMINDER

Dear student,

We are happy for the interest that this course has produced in you.

The purpose of our Bible Correspondence Course is to help you to find the Lord Jesus. This first unit of this Bible course comprises seven lessons based on the book entitled « The Way of Life ». As you begin to study, we encourage you to press right to the end.

We particularly insist that you get a Bible that you will read systematically. If you fail to do this, then this course might not be of full benefit to you. All the Bible passages quoted should be carefully read.

Our prayer is that by the time you finish studying these lessons, you would have entered into a living relationship with Jesus so that you will truly begin to live.

May God bless you very richly!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### LESSON 2: THE OLD CREATION

#### INTRODUCTION

#### **I. THE BEGINNING**

1. THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF GOD
2. THE TWO CREATIONS
3. WHY GOD CREATED MAN?

#### **II. MAN BECOMES AN OLD CREATION**

1. MAN'S SIN
2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF MAN'S SIN
3. ADAM, THE STARTING POINT OF THE OLD CREATION
4. GOD'S IMAGE IN ADAM
5. ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE PART OF THE OLD CREATION
6. SIN IN PRACTICE
7. THE WAGES OF SIN

#### **III. THE END OF THE OLD CREATION**

WHAT TO BE RETAINED?

#### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

## INTRODUCTION

The Bible says: « Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come » (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This verse talks of a change of state, indeed a change of nature, and it shows that today, two types of creation can be distinguished. There is a deviation from the unique and original creation, a deviation which leads to the distinction between an old creation and a new creation.

You may perhaps be anxious to know to which of the two creations you belong. In this lesson, we shall see how man became an old creation (creature), and then we shall talk about the end of the old creation

## **I. MAN'S FALL**

Man's obedience to God had the virtue of maintaining and developing his communion with God, which enabled him to accomplish his mission of subjugation and domination. Genesis 1 and 2 contain instructions from God that man had to follow, including a prohibition.

### **1. ADAM'S DISOBEDIENCE**

God said to Adam, « You may freely eat of every tree of the garden: but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat... » (Genesis 2:17). God gave man the freedom to eat as he wished of all the trees of the garden except of the tree about which He said, "...the day that you eat of it you shall die."

It was forbidden in very strong terms, and man did not need to disobey; for the choice before him was great. He simply decided to do what he wanted. He disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit. The Bible says, « So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate it » (Genesis 3 :6).

This was a wilful act. By this act, man manifested his desire to be independent from God. In this act, man sinned; for sin is choosing one's own way instead of God's own way. It is doing that which one knows one should not do and leaving undone what one knows one ought to do.

In committing the sin, Adam deliberately chose a pathway of development that was entirely his own. He derailed from that day on and everything in creation went wrong with him.

## **2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF MAN'S SIN**

### **2.1. A Broken Fellowship with God :**

Immediately Adam sinned, he fell out of fellowship with God. He became afraid of God and began to hide. Immediately he ate the fruit, he died spiritually and died physically later on. Spiritual death is separation from God. It is broken fellowship with God. Adam was cut off from fellowship with God and was driven away from God's presence. « He drove out the man; and at the east gate of the garden, He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life » (Genesis 3 :24). From that moment, man was separated from God, took the way of increasing spiritual decay and physical disintegration and finally, ultimate eternal death will come when man is thrown into the lake of fire (hell). Hell is the maximum separation from God. It is maximum death. Everyone who is separated from God is already dead spiritually.

### **2.2. Lost Dominion over the rest of Creation**

In cursing the serpent for his part in the sin tragedy, God indicated that dominion was lost, if not in full, then at least in part; for He said, « I will put enmity between you and the woman and your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel » (Genesis 3:15). Instead of man having dominion over the serpent, enmity was introduced. From then on, there was to be aggression from creatures which before were submissive. Accidents, earthquake, floods.... are

all a manifestation of the rebellion of creation against rebellious man.

### **2.3. The Whole Process of Subduing the Earth became Laborious:**

God said to rebel Adam, « Cursed is the ground because of you ; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life ; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you ; and you shall eat bread » (Genesis 3:17-19). The earth was no longer normal after Adam's disobedience. It brought forth thorns and thistles, which did not exist in the original creation. Mosquitoes that need human blood to survive evolved and the earth became a less habitable place.

### **2.4. Instead of being God's Co-labourer Man was degraded**

God said to fallen Adam, «Till you return to the ground for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return » (Genesis 3:19). It was certainly very painful to God when He made this pronouncement, « You are dust. » Man was made out of dust, but he was raised above the rest of God's creation. He is now fallen back to where he started.

Bear in mind that anyone who remains in Adamic rebellion remains as simple dust but worse than that, dust under judgement, and dust to be punished eternally.

Though these pronouncements were very painful to God, He was compelled by His righteousness to make them. What else could He do?

### **2.5. God's image in Adam**

God said in the beginning, « Let us make man in our image, after our likeness » (Genesis 1:26). Adam was originally made in the likeness of God the Father, the Son and

the Holy Spirit. This was God's perfect image. When he sinned, the image of God in him became twisted, bent, crooked, distorted, and ruined. It remained God's image but it was God's image out of shape. It was like a car that had been involved in a terrible accident. It could be recognised as a car, but how different from the original car!

Because the image remains God's image; though out of shape, fallen man, irrespective of his spiritual condition can still manifest some virtue, authority and dominion. However, because the image is distorted, the same person who manifests virtue in one area of his character can be utterly wicked in another. Fallen man is a split personality, capable of much good and much evil.

## **II. THE OLD CREATION**

### **1. ADAM, THE STARTING POINT OF THE OLD CREATION**

Before the sin of Adam, there was no old creation. All was God's one and unique creation. When Adam sinned he became the starting point, the beginning of the old creation. This he became because of disobedience. Faced with the choice between remaining God's one creation and being the starting point of another creation outside God's will, he decided that he would be the beginning of another creation, and he got what he opted for.

### **2. ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE PART OF THE OLD CREATION**

Had Adam never given birth to anyone, he would have been the only one to be the end of the old creation and at his death, the old creation would have ended. However, the Bible says, « When Adam had lived a hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own image » (Genesis 5:4). Adam's son was therefore after Adam's twisted and distorted



image and not after the original image in which God had made Adam.

All human beings are descendants of Adam. This means at birth they enter the world as part of the old creation. All human beings possess a sin nature at birth. They do not have to commit any particular sin, as Adam did in order to become sinners. They are sinners by birth. They do not learn to be sinners. They are born sinners.

How can one know if someone is part of the old creation? How can one know if a person is a sinner or not? To answer these questions, one needs to ask only one question, « Was he born of parents who descended from Adam? » Or « Is he a human being? » If the answer is « yes, » then that settles it. That person is a sinner, he is part of the old creation and a sinner by nature. If he « Person » was a goat or a stone, he would have been exempted. As a sinner, man is separated from God. He is an old creation.

All human beings are born out of God's family! They are born into the devil's kingdom. They are born separated from God and hostile to Him. They possess a nature at birth which is rebellious to the will of God.

Adam was the only one who was born out of the old creation and entered the old creation through a personal act of sin. All human beings enter the old creation, not by choice but by birth. There is nothing that anyone can do to ensure that he enters the world but not as part of the old creation. Even the children of believers enter the world as part of the old creation. The faith of their parents does not impart something to them which enable them to be born without a sinful nature.

### **3. THE ORIGINATOR OF THE OLD CREATION**

Through the work of satan, sin came to the world. Satan is the originator of the old creation. It is his masterpiece. Having given its origin, he is sustaining it and will bring it to

consummation in the lake of fire. He has a kingdom and a destiny.

All human beings are born into satan's kingdom. At birth, each enters the world with the devil as father and not God. The Lord Jesus said to the religious leaders of His days: « You are of your father the devil and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his nature, for he is a liar and the father of liars » (John 8:44).

### III. SIN

All human beings are sinners without exception whatsoever. The Bible says, « The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually » (Genesis 6:5). It further says, « They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none that does good. The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any that act wisely, that seek after God. They have all gone astray, they are all alike; corrupt; there is none that does well, not one » (Psalm 14:1-3). « We have all become like one who is unclean and all our righteous deeds are like polluted garments. We All fade like a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is NON ONE that calls upon thy name » (Isaiah 64:6-7). « The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately corrupt ». « None is righteous, no, NOT ONE. NO ONE understand. NO ONE seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have gone wrong. Their throat is an open grave, they use their tongue to deceive » (Romans 3:23).

The Bible insists that all have sinned. The words ALL and NO and ONE tells us who is involved: everybody! There are no

exceptions. A doctor of philosophy and a pupil in class one are both sinners by nature. A university professor and the most ignorant jungle dweller are both sinners. The richest man and the poorest beggar are both sinners. A pastor or priest and a prostitute are both sinners. A black person and a white person are both sinners. The most cultured man living in the heart of Paris, London or New York and the most primitive jungle dweller in Africa or South America are both sinners.

Education or civilisation does not change the human heart. As far as our sinful nature is concerned, education mainly provides a method of hiding sin and pretending that it is absent. The educated man is a sophisticated sinner. When a primitive man hates you, he immediately tells you so, or the expression on his face tells you. However, the educated man will smile with you even when hatred boils in his heart against you. The two hearts are fundamentally the same.

## **1. THE NATURE OF SIN**

Sin is a state and an attitude. It consists in choosing one's own way instead of that of God.

The Bible says in Matthew 7:21-23: " Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers! ". These words of the Lord Jesus Christ make the clear difference

between the will of God and the rest. Everything that is not God's will is iniquity, sin.

The Bible also shows that sin has its origin in man, from his heart. " He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person ". (Mark 7: 20-23).

Since the fall, then, man's heart has behaved like sins factory.

## **2. SIN IN PRACTICE**

If each sinner had a sin-factory inside him that was permanently out of action and therefore produced no sins, the situation would be slightly different. There would arise a temptation to think that the sin-factory is absent. The truth, however, is that the factory of sin in man is working full-time even though the productivity may vary from person to person.

What are some of the products from the sin factory inside man? There are some products that are very obvious. At the top of the list is independence from God, which is the root of sin. God is seen as an interferer. He may be invited by man to render some help in time of sickness or sorrow. He may be asked to go with man to church meetings, however, but when it comes to the details as to how man spends his money, treats his friends, reacts and relates to the opposite sex, God must keep

at a distance and not interfere. There are some sins committed in the mind, like looking a woman lustfully: « Everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart » (Matthew 5:28). Another such sin is hatred. Most people hate one person or another, yet the Bible says, « Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him » (John 3:15).

Then there is the main sin of failing to love God « ...with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and your neighbour as yourself » (Luke 10:27). There are other sins that are downright open. These include: « All manner of wickedness, evil covetousness, malice, envy, strife, deceit, malignity, gossip, slander, hating God, insolence, haughtiness » (Romans 1:29-31). « Fornication, impurity, licentiousness » idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, gluttony » (Galatians 5:19-12)....

Broken engagements, broken friendships, broken marriages, broken homes, countless children born outside wedlock, unfaithful wives, unfaithful friends, corruption at all levels, nepotism..... all point to the fact that humanity is sin-sick.

The above are just a few manifestations of sin in practice. The particular manifestations of sin in any life may vary with background, education, circumstances..... But there will be manifestations of sin in all lives. Some people may be great liars, others given to anger, others to sexual sins, others to pride..... But there will never be any lack of evidence that all human beings practise sin.

No one needs to commit the all the sins cited above in order to know that he is a sinner. If you commit one of the above, the Bible says, « For whosoever shall commit one of the above, the Bible says, « For whosoever shall keep the whole law but fail in one point has become guilty of all of it » (James 2:10). Look at it in this way. If a mango tree bears only ten mangoes, does it cease to be a mango tree because it is less

productive? No! It's still a mango tree. So the sinner who sins a little and the sinner who sins much are both sinners. They both have one father - the devil - and they both belong to the old creation. They are both separated from God; lost. As you read all these catalogues of sins and sinful attitude, and as you look into your heart and life, do you agree with God's Word that you as an individual are a sinner and that you fall short of the glory of God? If you have never committed even one sin, then God's Word has lied and you are free and the rest of this course is of no use for you!

### **3. THE WAGES OF SIN**

Anyone who does a job is entitled to a salary in proportion to the work done. That is why Adam's sin had a salary: death. As we have already seen, it is separation between man and God. The Bible says, « The wages of sin is death » (Romans 6:23). Death remains the salary for sin. A Holy God cannot tolerate sin. He must give the sinner a salary for sinning. He must punish sin.

#### **3.1. SALARY ADVANCE**

When a person is employed in our national civil service, he is given some portion of his pay as salary advance. This enables him to live. It is not full pay but it guarantees the fact that the full pay will come in time. There is also a salary advance for sin. It includes heartbreaks, broken relationships, venereal diseases that result in sterility ; abortions, unwanted pregnancies, unwedded mothers, prostitution, criminals who are imprisoned, mental diseases resulting from psychological disorders, poverty resulting from drunkenness, accidents caused by drunken drivers.... The failure of man to realise his full potential because of sin is alarming. Think of girls who are thrown out of school because they are pregnant. Think of the

suffering that is caused to so many when the wrong person occupies a post he does not deserve because of favouritism or bribery. These are the first instalments of the salary sin earns.

### **3.2 FULL PAY**

When someone who has been on salary advance has undergone the necessary medical examinations and has his certificates fully checked, he is integrated into our national civil service. He then begins to earn his full pay, and his arrears paid to him, as well as his rents and family allowances. Often it takes time but the government ensures that in the end everyone earns all that is his right to the last franc.

The sinner who continues in his sins will face God's final judgment, be sentenced and be integrated into the devil's civil service called hell. The Bible says, « It is appointed unto man once to die and after that comes judgement » (Hebrews 9:27).

In preparation for the judgment day, God is keeping a record of every man's actions. All sins that are committed in thoughts, words and deeds by you are being faithfully recorded against your name in the heavenly record. It is as if a second by second filming and recording of your thoughts, words and deeds were continuously in progress. Your life is being filmed. The film of your life will be screened on judgment day for you and every other person to see. The things done in darkness will then be shown in the light. Nothing is being left out in the daily recording of your actions, words and thoughts, and nothing will be left out that will not be projected for you and others to see. Sentence means that sinners shall be sent away from God's presence to everlasting hell. « Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor robbers, nor adulterers, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts, nor revellers nor robbers, will inherit the Kingdom of

God » (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). « But for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death » (Revelation 21 :8). Judgment day will be pay day. Jesus Christ will be the chief judge. The Bible says, « The Father judges no man but has given all judgment to the Son » (John 5: 22). Jesus' word of sentence to unrepentant sinners will be: « Depart from me, you cursed, into eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels » (Matthew 25:41). These words of judgment will take immediate effect; for the Bible says, «And they will go away in to eternal punishment » (Matthew 25:46).

## **IV. THE END OF THE OLD CREATION**

### **1. The lake of fire**

On the last judgment, the devil, who is the originator of the old creation, will be thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur with all those whom he will have deceived. « And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophets were, and they were tormented day and night for ever and ever » (Revelation 20:10). “Hades and death were also thrown into hell. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14-15).

## **WHAT SHOULD WE RETAIN?**

Pain, suffering and all the present world portray the decay of humanity and testify of the separation of humanity from its creator. This separation was the consequence of the historical disobedience of the first man, which is also called the original sin. Man’s disobedience built a wall of separation



between him and God. The world, being separated as such became a cursed system. Every man is born into this cursed system. The child who is born into the world becomes an integral part of the cursed system; the calamities do not spare the big or the small because all are born guilty before God. In this condition, what hope is there for the human race?

## 2. The cross

The good news is that God, in His love sent His only Son Jesus Christ, as the solution to the problem of man. By perfect obedience to His Father, Jesus Christ accepted to bear upon Himself the chastisement of all humanity (Isaiah 53). By doing this, He reconciled the prejudice of the original disobedience. By dying on the cross, He paid with His life for the salvation of lost souls. Those who accept Him, those who believe in Him, receive the forgiveness of their iniquities (sins) and receive from Him the power to become children of God; such have passed from the cursed creation of God (old creation) into a new creation, the blessed creation of God (John 1 :1-13).

Which creation (creature) are you? An old creation (creature) or a new creation? The new creation will be the main theme of a whole lesson. But if you have not yet become a new creation, you have to do something about it. There are four things to think about and act upon if you want God to forgive you and make you a child of God. These things are represented by the first four letters of the alphabet: A, B, C and D.

**ADMIT** that you are a sinner by nature and by practice, and that on your own you are without hope. Tell God that you have personally sinned against Him in your thoughts, words and actions. In a sincere prayer, confess all your thoughts, words and actions. In a sincere prayer, confess all your sins to Him one after another. Do not omit any sin that you can remember.

It may be helpful if you write out your sins on sheets of papers and then burn them after God has forgiven you. In doing so, you must be truly sorry for them since they pierce God's heart. Then, truly turn your back to and abandon your sinful ways. If you stole, steal no more; if you have been committing adultery or fornication, stop it. God will not forgive you, if you have no desire to stop sinning in all areas of your life, but if you are sincere, He will give you the power to stop.

**BELIEVE** that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God's Son is the only Way the only truth and the only Life. Jesus said, « I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me » (John 14:6). And the Bible says, « For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all » (1 Timothy 2:5-6). If you believe this, you are rejecting every other system or philosophy that suggests that a man can be reconciled to God outside of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you will want to receive Him, for, « As many as received him, he gave them power to become children of God » (John 1:12). But,

**CONSIDER** the cost of following Him. Jesus said that all who would follow Him must deny themselves. This includes selfish financial, social and other interests. He also wants His followers to take up their crosses and follow Him. Are you prepared to abandon your own interests daily for those of Christ? Are you prepared to be led in new directions by Him? Are you prepared to suffer for Him and die for Him if need be? Jesus said, « Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I come not to send peace but a sword..... And a man's enemy shall be they of his household. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he who does not take

up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me » (Matthew 10:34-38).

This is very costly, but God's gifts -joy, peace, eternal life, etc. are far greater than what it may cost you. You do well to choose Him. Jesus will have nothing to do with half-hearted people. He demands a total commitment. He will only receive and forgive those who are prepared to follow Him **AT ANY COST**. Think about it and count the cost. If you are prepared to follow Him come what may, then there is something you must **DO**.

**INVITE** Jesus to come into your heart and life. He says, « Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any one hears my voice and opens the door (to his heart), I will come in to him and eat with him and he with me » (Revelation 3:20). Why not pray a prayer like this one, or another one as the Holy Spirit leads you?

« Lord Jesus, I am a wretched, lost sinner who has sinned in thought, word and deed. Forgive me all my sins and cleanse me. Receive me, Saviour, and transform me into a child of God. Come into my heart now and give me eternal life. I will follow You at all cost, trusting Your Holy Spirit to give me all the power that I need. Amen. »

If you have prayed the above prayer sincerely, then Jesus has forgiven you and made you God's child right away. Please write to me so that I will pray for you.

God bless you abundantly!

Zacharias Taneé Fomum

## INTRODUCTION TO LESSON 3

Many are conscious of the perdition of man. A great number of people try many ways to return to God. Can man by his own provide the answer to this question? Lesson 3 will provide the answer to this question.

### SCHOOL OF KNOWING AND SERVING GOD TEACHING ON BASIC DOCTRINES

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### QUESTIONNAIRE ON « THE WAY OF LIFE »

Student's name and surname (in capital letters)

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Date of birth .....

P.O.                      Box                      or                      postal                      code:  
.....

Telephone: .....

Email address: .....

City: .....

Country:  
.....

Profession: .....

Marital Status: .....

Student's number: .....

Student's mark: .....

## LESSON 2: THE OLD CREATION

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### Section 1: Read Genesis 2 and 3

1. What two trees were in the centre of the garden?

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2. Did God permit that Adam and Eve should eat of all the trees in the garden?

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3. Which tree was Adam not supposed to eat the fruit of?

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4. Did Adam obey?

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5. What is sin?

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6. Have you ever sinned?

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In which way?

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7. What is physical death?

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8. What is spiritual death?

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9. What is the second death?

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10. How did Adam's sin affect the four reasons of creation listed in section 1?

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11. Did Adam die the day he ate the forbidden fruit? If yes, then what type of death was it?

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12. What happened to the image of God in Adam after he had sinned?

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**Section 2: Read John 8:30 - 47**

13. What is the old creation?

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14. Who is the starting point of the old creation?  
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15. Who is the King and the father of the old creation?  
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16. How does one become part of the old creation?  
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17. Into what Kingdom are all human beings born?  
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18. Whom do all human beings have as their father at birth?  
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19. Who is your father?  
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How did he become your father?  
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**Section 3: Read 1 john 3: 4; Galatians 5: 19-21**

20. Name 10 sins that you know

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21. Name some people whom you know are not sinners.

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22. Can God let some sins go unpunished?

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23. What are the immediate consequences of sin that you have seen in the lives of people you know?

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24. What are the immediate consequences of sin that you have experienced in your life?

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25. What will be the final salary of sin?

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26. As individual, is there any reason to hope that you will not be paid the final salary for your sin?

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Explain your answer

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27. Will God put an end to the old creation?

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Explain your answer.....

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**Section 4: Read Isaiah 53 - John 1:1-13**

28. What is God's answer to the problem of fallen man?

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29. Whom is the prophet talking to in Isaiah 53? .....

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30. What light is the apostle John talking about in John 1:1-13?

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31. What is the privilege of those who have received this light?

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32. What are the steps someone should follow in order to become a child of God?

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33. Have you become a child of God? If yes, say when and how.

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**Section 5:**

34. Do you have someone helping you to grow in your new life with Jesus?

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If not, should we propose one to you?

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**35. Do you have any other thing to say about this lesson or about yourself?**

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