

GOD'S MASTERPLAN

Follow 1 | principle 2



Who is Man?

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we read right away in the first chapter that God created the earth. The trees, the animals and even mankind were created by Him. Everything was good, mankind was very good. Once everything was made, God talked with mankind.

Which five words summarize God's Masterplan?

Gen 1:26-28

Gen 2:15-17

God made mankind in His image, man and woman. Together, man and woman reflect God, not on the outside but on the inside. Both are destined to reign over the earth to exert authority and to reproduce. God created everything in nature that way, so that it can reproduce. He gave them the garden, for them to care, manage and protect.

God gave power to mankind. God was powerful enough to carry out everything Himself. And yet He involved man in His creation. It was God's intention to work with Adam and Eve from the start.

The Choice

God has all wisdom. He knows what is good, and how to live in righteousness, peace and happiness. This was how He wanted mankind to live on earth. That is why He wanted man to be dependent on Him, by trusting Him. In being joined to the source of life, man's life on earth would remain good.

(Gen 2:8,9)

Once Adam and Eve had eaten from this tree their eyes were opened to the knowledge of good and evil. They trusted in themselves instead of God. The consequences were enormous, and we experience them every day.

The consequences of choosing to trust yourself

Gen 3:7-12

The relationship is now based on the mind instead of the heart.

Enmity on Earth

The result is that a curse is put on earth which brings death, enmity, struggles and sickness. The earth is no longer only good! There is no longer just peace, happiness and righteousness.

Because of this curse, God's creation does not achieve its purpose and plan. Life on earth is a far greater struggle due to the actions of Adam and Eve. *(Gen 3:14-20)*

By choosing to no longer be dependent on God, mankind gave his God-given power over to the snake; a symbol of satan, the enemy of God. Satan gains power over the earth and mankind comes under his

yoke. Their eyes are closed to the world of God’s Kingdom and opened to another world. Another king reigns over their kingdom.



EXERCISE:

Can you see the two kingdoms?
Pray that God opens your eyes to His Kingdom. Pray that God will make you aware of kingdoms in the world around you.

Discuss with your mentor if, just like Adam and Eve, you have run away from God. Maybe you recognize that shame before God or are afraid of Him.
Talk about how you would react if God were to come close to you, just as with Adam and Eve.
What would you do? Why?

PRINCIPLE 2

God gives each person His identity and His blessing. We are given authority, responsibility and the choice to use that power the right or wrong way.



Gen 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Gen 2:15-17

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Gen 2:8-9

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 3:7

⁷ 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.

Gen 3:8

⁸ 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.

Gen 3:9-10

⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"
¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Gen 3:12

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Gen 3:14-20

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring^[1] and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give

birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, You must not eat from it, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."
²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.