

- Q19. What is the misery of that estate whereinto (the state of condition into which) man fell?  
A.19. **All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.**

**Scripture References:** Genesis 3:8, 10, 24; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:14, 6:23; Mark 9:47-48; Galatians 3:10; Matthew 25:41

- DQ1: By the fall of man, what did man lose?
- DQ2: How significant is the loss that the fall brought to man? Why?
- DQ3: By the fall of man, under what did man come?
- DQ4: By the fall of man, what does man experience in this life?
- DQ5: By the fall of man, what punishment did man receive?
- DQ6: What is the wrath of God?
- DQ7: What is the curse of God?
- DQ8: What kind of place is the hell?
- DQ9: Why is the fall of man miserable?
- DQ10: What do we call the severance of the relationship with God?

**Notes:**

We have already studied the total depravity of man due to the original sin. Here, we want to study the implications of man's depraved condition. We tend to see all things from our subjective perspective. In order for us to understand the implications of the total depravity of man, we must learn to see all things from God's perspective. Man's perspective is what brought trouble for the man in the first place. And, man's perspective today will not allow man to extricate himself from his miserable conditions.

To properly understand total depravity, we must go beyond simply recognizing that man is no longer living in the paradise but living the life of inconvenience and sadness when he could have lived a life of convenience and happiness in the garden.

Why was the Garden of Eden a good place to live? Was it because of the fantastic natural living conditions? It certainly helps. However, the focus should not be on the natural living condition but on the fact that man dwelt in harmony with God in the Garden. This is the reason why the Garden was such a fantastic place. The critical question is whether or not God dwells there or not. For the first time, the man had to resort to hiding from God. "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." (Genesis 3:8)

It is tremendously remarkable that Adam and Eve hid themselves among the trees of the Garden from the searching face of God. Think deeply about this. Consider these thoughts.

**First**, there was the voice of God. Yet, the voice of God that Adam and Eve heard from behind the trees strangely sounded like no sound he had ever heard. **Second**, instead of welcoming the face of God, Adam and Eve ran away from the face of God. **Third**, Adam and Eve actually tried to hide behind the trees. Imagine how laughable that the scene would appear to God!

You do not have to be blinded to see that the situation in the Garden of Eden has changed significantly. Visualize the tragic scene. God's friendly voice turned fearsome. God's loving face became unbearable. Finally, Adam and Eve had to hide the loving Father. There is something quite unseemly about what took place.

What if you no longer wanted to see the face of your mother? What would that mean? The situation had to be pretty serious, right? No one has to explain that there is something incredibly wrong with this picture. Instinctively, we would know that. So did Adam and Eve. We do know when the things turn bad and no one has to ever explain it.

As we studied already, God created man out of His love of man. God so intentionally and strategically created the entire universe in six days and beautifully decorated it. God also created and prepared a special place called the Garden of Eden for man, who was God's final creation. As God created the universe and the Garden of Eden, God had already in His heart to share His wonderful creation with him. In fact, the Garden of Eden was made for man. The anticipation of sharing the Garden with man stirred up God's spirit as He ever so carefully and lovingly fashioned and shaped the man out of dirt. God's intimate touch and giving of His breath of life to the man are all evidenced in the Bible. This is how the man became a living soul or living being. God then bestowed upon the man the ultimate blessing to freely enjoy, eat, care for and rule God's creation.

Genesis 3:8, however, paints a picture that is entirely different from what was intended. Adam and Eve could no longer see and enjoy God as before. The change is truly dramatic. Man was God's first love and God was man's first love. The man betrayed his first love. He could no longer listen to the voice of his first love nor see the lovely face of his first love. How tragic!

Thankfully, the Lord God never forgot about His first love. The clearest evidence of this is the fact that He sent His son Jesus Christ to suffer on the cross so that His love might be saved.

Frankly, the Adam's act of hiding behind the trees from the face of God is not only laughable but also a stunning and stinging insult to and contempt of God. How could Adam possibly not have known that he could not hide from God! Man cannot hide from God by hiding behind the trees. God sees all things at all times with His flaming eyes and there is no one who could possibly hide from God. Nonetheless, people convince themselves that they can hide from God. Do you do that?

Man could no longer hear God's voice. Man could no longer see the face of God. Man could no longer have a relationship with God. It was indeed depressing for man. A complete disconnect has set in between God and man. This is a direct result of the fall of man.

The real problem is the fact that the broken relationship could not be restored by efforts of man. Adam and Eve indeed tragically crossed the bridge of no return and forfeited so much for a simple “pleasure of selfishness.” This is spiritual death.

The Bible tells us the broken relationship with God and the accompanying wrath and curse of God go hand in hand. As infinite as the love of God is, so is His wrath. God’s wrath brought upon man misery beyond imagination while he lives on this earth and, upon his physical death, he enters into eternal punishment of hell.

Other than the events on the cross, there is no single event that is greater in history than the fall of man from the Garden of Eden. Can we see the magnitude of the story of the fall? It is absolutely essential that we see it and see it from God’s perspective.

There is a strange irony in the story of the fall of man. Man was established as the ruler of all creation. When man remained in communion with God, man maintained his God-given authority. Yet, with the fall, this ruler of all creation had to resort to hiding behind a tree, an object of no value compared to man. The hiding clearly demonstrated that the order of things turned upside down. Man did not remain where he was established – thus the fall.

We ought not to make a mistake of taking God’s wrath lightly. God’s wrath does not compare with man’s anger which is an emotional response. So, what is the wrath of God? We will attempt to answer this question as we study a passage from Romans.

Romans 1:18: “The **wrath** of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.” The wrath of God refers to anything that would not conform to the desires of God and Paul goes on to explain God’s wrath in verses 24-26: “Therefore **God gave them over** in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, **God gave them over** to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.” What would it take for God to turn His face away from man and give up on him? The wrath of God is likewise. There are people who have been totally ignored and abandoned by other people. You could not find more miserable people than the people who have been forgotten and abandoned. There is no greater misery and tragedy than for a man who has no one to turn. The man may yell and scream for help but, if everyone ignores him, then he is truly alone. That is what the wrath of God is like. This is why relationships are important. Relationships are to be treasured. When you do not treasure your relationship, you will also not be treasured. Adam and Eve did not treasure their relationship with God and consequently entered into unavoidable misery. You definitely should not desire for God to give you over.

The curse of God refers to total destruction and failure because of God’s wrath. Indeed, the wrath of God and the curse of God go hand in hand.

Eternal punishment of hell should grab our attention. The misery in hell does not compare with misery on this earth. It is exceedingly miserable and is beyond our imagination.

People do enjoy talking about heaven but do not like to talk about hell. Clearly, the Bible speaks of the true existence of hell. Let us learn more about hell as we look up the following Bible passages:

Matthew 5:22, 29, 30, 10:28, 18:9, 23:15, 23:33;

Mark 9:43, 9:45, 47;

Luke 12:5, 16:23,

James 3:6;

2 Peter 2:4.

One last question is in order: What would happen if your name is not written in the Book of Life? (Revelation 20:14-15)