

# The Fall

## Genesis 3

Last week we saw God's creation of an amazing universe, the crowning jewel of which was this planet called Earth. The crowning jewel of Earth was a garden city set upon a hill called Eden. The crowning jewel of the city of Eden was Mankind - made in the very Image of his Creator - reflecting to all creation the majesty and glory of God. Male and Female created He them - so that as two working in Harmony complimenting one another, loving one another and producing after their kind they would reflect a Triune God through whom they exist. It was Very Good.

Chapter two ends with the declaration that this first couple walked in the garden naked and unashamed. That statement is deeper than a description of their lack of clothing - it was a statement of utter innocence. Nothing came between Adam and Eve, nor between them and God.

Can you imagine if somehow we were able to project on this screen your thoughts, motives, intentions, fantasies, actions, plans. Every hateful thought, every lustful glance? Do you not think that we would all flee from this place and pray never to see these people again?

The Poet Samuel Johnson has written, "Each man knows that of himself which he dare not tell his dearest friend".

Can you even begin to conceive of what it was like to be naked and unashamed? Yet that was the experience of this first couple.

That is until one day when everything changed...

### **TEXT: Genesis 3:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

That word crafty is not an inherently evil word. As a matter of fact in other places it is translated as prudence or wisdom. We are not told the personal identity of the serpent - but we do notice that he had the ability to communicate with Eve.

We are tempted to speculate as to whether or not this was normative - but we will avoid that temptation for now.

The nature of the conversation leads us to assume that this serpent is possessed of Satan. That assumption is confirmed much later in the book of Revelation where Satan is called, "that ancient serpent".

In his abundance of wisdom he sets a trap for Eve - Notice that he doesn't approach Adam, but rather his wife. We are told later that Adam is there - as a matter of fact the Hebrew word for Adam being, "with her" in verse 6 meant they were literally elbow to elbow.

Adam had been given dominion - he was literally the King of Eden. He could have commanded the serpent to leave the garden. But he didn't - he allowed his wife to get into a conversation about the trustworthiness of God.

Failing to lead his home in a godly way - was Adam's first mistake. It was not the first sin - for it broke not commandment, but it was the first mistake.

MEN - never forget that we are the guardian of our homes. That doesn't only mean that we are prepared to protect our family against physical threats - but also spiritual. We say what gets in the garden.

- Do you know who is influencing your family?
- Do you know what they are reading?
- Do you know what they are browsing?
- By what are they being entertained?

1b. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Satan doesn't really make an accusation against God at this point - he simply raises a point of clarification. It seems to suggest that Satan had heard a rumor floating about the Garden. A rumor that God has said that Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat of Eden's fruit - none of it. And the serpent had to ask, "Is this true"?

### **Genesis 3:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

**NOTE:** God said you may "eat freely" of every tree of the garden – signifying generous abundance. Yet Eve left that out.

*Then she adds...*

<sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

**NOTE:** Did you catch her addition? God said nothing about touching the tree... although I don't know why she would want to... but she is editing the command slightly.... adding to the Word of God.

Do you see what Satan has done - he has taken her focus off of God, off of the massive abundance of goodness around her... and set her entire focus on that one tree.

You see, Satan knows we tend to gravitate toward the object of your focus.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Do this with me, close your eyes, clear your hear, don't think about a pink elephant. Whatever you do, don't see his ears, his trunk, NO PINK! What happens? It's all you can think about.

Now - if you allow him, he will do the same thing with you. He will cause take your focus off of God's goodness and grace in your life and he will tempt you to obsess over what God has said you cannot have.

- A relationship
- A opportunity
- Maybe how you look
- Maybe a talent you wish you had

The wish person heeds the advice of Paul in **Philippians 4:8 (NAS)** <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise,  **dwell on these things.**

You are responsible for what you think about. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

*Then in verse 4 Satan goes in for the kill...*

**Genesis 3:4-7 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Now if there was any doubt before - it is clear now this creature is blatantly denying the trustworthiness of God. Not only does he say, "God is lying to you".. he offers a substitute truth... he offers his word in place of God's Word.

<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it **your eyes will be opened.**

Eve - you are like a new born puppy... and that's cute... but honey you are blind. You don't get it... but eat the fruit...

5b. **your eyes will be opened,** and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Now this is a fascinating suggestion. Because there is an element of truth to it - they would have a measure of moral understanding that they did not have before... but while it is partially true it is a TOTAL LIE.

You see - God knows good and evil by virtue of His Omniscience. He knows evil the way a Oncologist knows cancer. But Eve would know evil the way a cancer patient knows cancer. It would be INTERNAL, EXPERIENTIAL.

<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was to be **desired to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate.

### **The Temptation has 3 components.**

- **The Lust of the flesh:** “she saw it was good for food”... man it would feel good to eat that.
- **The Lust of the eyes:** “I need more than what God has given to me.” “He’s holding out on me.” I can’t trust him and be satisfied with what he provides.
- **The Pride of life:** I can be like God. I’d be best in making the rules; sitting on the throne.

Consider for a moment the nature of the fruit - what was it about the fruit that made it so bad? Did it have sin juice inside it?

No - you see it wasn’t so much the fruit it was what eating the fruit stood for. It was a declaration that God was not to be the center of the Universe - man would determine what was right and wrong.

Every sin stems for a belief that the Universe revolves around you rather than God.

6b. and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Now - Adam’s decision to eat was peculiar. **1 Timothy 2:14** tells us that Eve was deceived, she foolishly believed a lie. But it seems to indicate that Adam’s sin was willful it was an act of treason.. he was willfully joining a rebellion against the Creator.

Throughout time Adam would be held as the most responsible party for all that would follow.

**Romans 5:12** - Therefore, just as sin came into the world **through one man**, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Adam as the Federal head of his home, as the King of Eden - declared war against God in his decision.

<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

This is the first man made religion - an attempt to cover our sin and shame. Poor pitiful attempt it is.

**Genesis 3:8–9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

Now this is more of a summons than a question.

**Genesis 3:10–11 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

*Adam says, “I’m so glad you asked... because you see...”*

**Genesis 3:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

It’s her fault - kill her, send her to hell - she totally deserves it. Blame shifting 101. Eve learns quick...

**Genesis 3:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So there we have the humanist manifesto - the Universe is really all about ME and the problems are all caused by somebody else.

Now God had woven into the created order that all things would reproduce after their kind - so what happens when sinners reproduce? They reproduce sinners.

So we will see this tendency in every child of Adam throughout the rest of this series. A tendency for man to act as if he were the center of the Universe.

God help the man who thinks he is the center and not me!

So we see Cain kill Able because he stood in the way of Cain’s glory. We see murder, rape, wars, genocide, divorce, adultery, pornography - all in an attempt to live as if we were the center of the Universe and not God.

So if we want something - we take it.  
If someone gets in our way - we hate and kill.

And the rhythm goes on and on....

Adam is cursed, Eve is cursed, the serpent is cursed, the ground is cursed - all creation suffers and as Paul says GRONES under the curse. Adam and Eve are driven out of Eden and a great Angel stands guard with a flaming sword lest they return.

But even in the midst of the CURSE we see GOSPEL -

**Genesis 3:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

A promise that a single male descendant of Eve will one day settle the score and destroy Satan. Do you see - God preached the first Gospel.

Then there is such a peculiar verse -

**Genesis 3:20–21 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

After all of that - Adam seems to look at his wife and say, "Oh yes - you need a name". He gives her the name Eve because she would be a mother. Eve means "LIVING".

God has promised that a Son would be born that would destroy Satan... Do you see that even here humanity leans with curiosity toward the little town of Bethlehem... they have hope in the cry of a Baby.

That baby would set things right - he would be called, "the Second Adam". For you see

**Romans 5:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> ...if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

The Second Adam (Jesus) was unlike the first - Adam said, "Not God's will but my will be done". Jesus said, "Not my will, but thy will be done".

It was no accident that at the last supper Jesus said to His disciples, "take and eat".

Because you see through his work - "take and eat" are no longer verbs of death - but now they are verbs of life.

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

So if there was any doubt about what was to come through the promised male descendant of Eve - we see the first sacrifice. God kills an animal and covers the shame of man.

Countless other animals would die over the millennia as substitute for man's sin - until the Prophet John declares, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world".