

## Genesis - Chapter 3

**THEME:** *The serpent denies the Word of God; the man and woman disobey the Word of God; the design of God for the future; the doctrine of redemption introduced.*

*"Here we trace back to their source many of the rivers of divine truth. Here commences the great drama which is being enacted on the stage of human history and which well-nigh 6,000 years has not yet completed. Here we find the divine explanation of the present fallen and ruined condition of our race. Here we learn of the subtle devices of our enemy, the devil. Here we behold the utter powerlessness of man to walk in the path of righteousness when divine grace is withheld from him. Here we discover the spiritual effects of sin, man seeking to flee from God. Here we discern the attitude of God toward the guilty sinner. Here we mark the universal tendency of human nature to cover its own moral shame by a device of man's own handiwork. Here we are taught of the gracious provision which God has made to meet our great need. Here begins that marvelous stream of prophecy which runs all through the Holy Scriptures. Here we learn that man cannot approach God except through a mediator." – unknown author*

**Gen 3:1-3** *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*

The question arises: Why the temptation? If we go back to chapters 1 and 2, we find that man was created innocent, but man was not created righteous. What is righteousness? Righteousness is innocence that has been maintained in the presence of temptation. You see, temptation will either develop you or destroy you; it will do one of the two. Man was created a responsible being, and he was responsible to glorify, to obey, to serve, and to be subject to divine government.

There is maxim of law that says the one who creates has control over that which he creates. Man did not create himself—I do not think anyone claims that—but God created him. Therefore, God is sovereign over man. Our Declaration of Independence affirms this and goes on to say "We people" create government and are sovereign over it. Does an examination of your life reveal that God is sovereign?

Notice the steps that plunged the human race into sin. First Satan insinuated doubt about the Word of God: "**Has God indeed said?**" He misrepresented God as forbidding Adam and Eve to **eat of every tree**. Next, Eve said that they were **not to eat** or "**touch the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden.**" But God had said nothing about *touching* the tree. Then Satan flatly contradicted God about the inevitability of judgment on those who disobeyed, just as his followers still deny the facts of hell and eternal punishment. Satan misrepresented God as seeking to withhold from Adam and Eve something that would have been beneficial to them. – Believers Bible Commentary. **How well do you know God's word?** "The serpent very subtly contradicts God, and he substitutes his word for God's word." - McGee

The thing that Eve did was to add to the Word of God. The liberal and the atheist take *from* the Word of God, and God has warned against that. The cults (and some fundamentalists, by the way) *add* to the Word of God, and God warns against that. There are those who say that today we are saved by law. They argue, "Yes, it is by faith, but it is faith plus something else"—and they are apt to come up with anything. The Word of God says: "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" ([Joh 6:29](#)). How important this is! - McGee

**Gen 3:4-6** *Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

Eve yielded to the threefold temptation: the lust of the flesh (good for food), the lust of the eyes (pleasant to the eyes), and the pride of life (a tree desirable to make one wise). In doing so, she acted independently of Adam, her head. She should have consulted him instead of usurping his authority. In the words "she took of its fruit and ate" lie the explanation of all the sickness, sorrow, suffering, fear, guilt, and death that have plagued the human race ever since that time. Someone has said, "The wreckage of earth and a million billion graves attest that God is true and Satan is the liar." Eve was deceived (1Ti\_2:14), but Adam acted willfully and in deliberate rebellion against God. – Believers Bible Commentary

Note: There is no biblical support that the fruit was an apple. Most commentaries support it being a fig tree.

John wrote: ***"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1Jn\_2:16). "The lust of the flesh"—that is, the tree was good to eat. "The lust of the eyes"—the tree was good to look at. "The pride of life"—the tree was to be desired to make one wise. These things are not of the Father, but of the world.***

***Gen 3:7-9 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" (See the appendix on the first question God asks)***

The first result of sin was a sense of shame and fear. The aprons of fig leaves speak of man's attempt to save himself by a bloodless religion of good works. (BBC).

This is the same condition of man today in religion. He goes through exercises and rituals, he joins churches, and he becomes very religious. Have you ever noticed that Christ cursed the fig tree? That is quite interesting. And He denounced religion right after that, by the way; He denounced it with all His being because religion merely covers over sin. - McGee

**The day we do church as a religion and not relationship, we lose all the power, fellowship, and presence of Christ.**

When called to account by God, sinners excuse themselves. Adam said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me . . ." as if blaming God (see Pro\_19:3). Eve said, "The serpent . . ." (v. 13).

In love and mercy God searched after His fallen creatures with the question "Where are you?" This question proved two things—that man was lost and that God had come to seek. It proved man's sin and God's grace. God takes the initiative in salvation, demonstrating the very thing Satan got Eve to doubt—His love.

***Gen 3:10-12 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat? Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."***

Notice that there is no confession on Adam's part. The important thing is not so much that he blamed the woman or, as we would say in the common colloquialism of the day, "he passed the buck," but that there is no confession of sin on his part.

***Gen 3:13-15 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."***

Notice: Eve, not Adam, confesses. Her explanation was not challenged and accepted as truth not an excuse.

The LORD God cursed the serpent to degradation, disgrace, and defeat. The fact that the serpent is cursed more than all cattle or any other beast of the field suggests that reptiles are primarily in view here rather than Satan. But verse 15 switches to the Devil himself. This verse is known as the protevangelium, meaning "The First Gospel." It predicts the perpetual hostility between Satan and the woman (representing all mankind), and between Satan's seed (his agents) and her Seed (the Messiah).

he most prominent thought is not the ultimate victory that would come, but the long-continued struggle. This verse reveals the fact that now there is to be a long struggle between good and evil. John again mentions this conflict in **1Jn 3:10**: ***"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."*** Thus, we have brought before us the fact that here is a conflict, here is a struggle, and here are two seeds in the world. There will be the final victory—but the long-continued struggle is important to note. Every man must face temptation and must win his battle.

***Gen 3:16-19 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."***

Sin has inevitable consequences. The woman was sentenced to suffering in childbirth. She would be subject to her husband. The man was sentenced to earn his livelihood from ground that was cursed with thorns and thistles. It would mean toil and sweat for him. Then at the end of life, he himself would return to dust. It should be noted here that work itself is not a curse; it is more often a blessing. It is the sorrow, toil, frustration, perspiration, and weariness connected with work that are the curse. - BBC

Adam died *spiritually* the moment he disobeyed; he was separated from God. Death is separation. When Paul wrote to the Ephesians that they were "dead in trespasses and sins," he did not mean that they were dead physically but that they were dead spiritually, separated from God. In that wonderful parable of the prodigal son, our Lord told about this boy who ran away from his father. When he returned, the father said to the elder son, "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found ..." (Luk\_15:24). Dead? Yes, he was dead, not physically, but he was separated from the father. To be separated from the Father means simply that—it means death. – McGee

***Gen 3:20-21 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also, for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.***

In order to have the skins of animals, the animals have to be slain. I believe that this is the origin of sacrifice and that God made it clear to man. God rejected their fig leaves but made them clothing of skins, and when Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, they looked back upon a bloody sacrifice. When they looked back, they saw exactly what God had Moses put on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies: two cherubim looking down upon the blood that was there—and that was the way to God. – McGee

If God provided the sacrifice, He likely provided the altar and the way to the altar was not blocked by an angel. I think this is a key point to consider when get to the story of Cain and Able.

***Gen 3:22-24 Then, the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — therefore the LORD God sent him***

***out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So, He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.***

All I can say to this is, thank God that He did not let man live eternally in sin and that God is not going to let us do that. That is really a blessing! This does not mean that God put up a roadblock. It means that the way of life was kept open for man to come to God. But now that way is not through the tree of life. Salvation must come through a sacrifice, and when man looked back, the blood of the sacrifice is what he saw.- McGee

Adam and Eve had to decide whether God or Satan was lying. They decided that God was. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Thus their names are missing from the Honor Roll of Faith in Hebrews 11. The ideal environment did not prevent sin. The problem is deeper than that. – BBC

**Who do you fear God or Satan or man or the world? Before you answer, consider your actions not just your words!**

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*The First Question God asks is Important. What are you answers? He is still asking.*

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“Where art thou?”

- 1.** Where are you?—are you in God’s family or out of it? When you are baptized, you are put into God’s family upon certain conditions—that you will do certain things; and it depends upon you how you live, because if you do not love God you cannot be God’s child.
  
- 2.** Supposing you are one of God’s children, “Where art thou?”—near to thy Father or far from Him?—because some children are nearer to their fathers than others. Mary and Martha were sisters, and they were both Christians, but one was much nearer to Christ than the other. Mary sat at Jesus’ feet, Martha was “troubled about many things.” If we delight to tell Jesus everything, than we shall be near God.
  
- 3.** Are you in the sunshine or the shade? If you follow Christ you will always be in the sunshine, because He is the Sun.
  
- 4.** Are you in the path of duty? Are you where you ought to be? The path of duty is a narrow path sometimes a steep path. God could say to many of us, as He said to Elijah, “What doest thou here?”—thou art out of the path of duty.
  
- 5.** How have you progressed? The surest way to know that we get on is to be very humble. When the wheat is ripe it hangs down; the full ears hang the lowest. (*J. Vaughan, M. A.*)