

THE FALL OF MAN

Gen. 3:1-22

When we read the creation narrative of Genesis 1 and 2, we hear over and over again the declaration, "and it was good." However in chapter 3, something goes abysmally wrong. Suddenly we are faced with sin, immorality, turmoil, corruption, affliction, discord and above all—death.

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Doubting God's Word

The rebellion of Lucifer in the heavens had already occurred by this time. As the devil, he comes to indwell the serpent and speak through it. He immediately worked in Eve's life by introducing doubt about God's Word.

V1b. And he said to the woman, *"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" "Did God really say . . . ?"*

Denying God's Integrity

Having led Eve to question God's word and authority Satan goes for the kill.

Vv.4- 5. *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."*

Satan wants us to see sin as something good that a bad God doesn't want us to have. His main lie to us is "sin is not bad and God is not good."

Disobeying God's Command

V6. *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 fell for the lie. She took, she ate, she gave to Adam, he took, he ate, and they died—spiritually speaking.

What deception? They were to become like God. By yielding to the temptation and eating the forbidden fruit they actually become more "unlike their Creator." They became corrupt, powerless, Satan-enslaved, wretched, poor, spiritually blind, naked, and fearful creatures.

Dreading God's Presence

V7. 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.

They lost their innocence and they gained a conscience. They are now fearful and ashamed for the very first time. With eyes wide open, their nakedness troubles them. Their consciences piercingly accuse them of their disobedience and lapse. As a result, they quickly try covering their shame with fig leaves.

The coverings are symbolic for the covering of sin. Yet, what was now needed was not a *covering* of sin, but a *putting* away of sin.

V8. 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.

Sin destroys our relationships with God and with others. God's divine presence is a fearful thing for guilty sinners (Rev.6:15-17).

Defying God's Conviction

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

What a beautiful picture of divine mercy and grace! The Lord is calling out to man. It was not Adam who sought God, but God that sought Adam. And this has been the case ever since. *"There is none that seeketh after God"* (Rom. 3:11).

The central message of the gospel is that Christ Jesus came to seek and save those that are lost. The gospel has its origin from above, not on earth.

God is putting Adam on trial by questioning him. God's purpose is to get a confession out of Adam, before pronouncing any judgment or curse.

V10. So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

V11. 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?"

We find out Adam is not ready to admit his sin and repent. He initiates the blame game, instead. He makes excuses. That is what sin does best. He daringly blames God; he blames Eve, but not himself (v12).

The woman blames the serpent and “passes the buck” herself (v13).

Drawing God’s Judgment

The serpent is cursed, above all other animals. It’s transformed and forced to crawl on its belly and eat dust for the rest of its days.

The women will from that point on travail greatly in childbearing. She will seek control over the husband, but God has given the rule to Adam.

Adam shall with painful toil and the outpouring of sweat work the ground. The cursed ground will produce thistles, briars and thorns. Man will die and return to the dust.

Sin leads to death. Romans 5:12 affirms: *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Sin and death have come down to us all, by way of imputation.*

Discerning God’s Salvation

Gen 3:15. *“And I will put enmity between thee [Satan] and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*

The first mention of the gospel in the bible is found here. The protoevangelium message prophetically spoke of the future struggle between the children of faith and the children of unbelief, those under the power of Satan.

It was also a prophetic promise, in that the Messiah would be bruised by Satan on the cross, and the headship of Satan would be crushed by Him, simultaneously.

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them (Gen. 3:21).

This verse gives us a typical picture of a sinner's salvation. It was the first Gospel sermon, preached by God Himself, not in words but in symbol and action. It was a setting forth of the way by which a sinful creature could return unto and approach his holy Creator. It was the initial declaration of the fundamental fact that *“without shedding of blood is no remission.”* It was a blessed illustration of substitution—the innocent dying in the place of the guilty.

It was the Lord God who furnished the skins, made them into coats and clothed our first parents. They did nothing. God did it all. They were entirely passive. That’s grace! Marvelous grace! Read Isa. 61:10.

Desiring God's Forgiveness

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they lost not only God's bountiful provision of the Garden, but more importantly, God's provision of unhindered fellowship with Himself, our only source of life and fulfillment. Because we have all sinned and been cut off from fellowship with God.

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Our only hope is this— God by His grace, mercy and loving-kindness, sent His Son to die on the cross and take the penalty of our sin, reconciling us to God and making eternal life with Him possible, through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.

Great was the fall! But greater is the redemption! What was lost at the fall is reclaimed at the cross.

The first question God ever asked man was “Where are you?” And it is His question to all of us. Where are you? Où êtes-vous? Dónde estás? Dove sei?

Where are you spiritually? God sought to extract a confession of sin out of Adam. Can he get a confession of sin out of you? Are you running and hiding from Him? Are you making excuses for your self-centeredness, guilt and sin?

He wants you to accept His love and forgiveness. Turn to Him, repent, confess your sins to Him, he will immediately flood your heart with His forgiveness.