

THE FALL OF MAN

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8 And they heard the voice 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 amongst the trees of the garden.

CHRIST CHURCH / SUNDAY SCHOOL



All creation is impacted

Whether we like it or not, Adam and Eve's decision affected us all. Adam represented all of the human race (1 Co. 15:22). When he sinned it removed his innocence and perfection before God. All of Adam's children (ourselves included) bore the sinful image of their father, Adam (Genesis 5:3). In addition to

this, all of creation was plunged into a fallen state (Romans 8:19-20).

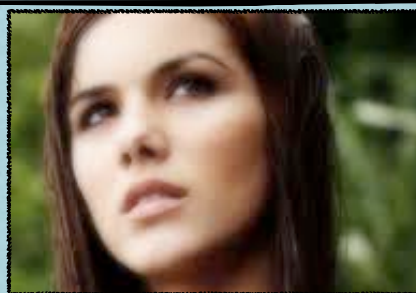
The entire story of the Bible is God's redemptive plan to bring man back into a state of perfection and back into relationship with Him.



Consequences of Sin



"cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground;" Genesis 3:17-19



"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Genesis 3:16



"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:14-15

SATAN'S



TACTIC

1. Disguised Himself

(Gen. 3:1; 2 Co. 11:14)

2. Questioned God's Word

(Gen. 3:2-3; 2 Co. 11:3)

3. Denied God's Word

(Gen. 3:4-5)

EVE'S RESPONSE

Gen. 3:6; 1 John 2:16

1. Lusts of the Flesh -

She desired to have it.

2. Lusts of the Eyes -

She saw that it was good for food (delicious)

3. The Pride of Life -

She saw that it would make her wise



The Same Old Tactic...



SATAN AND OUR FLESH STILL OPERATE THE SAME

Satan's tactic hasn't changed much. He still disguises himself and attempts to get us to doubt God's Word. He still attempts to twist God's Word. Instead of focusing on all the things God gave her, (all the trees of the garden) Eve focuses on the one thing she could not have (fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil).

We still do this all the time. Instead of focusing on all the things God has given us, we tend to focus on the thing that we don't have. Instead of being thankful and mindful of God's provision, we doubt His goodness and His love because of what He hasn't given us. This is exactly what caused Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, and it is exactly what causes us to sin in our thinking.

"Why haven't you done this?" is a question we often ask God. If He would just give us what we want, everything would be O.K. This is the opposite of faith. Faith in God understands that He is in complete control and He is always working for our good. We can look at Eve's situation and see clearly that God had her best interests in mind, but we have a hard time looking at our own situation and believing He has our best interests in mind.

CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

Daily life would now become a struggle for the man and woman outside the garden as they toiled for their bread and raised their family. They could still have fellowship with God, but they would daily suffer the consequences of their sin, and so would their descendants after them. The law of sin and death would now operate in the human family until the end of time, but the death and resurrection of the Savior would introduce a new law. The law of Christ. (Rom. 8:2)

Should We Take Genesis Literally?

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Talking snakes...magic fruit...is this really what happened in the beginning? Shouldn't we just view this as poetry? For the answers to these questions we must turn to Jesus and the Apostles. Jesus took the Genesis story literally. Matthew 19:4 says, "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female..." Likewise, the Apostle Paul believed in the literal fall of man. 1 Timothy 2:13-14 says, "For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." So we are in very good company, believing in the literal fall.

More importantly, if there was no fall, there is no need for a Savior. There is no need for the Son of God to die a gruesome death on the cross to pay for the sin of the world. Mankind is not under the bondage of sin and is not in danger of the wrath of God. In reality, if there is no literal fall of

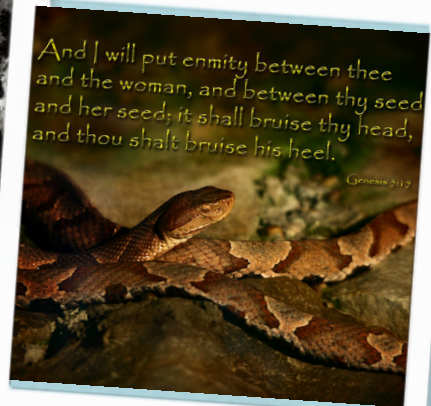
man, the rest of the Bible doesn't make sense.

The Bible is the story of God's redemptive plan to bring mankind back from the bondage of sin and death. The end of Revelation shows the creation returned to the perfect state in which it started, therefore if the fall of man and the Genesis

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



At the cross, Satan "bruised" Christ's heel; but because of His death and resurrection, Christ crushed Satan's head and won a complete victory over him (Eph. 1:17-23; Col. 2:14-15).



creation are not literally true, then neither is the end of Revelation, which pictures our perfect home in eternity.

No, the fall of man was real. Sin and death are real and there is a real payment for sin. There is a real Heaven and a real Hell.

PICTURE OF A PERFECT SACRIFICE



Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

— Genesis 3:21



The first sacrifice in the Bible, which points to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, was when God killed an animal to provide suitable coverings to hide Adam and Eve's shame.

Adam and Eve tried to cover their own nakedness with fig leaves. Their attempts to cover their shame were unsatisfactory. In order for their shame to be covered, God would have to do it. The first animals were sacrificed to give Adam and Eve sufficient covering for their nakedness. This is a perfect picture of our salvation in Christ. We cannot cover our own sin, it must be covered by the blood of an innocent.

But What Does it Mean for Me?



alienation (Gen. 3:8, 12-13). Sin separates people.

IV. CREATION

The world was also created perfect for man. It was truly paradise. Now, the ground is cursed, thorns and thistles (Gen. 3:17-19). Now we have disastrous weather patterns and events.

V. SPIRITUAL

We were created to be in perfect spiritual relationship with our creator. Now we are born in sin, separated from God. We experience hiding from God, enmity: seed of woman and seed of Serpent (Gen. 3:8, 15, 4:1-15; I John 3:12)

VI. OUR THINKING

Instead of viewing reality perfectly through God's eyes, our sin effects how we think and act. We experience distorted thinking, spiritual blindness (II Cor. 4:3-6; Rom. 1:28)

VII. OUR BEHAVIOR

Man's perfection ensures that no command of God will be broken. This, however, is far from the case today. Cain and Abel showed just how far sin had reached when Cain murdered his brother. Crime is now commonplace in our world. murder - Genesis 4

Importance:

We must understand the fall and its consequences. This effects how we parent our children, how we live out our marriages, and all other relationships. You children, husband, wife, parents, etc. Are all infected by sin. We are all fallen creatures. Understanding this makes it easier to forgive and relate to people in a biblical way. The gospel is enough to pay for all our sins and bring us back into relationship with the Father, therefore it is also enough to pay for the sins of our loved ones. NO ONE in your life is able to be perfect, neither should we expect them to be...for we ourselves are not. But, in Him, we are finally complete.

BECAUSE OF THE FALL...

Because of the fall, we will have to deal with the flesh, the world, and satan until we are glorified in the presence of Christ. But for the believer, God has given us Himself in Christ as a perfect sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and makes war against the flesh. Life isn't easy, but our life is a consistent movement toward the victory of our perfection. "because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1 John 4:4

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Ok...I understand that Adam and Eve fell and this caused havoc for us all. But, what does that have to do with me? What does it mean for my daily life? How am I affected? How does it affect my relationships, and the world? There are seven huge ramifications of the fall of man:

I. PHYSICAL

Mankind was created perfect and immortal. However, because of the fall, we now experience death, decay, sickness and suffering (Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 5:12; 8:19-22). These are inevitable in our lives because of sin.

II. PHYSIOLOGICAL

Man was created completely innocent but now we experience shame, guilt, fear (Gen. 3:7).

III. RELATIONSHIPS

Humans were created in perfect relationship with one another. Now, we have blame shifting, hiding,

IT'S NOT FAIR!!!

You may be tempted to think it isn't fair that we are all held accountable for what Adam and Eve did. Its not right that we are born sinners because of what someone else did. I didn't want Adam representing me. That sounds logical. However, what about your own sin? Like it or not,

Adam represented us all when he sinned. Jesus came to represent us in righteousness. One or the other will represent you to God.



I CORINTHIANS 15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Study Questions

1. According to Romans 3:10-18, are you a “good” person deep down? Are there any “good” people in the world?

2. According to Romans 8:7-8, what can man do outside of Jesus’ work to please God?

3. According to Matthew 15:19, where do evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, lies, and blasphemies come from?

4. Read Proverbs 28:26. What does God call a person who “follows their heart?”

5. 1 John 2:16 speaks of worldliness with a direct allusion to Eve’s temptation in the garden. John says that all that is in the world is “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” Spend some time in reflection and prayer in order to identify these three temptations in your own life.

6. Every day of the Christian life is a fight to believe God’s promises. Our hearts say we will be happy if we have money, love, success, etc. God’s word says He alone can fulfill our delight. Satan uses the same tactic with us that he used with Eve. What lies does he regularly try to get you to believe?

7. Adam and Eve tried to hide and “cover” their nakedness instead of running to God in repentance and allowing Him to cover them. How do we do the same thing today?

8. Why is it important that we understand our fallen nature in dealing with our relationships and our responsibilities (parents, spouse, employees, bosses, etc.)



WAIT JUST A MINUTE!!

God is all-knowing. So, didn’t He know that Adam and Eve were going to sin before they did? Why did He create everything just so it would fall?

Good question: Everything happened the way it was supposed to. The fall was the only way you and I could have total security in our salvation and relationship to God. If Adam and Eve never sinned, and no one else ever sinned all the way down through the generations. You and I would be sitting on pins and needles hoping the guy down the street doesn’t sin and plunge us all into a fallen state. If everyone was perfect like Adam and Eve were, any one of us could sin and plunge the world into chaos. But now, Jesus has given us eternal assurance.