

Studies in Genesis

TOPIC: The Fall of Man

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3

MEMORY VERSE: Genesis 3:15

Lesson 3

Genesis 3

INTRODUCTION: This chapter is one of the most important chapters in the entire Bible. In Genesis 1 and 2, we find man in innocence. Everything is perfect, and there is fellowship between God and man. Then, in Genesis 3, man sins against God, and from then on we find jealousy, anger, murder, lying, wickedness, corruption, rebellion, and judgment. This is all a result of the Fall of Man.

I THE FALL OF MAN v 1-13

- A. Man's fall began with Satan in the form of a serpent (v 1a)**
SUBTIL - “*cunning; crafty; shrewd*” (Ezekiel 28:11-19)
Satan was a fallen angelic being, and was more than a match for Eve except for one weapon she had - the Word of God. (Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)

NOTE: **The first recorded words of the devil in the Old Testament cast a doubt upon the spoken Word of God. (Genesis 3:1) His first recorded words in the New Testament cast a doubt upon the living Word of God. (Matthew 4:3) Three chapters in from the beginning of the Bible, the serpent is seen for the first time (Genesis 3:1); three chapters in from the end of the Bible he is seen for the last time. (Revelation 20:10)**

- B. The serpent began his deception by talking with Eve (v 1b)**
The serpent in those days was not the writhing creature we see today, but was very beautiful so Eve was not afraid of it.

NOTE: **It was God's intention that Adam be the leader for he was created first. Satan twisted God's order. He began the temptation with Eve, putting her in the place of leadership. (I Timothy 2:11-14; I Corinthians 11:3)**

- C. Satan began the discussion with a doubt of God's Word (v 1c-3)**
Satan was trying to make Eve doubt three things:
1) the authorship of God's Word - “*Yea, hath God said. . .*” (v 1) -

He is saying, *How do you know God said it?* Remember that God had given the command not to eat to Adam before Eve was made. (Genesis 2:16-17)

- 2) the accuracy of God's Word - "*ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden*" (v 1) - He is saying, *How do you know that is an accurate rendering of what was originally said?*
- 3) the acceptability of God's Word - "*But of the fruit of the tree. . .*" (v 2-3) - Satan has directed her attention to the forbidden tree, he is saying, *Do you accept what God's Word says?*

NOTE:

Eve added to God's Word once in her answer to the serpent and twice she subtracted from it. (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19) God had said "*of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.*" Eve dropped out both of those superlatives, paraphrasing the Word of God and robbing it of much of its force. Then she minimized the penalty. God had said, "*Thou shalt surely die.*" Eve reduced that to "*lest ye die.*" Then, she added the statement "*Neither shall ye touch it;*" something God had not said. (compare Genesis 2:16-17 with Genesis 3:2-3) Eve's misquoting and carelessness about God's Word must have made the serpent even more bold in his attack upon God's Word.

- D. Satan continued the discussion with a denial of God's Word (v 4)
Satan here is calling God a liar. (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18) Satan is the "*liar*" from the beginning. (John 8:44)
- E. Satan closed his deception with a delusion (v 5)
He told Eve she would be like God. (Isaiah 14:12-15)
- F. Eve ate the forbidden fruit and gave to Adam and he ate of it also (v 6)
Eve was deceived by the serpent but Adam sinned with his eyes wide open. (I Timothy 2:14) Temptation often comes through the eyes. (I John 2:16; Matthew 4:1-11)
 - Eve saw that the tree was good for food (*lust of the flesh*)
 - Eve saw that it was pleasant to the eyes (*lust of the eyes*)
 - Eve saw that it would make one wise (*pride of life*)

NOTE:

Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness. This is a picture of man trying to cover his own sin with the works of his hands. (Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

- G. Adam and Eve try to hide from God (v 8-10)**
 God already knew where they were but He wanted them to realize where they were. (Hebrews 4:13; Proverbs 15:3) He was lost - that was where he was!
- H. Adam and Eve's excuses for their sin (v 11-13)**
 Rather than just admit their sin, their fallen nature now tries to excuse it.
- A. Adam**
- ◆ he tried to blame God (v 12)
 - ◆ he tried to blame Eve (v 12)
 - ◆ he finally confessed his sin (v 12)
- B. Eve - Eve followed her husband's example**
- ◆ she tried to blame the serpent (v 13)
 - ◆ she confessed her sin (v 13)

II THE FUTURE OF MAN (v 14-24)

All of creation was now cursed because of sin. (Romans 8:22-23; 5:12-19)

- A. The curse upon the serpent (v 14-15)**
 The serpent would now go upon its belly. This curse involves WAR.

NOTE: Genesis 3:15 is the first declaration of the Gospel. The "*seed of the woman*," Jesus, would bruise the serpent's head. (Satan) This will happen at the second coming of Christ. The serpent would bruise "*his heel*." This happened on the cross of Calvary. (Romans 16:20) NO DOUBT THIS VERSE GAVE FRESH HOPE TO ADAM AND EVE.

- B. The curse upon the woman (v 16)**
 This curse involved WOE. There was to be sorrow in childbearing and submissiveness to the headship of the husband. (Ephesians 5:22-24; I Peter 3:1, 5)

- C. The curse upon the man (v 17-19)**
 This curse involved WORK. Man would now have to work in a cursed earth to bring forth his food, until his body went back to the dust of the earth. (Genesis 18:27; Job 10:9; Psalm 103:14; Ecclesiastes 3:20; 12:7)

NOTE: The day that Adam sinned against God, he died spiritually. (Genesis 2:17; Ephesians 2:1) One day Adam died physically. (Genesis 5:5)

- D. Adam's confession of faith (v 20)**
He called his wife's name "*Eve*" ("*life-giver*"). God had just pronounced a sentence of death upon the race, but had also declared that the woman's Seed would bring salvation. Adam believed, and called his wife the mother of all living, not the mother of all dying.
- E. God made clothes for Adam and Eve (v 21)**
GOD IS THE INVENTOR OF CLOTHING. (I Timothy 2:9-10; I Peter 3:3-5)
- F. God drove out Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden (v 22-24)**
The Lord guarded the way to the Tree of Life lest any man should eat of it and live forever in his sinful state.

TEACHERS' TIP: GOD IS THE UNSEEN LISTENER IN YOUR CLASS EACH SUNDAY.

NEXT MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 9:22