

In The Beginning: Session 06 – The Fall

בְּרֵאשִׁית

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Review: last week we talked about the Garden of Eden and the Creation of Woman.

- We talked about the location of the Garden, and Man's duty to tend and defend it
- There were two trees in the Garden; one is a picture of seeking fulfillment through striving; the other is a picture of trust.
- We talked about the creation of Eve, and it's a beautiful picture of God's design for marriage, and how God created an eternal companion for His Son.

Overview of Genesis 3

- One of the most important chapters in the Bible.
 - We are introduced to the Devil.
 - The story of the Fall: death, spiritual separation from God.
 - Man under the spiritual headship of Satan.
 - Planetary conditions changed drastically.

The serpent appears: Genesis 3:1

1 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'?"

- The Devil's tactics do not change.
- *Serpent* = related to the word for bronze or brass.
- He also has the power of speech. Why did Satan appear in this form?

Who is the one speaking through the serpent?

- The Devil is a fallen angel of great power, who rebelled against God.
- Job says the angels already existed when God made the Earth.
 - *“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7)*
 - “Sons of God” refers to angels.
- The Devil’s original name was probably *Heylel*, meaning “daystar.”
 - Many Bibles translate this as *Lucifer*, Latin for “bringer of light.”
 - *Satan* is Hebrew, and it means *opponent* or *adversary*.
 - *Devil* is from the Greek word *diabolos*, meaning *accuser*.

Isaiah says: *How are you fallen from heaven, O Daystar, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, who did weaken the nations! For you have said in your heart, “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Yet you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. (Isa. 14:12-15)*

- Five famous “I will” statements: they indicate that Satan’s fall was due to a desire to exalt himself to the level of God.
- Satan was probably a cherub, connected with the worship of God.
 - *You seal up the sun, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You have been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering...You are the anointed cherub who covers... you were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until*

iniquity was found in you. (See Ezek. 28:12b-15)

- From these passages we suggest that Satan was inflated with pride because of his great power, beauty, and responsibility.

The Temptation: Genesis 3:2-5

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat 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 has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 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 strikes at any point where he can see we are unclear about what God has said. He will also hit us in any place we may be willing to bargain about it.
- Eve was not devoted to *learning* God’s Word. I suspect she was also poorly taught by Adam. In any event, Eve is faulted in the Bible for being deceived. We are responsible for our own spiritual growth even if we have poor leadership.
- When Satan challenged Eve on God’s commandment, she mangled it.
 - First, she added to the Word, saying God had forbidden them even to touch the fruit.
 - Second, Eve changed the Word, softening God’s command and removing its punishment. Eve said, *We can’t eat it, lest we die.* In other words, something *may* happen to us.
 - Third, Eve *subtracted* from the Word. God had said they would die the day they ate it – but she left that part out.
 - These are three errors we can make with the Word.

How Satan twists (and gets you to violate) God’s Word

We can see here the Devil’s strategy to get us to sin – a strategy he has used successfully

ever since that fateful day:

1. *Claim there will be no consequences.* The Devil comes with forbidden fruit, but he knows you won't bite unless he can convince you of the lie of verse 4: *You shall not surely die.*
2. *Appeal to human independence.* He says you can construct a life without God. Eve saw that the fruit was good for food. (Gen. 3:6) She thought it could nourish her. She rejected the food that God had given her, and substituted a source of life which was of inferior quality.
3. *Appeal to human pride and desire for glory.* He says you are wiser than God. Satan promised that they would be like gods. But he can only give you the same old lies that left Adam and Eve naked and ashamed. He'll leave you the same way.

6 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's attraction to the fruit is the same description of sin we get from the Apostle John: the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. We are often deceived by appearances in just the same way.

7 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. 8 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. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

- Notice the immediate sense that something is wrong.

11 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?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- This was the beginning of the blame game.
- Adam's responsibility.
- More effects of sin: the avoidance of personal responsibility; hardness of heart.

14 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. 15 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."

- Verse 15 is sometimes called the First Gospel, because this is God's first promise of a Redeemer. The Seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head.
- The physical serpent is judged with some change to his condition.

16 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." 17 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. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 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."

- Women would suffer in a way that apparently was not God’s original intention.
- There would now be a war between the sexes.
- And men would suffer because the Earth was now partially cursed. To use Paul’s words in Romans 8:20, *creation was subjected to futility*.

The Devil’s Rulership of the World-System

- Paul says in Romans 6:16, *Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves... whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*
- When Adam obeyed the Devil, his grant of authority passed along to Satan.
- Satan tempted Christ by offering Him the kingdoms of the world. Luke says: *...the devil said to him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory [of the kingdoms of the world], for that has been delivered to me; and I give it to whomsoever I will."* (Luke 4:6)

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

- God made them skins... the first sacrifice?

22 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"— 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 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.

- Man has become mortal, but if he ate from the tree of life...
