

## In the Beginning

### Genesis 3:1-24

- In the first two chapters we saw the creation account and how all things from mankind, to the animals, the earth, and nature, now were going to read about the fall of man and how sin entered into the world. As we'll read God has given man specific instructions as to what was permitted and what was not, so a lack of communication was never the problem.

#### V1-24

- **V1-3** doesn't go into detail about how Satan came into appearing as a serpent, what is important is understanding what his agenda is and the tactics that he uses to accomplish them. Were told that the one of the reasons Satan uses the serpent is that he was more cunning than the other creatures of the earth, this meant "**crafty**", folks we cannot outsmart Satan, we can overcome him but not by outsmarting him, it's only through the power of Jesus that we prevail.
- Also Eve doesn't seemed alarmed by her conversation with him, this shows us that Satan often comes to us in something that appears to be **non threatening**, and in something **very familiar**, as not to alarm us initially. Eve was used to the Serpent, what they were doing didn't seem unnatural at first, just a normal conversation, if we were to see a snake talking to us about God or His Word we'd immediately become defensive but at this time nothing unusual is happening so as they keep talking we'll see Eve becoming completely wide open for Satan to strike.
- Finally here we see the first attack Satan makes to us is aimed at the Word of God > "**has God indeed said**" as he knows that if he can get us confused about what God said, then he can get us to doubt why He says anything, (for our good). Here he takes God positive command > "**of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in that day that you eat of it you shall surely die**". God tells them partake there's plenty to eat, but don't eat from this tree as it will cause you harm if you do, this is a positive but Satan gets Eve to focus on the negative by twisting what God said and meant.
- **V4-5** Satan gives a direct challenge to God's Word, "**You shall not surely die**" he drew Eve in, planted a seed of doubt, and now moves in for the kill. In doing this he is trying to get Eve to doubt the goodness of God, that God doesn't want the best for us, if God lies how can He be good? Also Satan wants to diminish disobedience, if we see sin as something that can be good then why wouldn't God let us do it? So his main lie is sin is not bad and God is not really good.
- Something else compelling in this was Satan's temptation wasn't all lies, he was telling the truth that in the day they eat of this tree their eyes will be opened, he just didn't tell them what they would see ( their rebellion and their sin). Just as he wanted to be equal to God he presented this falsehood to Eve as well and it appealed to her, at the root of all sin is us believing were in control of our own lives, and therefore we know what's best for ourselves being our own gods.

- **V6** this is the most amazing part of the story to me, as although Satan initially approached Eve, at some point Adam joined in and instead of interceding and breaking this up he sits back while it happens and once it does instead of choosing to be obedient to God he partakes also. For Eve she surrendered just as **1Jn 2:16** explains > she gave in to the **lust of the flesh** (saw that it was good for food) gave in to the **lust of the eyes** (pleasant to the eyes) finally gave in to the **pride of life** (desirable to make one wise). **1Tim 2:14** says Eve was genuinely deceived when she sinned, as she wrongfully thought that she was really doing something good for herself and Adam.
- Not so with Adam, **1Tim 2:14** says he was not deceived, he simply just chose to disobey with Eve knowing that there would be grave consequences. Which is why as men we have to be careful to always be aware of not only our surroundings but the surroundings of those we love, and to speak up and not sit back waiting for bad things to happen before we say something because by then it could be too late. **V7-10** for afterward once their eyes are opened its to their sin and rebellion then they seek to hide for the very first time from themselves and the Lord.
- One of the great pleasures of being a Christian is the freedom it provides us, we can be ourselves around God, His Word, and His people, when true fellowship occurs, as you have nothing to be ashamed of. But when sin enters in, immediately we get defensive, deceptive, secretive, as we don't want anyone to see our true selves anymore as sin robs us of transparency, and therefore putting us in bondage and sadly often we don't even know it.
- For the first time we see fear which is why they try and hide from God, at no other time do we see that they were afraid when they heard God's voice and felt the need to try and protect themselves. But now sin again robs us of our peace and of our trust in the Lord. **V11-13** we see blame shifting from both Adam and Eve, Adam blames first God for giving him the woman, and then Eve blames the serpent. The first attempt of cover up was with their clothes, now it's with their words, and neither one works, it's always best to admit your wrong instead of pointing fingers at others, as it doesn't work anyway but only causes more confusion and chaos.
- **V14-15** when God spoke to Adam and Eve He asked questions but not the serpent He went straight to the judgment as there was nothing to teach him. Now he has to slither on the ground instead of walking on his legs, also he puts a natural aversion between mankind and snakes especially for women, also he's commanded to eat dust all his days, dust is symbolic of defeat, like the old saying "eat my dust" this is where they got it from. Just like Satan this once beautiful creature is transformed into a creeping, slithering, hissing snake we know today.
- **V16-19** for the woman she will endure pain through conception and submission to her husband, Adam for listening to Eve above the Lord he will have to work by the sweat of his brow all his days, and creation is cursed because he let sin into creation. Finally instead of fellowship with God its suffering on earth that ends in the promise of death.

- **V20-24** we see God's grace as Eve is named being the mother of the living, God clothes Adam-Eve, and sets protection over the tree of life so that man wouldn't eat of that and become like this forever, that's God's mercy.