

THE FALL OF MAN: Part 1 | GENESIS 3:1-7 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 4/23/2023

I. *The Sin in Eden* (1-6) II. *The Shame in Eden* (7) III. *The Separation in Eden* (8-13) IV. *The Sentence in Eden* (14-19) V. *The Sacrifice in Eden* (20-24)

INTRO: In just two chapters, the Book of Genesis has revealed so much about God, His Design, and His Creation of Mankind to dwell in a perfect place...Eden. In just six days everything was created, and it was very good in the eyes of God (1:31), according to His Word. Now, another “word” enters the scene...the word of Satan, the deceiver, who *comes to steal, kill, and destroy* (John 10:10).

Genesis 3 tells us reveals **5 things** that transpired from the Fall...

I. **THE SIN IN EDEN (3:1-6) – God DID NOT create the Devil as we know him today.**

(Ezek 28:12-19) provides a detailed picture of the beauty and wisdom with which Satan was *originally created*. *“He was, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty...every precious stone was his covering...he was the anointed cherub that covers.”* – (Isaiah 14:12-17) tells us that his name was Lucifer, before his fall.

The great mystery then is how such a wise and beautiful being could have fallen to such depths, to become the vilest being in the universe!

- (Isa 14:13-14) *For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High (PRIDE)*
- (Ezek 28:17a) *“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground...”* So, the **Fall of Man** was...

A. Caused by Satan – Because Satan wanted to be God, he was cast to the earth. Because he could not be God and he actually hates everything of God; **Satan made a TARGET of God’s beloved creation...mankind!**

B. Camouflaged with the Serpent (1a) – Snakes were created by God and were beautiful in their *pre-cursed* form. Satan could have **POSSESSED** a serpent; as we see that animals can be possessed by demonic spirits (*e.g., swine, Luke 8:26-39*). It is also possible that **Satan took on the form of a serpent**. (Rev 12:9) tells us that, *the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him*. Whatever the case Satan...

C. Confronted the Woman First (1b-5) – Satan targeted the woman as he found her alone without the protection of her husband! Satan always looks for the weaker vessel which he can seduce with his lies. **It began with a ½ truth: “Every tree?”** Satan used **3 TOOLS**

1. Doubt (3:1b-3) – *Never before did she ever have the thought that God would hold something back from her and Adam. The serpent got her to question God’s goodness!*

- **She carried on a conversation with the serpent!**
- His lies can **sow doubt in our minds and hearts**, which actually **erodes our faith!**
- As soon as we begin to doubt God's Word, we're ready to reject it and accept Satan's Deception and go against God's commands.

2. **Denial (3:4)** – The serpent twisted God’s truth, **Denying GOD’S WARNING!** “...*You WILL NOT surely die.*” – This is a direct contradiction of God’s “*You SHALL surely die!*” (2:17)

3. **Deception (5)** – The serpent made her feel as if she was missing out on something greater!
– **His master lie is: *You will be like God!* This was the very temptation that ruined him!**

- Adam and Eve knew “OF” Good and Evil but were **unlike God who knows perfect holiness!**
- Satan exalts the pleasurable benefits but excludes to consequences of disobeying God!
- At this point Eve was convinced, which...

D. Caused their Demise (6) – Though Eve was sinless, she was seduced by the serpent with subtle doses of Doubt, Denial, and Deception... **notice the 3 areas of temptation... Physical, Emotional, and Intellectual.**

1. These correspond to: The lust of the **FLESH**, the lust of the **EYES**, and the **PRIDE** of life in (1 John 2:15-17), “*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the Flesh, the lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*”

- These were the same 3 areas in which **Satan tried to tempt JESUS**, but Jesus defeated Satan by speaking the Word of God (Matt 4:1-11).

E. Consider what Happened – The seriousness of the offense lies in Adam and Eve's rejection of God's explicit command. **Why would they do this?**

1. **EVE was vulnerable** when she left Adam's protection, thus confirming how important it was for her to stay under the protection and leadership of her husband, **Eve was deceived!**

- Her behavior was not blatant defiance of God; rather, it was a result of manipulation and trickery to make her feel as though what she did was proper. Today, **ALL Christians must be warned of such spiritual ignorance!** – Paul confirms this in (2 Cor 11:3) “*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

2. **ADAM however, violated** his leadership role because he did not restrain himself from disobeying God’s command, **Adam chose to sin! He deliberately fell into transgression.** (Rom 5:12 NLT) “*When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.* **Why did Adam do this?**

- Was it because Eve’s countenance suddenly changed, and she was now all knowing? Or was it like what many commentators conclude that Adam’s transgression was deliberate, so as not to leave his beloved counterpart.
- If the Bible is not clear about Adam’s reason, **we should not speculate a conclusion.** What we do know is that **Adam made choice**...and his decision plummeted all of mankind and creation into a fallen state! (Rom 5:18a) “*Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgement came to all men, resulting in condemnation...*”

* SEE = Sin Effects Everything! – *Satan still uses Lies, Deceit and Temptation to draw people away from God:* (cf. James 1:12-14)

CLOSING THOUGHT: In (John 8:44b) Jesus said that Satan was “...*a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*” Now we’ll SEE the immediate result of Adam and Eve’s Sin in Eden...

II. THE SHAME IN EDEN (7) – In (2:25), we learned that Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed, completely innocent. But here, in (3:7) they became Naked and Ashamed!

A. Affected their Eyes (7a) – The first visible consequence of their disobedience was **the ability to SEE their sin?** “*Their eyes were open,*” which means that their innocence was gone!

- In His public ministry, Jesus taught about the need to guard our eyes, (Luke 11:34-35) *The lamp of the body is the eye...Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness,* AND in (Matt 18:9) Jesus says, “...*if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.*”

B. Affected their Understanding (7b) – “*They KNEW that they were naked.*” – **Nakedness** was the first felt consequence of Adam and Eve’s sin. – They now had **the knowledge of sin, which was not needed** for their happiness and fulfilment, **yet NOW they knew what it was!**

1. **Nakedness** has been associated with sexuality, privacy, and vulnerability. When the Bible speaks of “*uncovering nakedness*” (cf. Gen 9), it usually refers to some form of sexual transgression, perversion, or shame.
2. The reveals that **Every human being possesses a Human Conscience**, which is a **moral meter** of what is Right and Wrong, Acceptable and Unacceptable, Righteous or Unrighteous.
 - **If we fear God**, the Holy Spirit convicts our consciences about right and wrong (*Clearing*) (1 Tim 1:5,19). But Persons who have No Fear of God (Rom 1:19-22), suppress the truth when guilty of sin. (1 Tim 4:2b) “...*having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,*”

C. Affected their Actions (7c) – They attempted to **COVER** their sin with “*fig leaves.*” Wow, do you see the progression of sin here? They **SAW** their sin, they **KNEW** it was sin, and now they try to **HIDE** their sin! Why? Because their transgression produces GUILT, an emotion that they had Never Experienced before!

- **Guilt produces fear!** And fear makes us want to run and hide. Normally, Adam and Eve would have run to meet God. But they are now sinners... hiding from God!
- **Sinners can NEVER cover their sins by their own works.** Nor can they hide from God. (Num 32:23) says, that if one sins against the Lord, “...*be sure your sin will find you out.*” **God’ knows all and God see all.** He knows the destruction that disobedience can bring to his children, thus He warned Adam and Eve. And for us, who are born into sin, God reiterated the same danger in (Rom 6:23a) says, “*For the wages of sin is death...*”

– Because of their transgression, Adam and Eve suffered spiritual death. **Their physical condition changed as a result of their eating the forbidden fruit.** As God had promised, they became mortal. They and their children would experience sickness, pain, and physical death thereafter.

CLOSING THOUGHT: Man was formed in God's image, but in the Fall, man became **DEFORMED** through sin... And the rest of the Bible is about how God works to **REFORM** us in Christ's image... **(1 Cor 15:49)** says, *And as we have borne the **image** of the man of dust, we shall also bear the **image** of the heavenly Man.*

This is the Fall or Man part one, in our next study we will learn of the deeper consequences of sin, and how it affected the whole world!