

## Paradise Lost, Opportunity Given

Genesis 3; 09 17 17

In 24 verses, Genesis 3 records the single, most reasonable explanation for the condition of the world today. If this chapter were not in the Bible, we would have to postulate something parallel to it from our own reasoning to explain reality.

Two forces seemingly present in the world: terrible evil and persistent good.

The record of Genesis 3 is a narrative; it is frightening, factual - man's opportunity for good, the choice to follow evil and the consequence.

There are four facts of revelation, exposé, in this chapter paralleled in Romans 1:18-23:

This passage is here, to warn Israel and us to listen to the word of God

1. The first fact revealed is the source and nature of temptation
  - a. Satan not mentioned by name; clearly the serpent is later shown to be Satan, 2 Cor 11:14; Rev. 12:9
  - b. No reference to the fall of Satan or when his evil intent developed
  - c. Three major facts about sin and Satan
    - i. God is not the author of sin;
    - ii. Sin came from outside of the beautiful creation of God, that He had called good.
    - iii. Sin is the result of the power of evil suggestion and the deliberate, cognitive, intentional choice made by man. Rom 1
  - d. Temptation has stages: curiosity, suspicion, doubt, denial, disbelief:
    - i. Eve's curiosity was perhaps excited by seeing Satan eat?
    - ii. Her desire was increased, to eat, to gain wisdom;

iii. Eve's response, all based on misquoting God's Word:  
disparage privileges; overstate restrictions, underrate obligations

2. The reality and presence of sin, moral evil, is inescapable;
  - a. Its roots are in man's desire of self-assertion and hubris; scripture says lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and the pride of life;
  - b. The sin of Sodom was pride, idleness and fullness of bread;
  - c. Real choice not erased by heredity, environment or DNA;
  - d. Sins of the inner man are far more dangerous than just an act; Jer 17:9.
3. The reality of punishment
  - a. **The entry of guilt**, a new feeling: their eyes were opened; fig leaves
  - b. **The word of condemnation**
    - i. To the man, "Where are you?" "I heard the sound of your voice and I was afraid; I was naked; Who told you that you were naked?"
    - ii. To the woman, "What is this you have done?" "The serpent .... ."
  - c. **The reality of separation**
    - i. Notice the first word of judgment is to the serpent!! The Lord spoke to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed!"
    - ii. The woman is next, the pain;
    - iii. Adam is last: ground is cursed: you will eat in toil all your life; thorns and ; you will return to the ground, dust to dust.

4. The hope of redemption: The first word of redemption in scripture is God's declaration of enmity between the serpent and his seed, and the woman and her seed. (called the *protoevangelium*)
- a. Man could not cover his shame with leaves; God took life to cover shame;
  - b. Rom 8:35 says, "who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect;"
  - c. Rom 8:34, "who is he that condemns"
  - d. Who shall separate us from the love of God: **NO GUILT; NO CONDEMNATION; NO SEPARATION.**

God still calls: Where are you? His sorrow, his offering of salvation. Where are you? What do you try to hide from God's eyes?