

## **Introduction**

Man was created without sin. God announced that along with the rest of creation, man was very good.<sup>1</sup> But the entrance of sin changed this. Sin came into the world through Adam, and death by that sin. Because he chose to disobey a direct order from God, Adam trespassed, sinned, and transgressed.<sup>2</sup> These words and their definitions will be discussed in the second portion of this course. God placed man in the garden and provided everything that was needed for a fulfilling life. Satan, the fallen cherub, disguised in the garden as a serpent, lied to the woman, and convinced her that God had not provided everything that they needed, but was holding the best thing back. The woman was deceived by Satan, and committed a transgression, which is a distinction from Adam's action.<sup>3</sup> Adam's choice placed him on a direct road toward's death. This fall had consequences on the entire human race, separating them from God, creating a need for a redeemer.

## **Serpent was more subtil...**

Satan's presence in the garden as a serpent is fascinating. Lucifer's fall predates that of mankind. Jesus says that Satan "was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44; see 1Jn 3:8), which most likely refers to the beginning of the creation account. Paul warns church leaders against becoming puffed up "with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil" (1Tim 3:16), suggesting that Satan's originating sin was a pride which resented the creation of man in God's image. It stands to reason that Satan tempted Adam and Eve to be "like God" (Gen. 3:5) because this same discontented rebellion occasioned his own fall.<sup>4</sup> A dialogue ensued between "the woman" (Eve was not named until after the Fall) and the serpent. There is no note that this was anything but normal at that time. Satan's questioning of God's word in this passage gives the believe a pattern by which Satan has been tempting man from the beginning. Satan deceived the woman into thinking that God had not provided everything they needed. The fruit appealed to the body and soul of Eve.<sup>5</sup> She did not filter the information through her spirit, instead trusting the input from her eyes and feelings. The woman took the fruit to Adam and Adam made a choice to follow his wife rather than to obey God.

This choice had the effect of bringing mankind from life to death. God had given the clear command to not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The command was simple, and God even provided revelation on what would happen if they should eat of the fruit, they would die.

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:31

<sup>2</sup> Romans 5:12-15

<sup>3</sup> 1 Timothy 2:14

<sup>4</sup> Philips, Richard. *The Origin of Sin*. The Gospel Coalition.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-origin-of-sin/> accessed Sept 26, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 3:6

## **Heard the Voice of God... and Hid Themselves**

Sin had an immediate affect on Adam and Eve. They knew they were naked, having lost the image of God. Paul in Corinthians tells us that man still has a quality of this.<sup>6</sup> Adam and Eve were in terror from God, and then sought to defend indefensible behavior, casting blame that was theirs onto other beings.<sup>7</sup> God graciously interacts with His creation at this point. Adam's sin brought physical death. "For until the law, sin as a quality was in the world, but sin as a quality is not logically counted, when there is no law, but the death reigned from Adam to Moses." Adam's trespass brought spiritual death. "For, since by the trespass of one, the death reigned through the one ..." (Romans 5:17). This death which reigned is spiritual death, or man's separation from God. Adam's trespass consisted of his choice to disobey God. Adam's transgression brought the curse of corruption upon the earth. A transgression requires the existence of law (Romans 4:15). God commanded Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:11, 17). Since Adam had a commandment, a law, he transgressed when he sinned (Job 31:33; Romans 5:14). Eve also transgressed (1 Timothy 2:14). She broke a rule, but was completely deceived by Satan. Therefore God counted her act to be transgression.

## **Judgment**

Eve and her female descendants have been judged with pain in child birth (Genesis 3:16). God also caused Eve's conception cycle to increase; that is, she could conceive more frequently after the fall than before it. Prior to Eve's transgression, child birth did not involve the toil or sorrow presently associated with it. As Adam's toil in work after the fall is contrasted to his tending the garden before, so child birth became toil. Prior to the Fall, there was potentially no death in Eve's future. It wasn't necessary to conceive children as frequently. God multiplied her sorrow and her conception.

Eve and her female descendants came under their husbands' authority (Genesis 3:16). Eve had been created as a counterpart to Adam. However, his authority over Eve was not the same as that which we know today. God's judgment was that her authority was to be her husband.

Adam's actions brought judgment upon himself and the resulting human race. Adam and his descendants must toil to live (Genesis 3:17-19). Again it is important to remember that this is a contrast to Adam's previous life in the garden. God had caused Adam to rest in the garden, to subjugate it and till it. This was not labor as we think of labor. The ground was not cursed and was therefore not difficult to tend.

Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden (Genesis 3:22-24). God had planted a garden eastward in Eden. God had caused Adam to rest in that garden. Now they were driven from the

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<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:7, 15:49

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 3:12-13

garden in which God had provided them every tree good for food. God placed cherubs and a flaming sword at the entrance to the garden to keep Adam and Eve from returning to the garden. They would not be allowed to go on eating from the tree of life, and thus go on living (Genesis 3:22).

Adam, Eve and their descendants became subject to death (Genesis 2:17). They were subjected to physical death. They began dying physically at that moment. Physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26). They were subjected to spiritual death, separated from God. (Genesis 3:8). When Adam and Eve heard the sound of God walking, they hid themselves. Therefore, spiritual death is not only God separating from man, but as seen here, it is also man separating from God. This has become man's inclination. David wrote, "The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. They have all turned aside," (Psalm 14:2-3). Paul wrote, "There isn't one seeking God" (Romans 3:11b). This is consistent throughout the dispensations. Spiritual death entered the world by Adam, though God reckons all to have participated in his act (Romans 5:12).<sup>8</sup>

### **God's Dealings with Man**

God has been dealing with man according to Ages - those periods of "time" where God is revealing something about Himself to His creation. With the Fall of man, a second "dispensation" began, where God began revealing things about His creation to that creation. Each method of administration or stewardship, shows God giving revelation to a steward, and then "dispensing" His property according to a rule of life to a household. Each following dispensation finds God revealing more of mankind to themselves. God provides exactly what is needed to fulfil the rule of life, but man chooses to go his own way, rejecting what God has provided. This continues in various stages and levels until God ends the lesson, with judgement and a different lesson. These judgements will be explored in the next lesson.

Something that God had created to be "very good" was now broken. God's plan to reveal Himself to His creation included a way to fix that which was broken. "...God sent forth His son, made of a woman, made under the law, [so that he might] redeem them that were under the law" (Gal 4:4). Romans 5 puts in clear contrast the "first" Adam and the "second" Adam, showing plainly how God orchestrated His plan to fix what was broken. Death in Adam, because of sin, and Life in Christ, because of the free gift.<sup>9</sup> Christ's sinless life, followed by His crosswork provided life for anyone who would believe.<sup>10</sup> Christ in essence bought out the rights to all men, and the salvation became effective upon all who would receive this free gift through saving faith.

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<sup>8</sup> Hoelscher, Tim. **God's House Plans**. Royal City, WA. John 14:20 Publishing. 2008  
[www.graceteaching.com](http://www.graceteaching.com)

<sup>9</sup> Rom 5:16-19

<sup>10</sup> 1 Timothy 4:10

## **Conclusion**

Mankind had been placed in a paradise, with everything provided that they could possibly need. They failed to follow the simplest of directives, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan deceived the woman into thinking that going outside of the boundary that God had set for them would benefit them. She then was deceived into breaking God's established law, transgressing. She offered the fruit to Adam, who made a clear choice to follow his wife's behavior instead of trusting that God could continue to provide for his every need. This decision had lasting effects upon him, his wife, their children, and the entire human race. Sin had now separated man from his Creator. What was going to be the solution for this sin problem?