

Genesis 3

November 21, 2010

Introduction:

In **chapter one**, we saw the creation story. The God who always had been spoke our world into existence. **Chapter two** gives us the specifics of the creation of Adam and Eve. Everything that God created was good except for one thing: what was it?

- It was not good when man was created and was alone (2:18).

What did God say about His creation once he had created someone for Adam to share life with?

- After God created Eve, He said that this was *very good* (1:31).

If you look at **chapter 2 verse 7** you will see that God *formed* man. In **chapter 2 verse 22** you see that God *fashioned* the woman. These Hebrew words allude to the simplicity of men and the complexity of women. It may also explain why most women love to shop (*fashioned*).

2:25 Before we go to **chapter 3**, notice what **2:25** says about Adam and Eve before they sinned. What do you think that *naked* and *unashamed* meant?

- Neither of them had guilt or shame. They had no reason to hide from each other or to pretend to be something they were not. They apparently had an honest and simple intimacy.

3:1 We have a new character introduced in **verse 1 of chapter 3**. What does the Bible tell us about Him?

- The serpent is Satan, the devil (**Revelation 12:9**). He was Lucifer. He is the father of lies (**John 8:44**). He is the accuser of believers (**Revelation 12:10**). He is the enemy of God and His people (**1 Timothy 5:14**). His goal is to steal, kill, and destroy (**John 10:10**). He is the tempter of all people (**Matthew 4:3**) and he is our adversary (**1 Peter 5:8**).

3:1 What did the serpent try to do in **verse one**?

- He tried to get Eve to begin to think that God was not good. “You can’t eat from any of the trees?”

What was the truth on this issue?

- They could eat from any and all of the trees except one (2:16-17).

It’s now our broken nature to think that God is “holding out” on us. Rather than thinking of all that we *can* do we focus on the few things God tells us not to do.

3:3 Did Eve have her facts straight in her answer in **verse 3**?

- No. God did not forbid touching the tree (2:17).
- Eve, like so many today who call themselves Christians, was unclear on what God really has said in His Word.

3:4 What did the devil get Eve to believe in **verse 4**?

- He wanted Eve to doubt that God would do what He said He would do. She wouldn’t die; God wasn’t right.

3:5 What did the devil get Eve to believe in **verse 5**?

- He again argues that God is not good. He claims that God is keeping her from a better life. He told her that doing what God had said *not* to do was in her best interest.

3:6 In **verse 6** we are introduced to the three categories of sin. What are they and where else do these three categories appear together in the Bible?

See **1 John 2:16**. The categories are

- (1) the lust of the flesh {*the tree was good for food*},
- (2) the lust of the eyes {*it was a delight to the eyes*},
- (3) the pride of life {*the tree was desirable to make one wise*}.

See **Luke 4:1-13**. Jesus was tempted to turn stones to bread (lust of the flesh). He was tempted by the vision of all the kingdoms of the world (lust of the eyes). And Jesus was tempted to be rescued publicly by angels so that everyone would know who He was (the pride of life).

Satan convinced Eve that sin was better than righteousness, that watching out for herself was better than trusting God, that God wasn't really *that* good, didn't love her *that* much, and did not have her best interest at heart. She believed "the lie" that doing life her way was better for her than doing life God's way.

3:6 According to **verse 6**, where was Adam when Eve was being tempted?

- He was *with her* and he ate the fruit, too. Rather than being a man and a leader, Adam choked and remained silent. God made him to be strong, but Adam was weak.

Who did God ultimately hold responsible for the first sin?

- Adam. See **Romans 5:12,18-19**. In **Exodus 20:5 and 34:7** the Bible says that sin gets passed down from the *fathers* to the children.

How is the truth that sin is passed down through the father relevant to Jesus?

- Jesus could have an earthly mother: that made Him human. But an earthly father would have given him a sin nature like the rest of us. So He had to have a Heavenly Father: that made Him God.

3:7-13 What were the results of their sin?

- They now saw themselves, each other, and God differently. They made clothing to hide from each other. They hid from God when He came into the Garden. They now began to avoid responsibility for their actions. Adam blames God and Eve for his wrong (**3:12**). Eve blamed the serpent (**2:13**). They were now afraid of each other and afraid of God. They now had guilt and shame. Now they turned on each other and blamed the other for their wrong. What they had with God was now broken (they "died" spiritually). **Ephesians 2:1** says that man is now "dead" in his "trespasses and sins". Jesus said that we had to regain life; we had to be "born again" (**John 3:3-7**).

3:14-24 Verses 14 to 24 give us other consequences to their sin. What are they?

- Serpents were cursed. There would be war between the seed of Satan (his followers) and the seed of the woman (Jesus and His followers). Childbirth would now be painful. The ground (the planet) would now be cursed. They would die physical deaths (return to the dust). Blood would be shed to cover them physically (garments of skin) and spiritually (Jesus would have to die for their sin). Eden was closed and they were thrown out into the now-cursed world.

3:22-24 Did God put them out of the Garden of Eden to punish them or to protect them?

- Probably both. We learn in our first scene of mankind that choices have consequences. When we obey God, life goes well for us (Eden). When we disobey God, life becomes hard and painful (the curse). It was also an act of love to keep them from the Tree of Life. Had they eaten its fruit, they would have lived forever as broken sinners. God would send Jesus into the world to die for their sins (**pictured in verse 21**) and they would one day be without sin again and free from the curse in heaven (**Revelation 22:3**).

Two other lessons for us to take away from **chapter 3**:

- Like Adam and Eve, we never know what our sin might cost us. The entire creation was cursed and has been cursed for **6,000 years** as a result of their sin. Their sin invited every evil thing into creation (disease, death, etc.).
- It is also important to note that Adam and Eve, in their attempt to be “like God”, became *unlike* God. They were already like God in that they were *innocent* and *not guilty* of sin. When we deliberately sin, we believe the lie that sin will give us “life”, but it always brings “death” (**Romans 6:23**).

One last question: Did Adam and Eve and do we want to be like God, or do we want to *be* God?

- They and we want to *be* God. We want it to be about us. We want the universe and everything in it to bring happiness to us. We want to make our own rules. We want to live life the way we want to live it. We want to *be* God.