

Genesis 3

Who is the new player we're introduced to (v. 1)? The serpent. **Who is the serpent (Revelation 12:9)?** Satan, in the form of a snake. **How is he described?** As *"more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made."*

What was the seemingly innocent question he asked her? *Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden?"* **What were his tactics/ulterior motives?** Satan's first step was to plant a seed of doubt in Eve's mind concerning the Word of God by misquoting God, and implying that God was withholding something from them that was essentially good. A confused, doubting Eve is easy prey for Satan and the battle is lost from the start.

How did the woman respond (vv. 2-3)? We must not touch it or eat from it. Eve does not seem to know the *name* of this tree; she only calls it the tree in the middle of the garden. Eve's ignorance of exactly what God said was really Adam's responsibility. He did a poor job of relating to his wife the *one* command God gave him.

How did the serpent respond (vv. 4-5)? He directly challenged God's Word, telling her it was not true. That knowing good and evil is really a good thing. Then you will be like God. Satan's temptation was all the more powerful because there was *truth* in it. It was true her eyes will be opened, and this was fulfilled (Genesis 3:7). But their eyes were instantly opened to their own sin and rebellion.

What was the woman's perception of the fruit (v. 6)? She saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom. Which lines up perfectly with 1 John 2:16: *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."* All sin can be traced to at least one of these three. Eve succumbed to all three.

What did she do? She took some and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband. **What did her husband do?** He ate it. **Eve was deceived but what was Adam guilty of?** Adam acted willfully and sinned with his eyes wide open, in deliberate rebellion against God. He knew better and chose to disobey. He failed to lead; he was passive.

What happened immediately after they ate the fruit (v. 7)? Just as Satan promised - their eyes were instantly opened....to their own sin and rebellion...they realized they were naked. The first result of sin was a sense of shame and fear. At that point they had sinned and are now spiritually separated from God. This perfect relationship which God had established has now been severed by Adam and Eve.

How would you describe their encounter with God (vv. 8-9)? They initially tried to hide from God out of fear and shame. But, in love and mercy God searched after His fallen creatures with the rhetorical question *"Where are you?"* This question proved two things—that man was lost and that God had come to seek.

Who did God come looking for? Who did He hold responsible for this rebellion? It is Adam, not Eve, who bears the responsibility for the fall of the human race and for the introduction of death into the created order. Romans 5:12: *"Sin entered the world through one man."* 1 Corinthians 15:22 *"For as in Adam all die,"*

How did the man answer (v. 10)? For the first time in his life he knew fear and guilt and realized he was naked.

When God questioned Adam (v. 11), how did he respond (v. 12)? He played the blame game when he said, *"the woman You put here with me....."* Adam wasn't content to blame Eve; he had to blame God also. He refused to accept proper responsibility, as the head/leader of his wife, for his part in her sin. He makes excuses....No remorse....No repentant heart. We see the ugliness of pride here.

What are the consequences of Adam's sin for the rest of mankind including us? We are all born sinners. We are born with a sin nature. We are separated from God because of our sin. Romans 5:12-19: *"Sin entered the world through one man, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."* The result of one trespass was condemnation for all men. Psalms 51:5: *"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."* We are now born into Adam's image; an imperfect or corrupted image of God (Genesis 5:3).

With the exception of the fact of Creation, we have here the record of the most important and far-reaching event in the world's history—the entrance of sin into the world causing instant separation (spiritual death) from God.

Application: What is going on here between Satan and Eve is exactly what is described in Ephesians 6:12 -- Spiritual warfare. In the battle for her heart and mind, Eve lost. Most of us don't get to stand toe to toe, eyeball to eyeball with Satan. For us, the battle is largely invisible. It's still real, it's still a battle, and our foe is formidable.

How would you describe the woman's response to God's question (v. 13)? She blamed the serpent rather than accepting responsibility for her actions.

What are the consequences of the serpent's actions (vv. 14-15)? God invoked a curse on him. God's just nature is revealed for first time.

What were the consequences of the curse for Serpent? He would crawl on his belly and eat dust for the rest of his life which implies that the serpent did not crawl previously which meant he may have had legs of some type. To eat dust has the idea of humiliation and total defeat (Isaiah 65:25; Micah 7:17). God's permanent judgment on Satan is for him to always know defeat. He will always reach for victory, but will always fall short of it.

What is the significance of the statement of v. 15? This is the first prophecy of a Savior; the first mention of God's plan of redemption. As soon as man sinned, God took the initiative to re-establish the relationship with man that He had originally created man to enjoy. This is a prophecy of Jesus' ultimate defeat of Satan. God announced that Satan would wound the Messiah (you will strike His heel), which refers to Christ's suffering, temptation, persecution and even physical death but the Messiah would crush Satan with a mortal wound (He will crush your head). This wound was administered at the Cross when the Savior decisively triumphed over the Devil. Hebrews 2:14-15: "*..... so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*"

Who is her offspring or seed referring to (v. 15)? Jesus. **Normally the man provides the seed. What is the significance of the woman providing it?** This is the first hint of a virgin birth. Man is not providing the seed.

What are the consequences of sin for the woman (v. 16)? (1) Greatly increased pain in childbirth and an expanded headship role by the man. God originally established a subordinate relationship between husband and wife. Sin has corrupted both the willing submission of the wife and the loving headship of the husband. Before they were co-rulers. (2) The woman will now desire to dominate the relationship with her husband. Now the husband is going to rule. Couple that with men's tendency for passivity and you have a recipe for marital disaster. The rule of love founded in paradise is replaced by conflict, struggle, tyranny and domination.

What are the consequences of the man's actions (vv. 17-19)? (1) God cursed the ground. Adam and Eve's light workload in Eden would turn to burdensome labor. Note that work is not the curse. It's the conditions under which it is to be done. The ground would not be nearly as fertile plus we see the origin of weeds. (2) He promised certain physical death for Adam and all his descendants (v. 19). Note that the curse was not against the man and woman, implying that the relationship has not been utterly lost. There was still hope.

What did Adam do next (v. 20) and why? Adam named his wife Eve. A better name than "Woman." Because she would become the mother of all the living. **How did the Lord provide (v. 21)?** Fig leaves won't cut it. He clothed them with garments of skin.

What decision did God make (v. 22)? What was problem/dilemma? They are now sinners. If sinful man eats from the tree of life, he lives forever – separated from God in bodies subject to sickness, degeneration, and infirmity. Sinful man has to die so God can redeem him. Thus, it was God's mercy that prevented them from returning to Eden.

What action did God take (vv. 23-24)? What was the solution? Banishment. He closed up the Garden forever. No going back and finding the garden – it was destroyed by the flood.

Note: The real consequences of sin mentioned here (not the curses, not child bearing, not having to work harder) are the vertical consequences of shame and separation. It is the alienation of man from God. Severing of a perfect relationship. The good news is that He has made a way where there was no way. Jesus! He made a solution to our separation problem and offered it to us as a free gift. And it is a choice which man himself makes based on the free will given to him by God.