

The Fall of Man

Purpose: to show the origins of man's sin, but more importantly, showing God's desire to do something about our condition.

In Genesis chapter two, we saw God's original intention for man:

- a. Excellent environment
- b. Task to perform
- c. Commands to obey
- d. Fellowship & communion
- e. Unashamed

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n chapter 3, we will explore how man fell into sin. I want to answer 4 questions:

1. Who was the Serpent?
2. How did man fall?
3. What was the result of the fall?
4. What did God do about it?

Who was the Serpent?

The bible says that this was Satan, the devil, the serpent of old. Consider some of his titles:

1. Serpent:
 - a. 2 Corinthians 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.
 - b. Revelation 12:9
So 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.
2. Devil – used only in the New Testament 35 times
 - a. 1 Peter 5:8
Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
3. Satan – Mentioned 55 times in the bible
 - a. Luke 10:18
And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
4. Jude 1:6
 - a. *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;*

The bible speaks of the fall of man as an actual event, not simply an allegory or parable.

- Romans 5:12
Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...

How did man fall?

Consider Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

- The devil came to the woman
- He was cunning
- He put doubts in her mind

*And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

- He lied!

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

- Eve's sin is alluded to:

1 John 2:15,16

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.

- Eve was deceived by her own lusts:

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

- Adam was not deceived, he simply rebelled

1 Timothy 2:13,14

For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

What was the result of the fall?

They were exposed, ashamed, and afraid. All of this was because they became spiritually dead as sin entered into the world.

- Exposed – shown by the fact that they attempted to cover themselves
- Ashamed – shown by the fact that they hid themselves from God
- Afraid – shown by the fact that Adam confessed it

What did God do about it?

Did this tragic event change God's purposes? No! God is all-knowing and knew that they would sin, so He did something about it.

1. **He helped them to confess** - by asking them 3 questions:
 - a. *Where are you?*
 - b. *"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*
 - c. *"What is this you have done?"*
2. **He disciplined them** - in a way that would help them to always remember what they did:
 - a. The serpent - *"Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*
 - b. The woman - *"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*
 - c. Adam - *"Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*
3. **He let Adam give her a new name:**
 - a. *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*
4. **He clothed them and protected them:**
 - a. By making tunics of skin
 - b. By sending out of the garden, away from the tree of life
 - i. *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Summary

2. In chapter 2, we see God's intention for man:
 - a. Excellent environment
 - b. Task to perform
 - c. Commands to obey
 - d. Fellowship & communion
 - e. Unashamed
3. In this chapter we see the result of man's sin:
 - a. He is exposed
 - b. He is ashamed
 - c. He is afraid
4. God begins to do something about our condition
 - a. He calls us to confess and repent
 - b. He disciplines us to help us to remember that we are sinful
 - c. He clothes us and protects us

As we continue in the book, we will see how much more he does for us!