

Genesis 3 part 1

Chapter 3 of Genesis explains to us further the reasons for the current conditions we live in upon this earth. The troubles that life can bring and the overshadowing of life by death. We have learned that humans are made in the image of God. In their creation man and woman has been blessed. Humans have been given a purpose to care for the earth and to take dominion of it. They were placed in a beautiful garden to serve the Lord. However, that all changed as we will read in Chapter 3. This chapter explains the beginnings of all the evil that happens on this earth. Death, fear, alienation, shame.

1. The Serpent and Eve. Gen. 3:1-4

No one knows how long it was after the creation of Eve that the serpent came on the scene. Eve must not have been put on guard by speaking to the serpent. Remember this is a place of innocence as far as they know. Perhaps Eve had never encountered a creature like this before and was unaware that a talking serpent was not “normal”. In the beginning there was no fear between humans and animals. The creature undoubtedly was beautiful and approached as friendly. The Bible however, reveals that this serpent was possessed by Satan himself. (Rev. 12:9; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15) this was no ordinary snake.

The warning we read in verse 2, was not a threat from God but a statement of fact. God had given Adam and Eve a boundary or guardrail. If they violated it or ignored it, they would die.

Satan challenges the authority of God and His word. Vs 4. Ironically, Satan’s temptation “You will be like God”... was a deception within a deception. They already were like God! They were made in HIS very image! The knew what right and wrong was- they just never experienced the effects of choosing the wrong. They knew what it was like to do good- just not in contrast with doing wrong.

Satan’s ultimate deception was to have Eve question the goodness of God. Satan turned a simple boundary that God had established into a threat against them.

“The rhetoric of fidelity has given way to analysis and calculation. The givenness of God’s rule is no longer the boundary of a safe place. God is now a barrier to be circumvented. The scene moves quickly to its sorry resolution... [Interpretation, Genesis. John Knox Press page 48.](#)”

This is the attitude of many today- God and His laws are not viewed as defining what is best and safe for humanity, rather they are viewed as barriers to humanities full potential and autonomy. God’s laws are viewed as harmful to humanity- this was the original deception of Satan and is the main one being used today. (Isaiah 5:20).

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2. Eve and Adam disobey. Genesis 1: 6-10

The sensual overrode the rational. Truth gave way to deception and the desire for wisdom outside God's permission. I believe that Eve believed she was doing the right thing.

That Eve examined the fruit, determined it was "good for wisdom" Indicates that She had a conscience to weigh right and wrong and the ability to choose either one or the other. But she was deceived. Adam ate it as well- believing the lie. Then the eyes of them were opened in the sense that their conscience could now experience guilt and shame.

"Adam and Eve had no "guilty conscience" pre-Fall. But the actual function of conscience... is creational given and intrinsic to the image of God. It is our entire evaluative capacity, not only about ourselves but about everything we encounter. Is that good or bad? Is that true or false? Is that valuable or worthless? We humans don't only know things, but we weigh the things we know." Tony Reinke, [Did Adam Have a Conscience Before the Fall? \(thegospelcoalition.org\)](http://thegospelcoalition.org)

Adam and eve sinned. Their Disobedience produced the guilt and shame side of human consciousness. Their nakedness had already been there, but because God had made them and blessed them- they felt no shame. They were at one with God perfectly and with each other perfectly. There was no wrong. This all changed with the fall. There was separation between the two of them, and separation between them and God.

Fear of righteousness entered humanity.

When Jesus came to earth, his purpose was to reconcile people to God and to one another and to bring eternal life. This was accomplished through the shedding of his blood for sacrifice.

Faith in Jesus removes all shame for sinfulness. (Rom 10:9-13; Heb. 10:19-22).

Faith in Jesus takes away fear of death. (Heb. 2:14-18)

Faith in Jesus brings reconciliation. (Eph 2:17-20; 1 Cor. 15:12-22).

Our next study we will cover how sin brought curses upon the serpent, the man and the woman, and how God showed Adam and Eve personally the way of reconciliation with Him and one another.