

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

The Archetypical Story of Temptation, Sin, and (the Effects of) the Fall

"... so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs."

- 2 Corinthians 2:11

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:1-7

Context of the Fall

Perfect _____ ... no sense of 'lack', 'unfairness', 'injustice'

Perfect _____ ... no poor examples to follow, no inherited 'traits', no passed proclivities

Perfect _____ ... no bad habits, no prior memories, no nature to overcome

Perfect _____ ... no mental confusion, moral cloudiness, or spiritual 'darkness'

Perfect _____ ... no sense of 'lostness', 'desperation', or 'hopelessness'.

Their condition before The Fall?

²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame. (2:25)

They went from _____ nakedness to _____ nakedness. (From _____ to _____)

How?

¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. (James 1:14-16)

The _____ of sin: What the _____ desires ...

The _____ of sin: What the _____ does ...

Part 1: The Crafty Serpent

Identity: _____ (Revelation 12:9) His M.O.: Disguise and _____.

He begins by initiating _____ by raising _____ about God's command.

He discovers that the _____ of God's Word had been _____.

Eve made 3 changes to what God had said:

1. She minimized the _____ of God.
2. She added to the _____ of His Word.
3. She weakened the _____ for sin.

Next, Satan _____ the penalty God had given for sin.

This lie has allured mankind since the beginning of time!

Then, Satan _____ the _____ of God by challenging God's _____.

Satan held out the promises of _____ to them.

Now, having effectively removed the barriers between Eve's desires and their consequences, the appeal of the forbidden fruit was enough ...

Part 2: Sin's Appeal

Eve's _____ for the fruit exceeded her desire for God and for _____.

The words "delight" and "desire" are derivatives of the verb " _____ " (Deut. 5:21).

Strong desire or " _____ " usually precedes unlawful _____.

Elements of the temptation:

- _____ – It was good for food.
- _____ – It was pleasing to look at.
- _____ – It makes you 'wise'.

Part 3: Sin's Act

She took, she ate, she gave, and he ate.

Part 4: The Disappointing Results of Sin

Their "eyes were opened", but it wasn't divine _____ they found. It was the knowledge of _____. They knew _____, for sure, but what more they knew was _____.

Innocence, integrity, and intimacy with God are now _____.

One "apple" ... what's the big deal?

6 terrible offenses connected to Adam and Eve's act of disobedience:

Adapted from: Zacharias Ursinus, *Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism, 1616*:

1. **Pride, ambition, and an admiration of self:** Man, not satisfied with his own dignity, and in the condition he was placed, desired to be equal with God.
2. **Unbelief:** Adam believed the devil rather than God, and ate the forbidden fruit; nor did he believe any punishment would overtake him.
3. **Contempt and disobedience to God:** This appears in the fact that he ate the fruit contrary to the command of God.
4. **Ingratitude for benefits received:** Even though Adam was made in the image of God—and for the enjoyment of eternal life—his return for this benefit received was to obey the devil rather than God.
5. **The lack of love for posterity:** Adam did not consider that the gifts God had bestowed upon him and his posterity would be lost not only to himself but also to all his descendants.
6. **Apostasy:** By believing and obeying the devil rather than God, Adam wished to obtain equality with God. He set up the devil in the place of God, separating himself from God.

Conclusion: What we lost in the Garden

1. Our first parents lost their legal/moral innocence and original righteousness and found themselves the subjects of real guilt and moral corruption.
2. The image of God, reflected originally both by Adam and Eve, was fractured and distorted.
3. Fellowship between God and man was broken.
4. Man's environment was cursed, and nature's productivity became impaired by thorns and weeds.
5. The man and the woman were judicially condemned and accordingly punished.
6. By God's imputation of Adam's first transgression to all those descending from him by ordinary generation, "*all mankind lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and are so made liable to the miseries of this life, to death itself, and the pains of hell forever.*"
7. Man's greatest and most immediate need is now divine grace, which God declared he would provide in and by a Redeemer who would himself in and by his own death finally destroy Satan's kingdom of evil.

For next week: **The Response of the Almighty to the Sin of Man**