

GENESIS 3: THE FALL

I. OVERVIEW

- A. The serpent is introduced
 - i. He deceives Eve by convincing her to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 - ii. Eve gave the fruit to Adam
 - iii. Adam ate
- B. Adam and Eve notice they are naked
 - i. They sew fig leaves together to cover themselves
 - ii. They hide from God who is walking through the garden
- C. God interrogates Adam and Eve
 - i. Curses the serpent
 - ii. Curses the woman
 - iii. Curses the man
- D. God removes them from the garden
 - i. Places an angel with a flaming sword to guard the entrance

II. THERE SEEMS TO BE LESS SEPARATION BETWEEN PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL WORLD AT THIS TIME

- A. We have:
 - i. A talking serpent
 - ii. God walking through the garden
 - iii. God personally making clothes for Adam and Eve
 - iv. A cherubim with a flaming sword guarding the entrance to the garden
- B. This is a picture of the New Jerusalem when God will dwell with humans
 - i. No separation between physical and spiritual
 - ii. This is what ancient Hebrews considered wholeness

III. WHO IS THE SERPENT?

- A. Satan
- B. ***Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.***

C. How did the serpent talk?

IV. THE DECEPTION OF THE SERPENT

A. He twists God's word

i. "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?"

B. Eve didn't know God's word

i. "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden"

a. This actually describes the tree of life

ii. "Neither shall you touch it"

a. God didn't say this

b. Adam's fault for not properly explaining it

i. God told him this before Eve was created

C. He plants doubt in her mind

i. "You will not surely die"

a. He makes God sound like a liar

D. He makes her feel like she is missing out

i. "You will be like God"

a. Or, you will be like gods

i. Like the divine council – rulers

b. God seems to be holding out on her

c. God himself came in the form of Jesus to be a servant

i. ***Matthew 20:28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.***

ii. ***Philippians 2:5-7 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.***

V. EVE SAW THREE THINGS:

A. The tree was **good** for food

i. Physical appetite

B. It was a **delight** to the eyes

i. Sensual appetite

C. It was to be **desired** to make one wise

- i. Prideful appetite
- D. This theme is present throughout the bible

VI. WHY DID ADAM EAT?

- A. One partner going astray can bring the partnership down
- B. He was not deceived; this was open rebellion
- i. ***1 Timothy 2:14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.***
- ii. This is why Adam is responsible for the fall and not Eve

VII. NAKED – V. 7

- A. Shamefulness exposed
- B. Possibly clothed in light before the fall¹

VIII. FIG LEAVES – V. 7

- A. Fig leaves are prickly and itchy²
- B. The serpent just told them the fruit would make them wise
- i. But the very first thing they did was incredibly foolish

IX. HID – V. 8

- A. This is the worst consequence of sin
- B. Fills us with shame and causes us to separate ourselves from God

X. ADAM BLAMED EVERYONE ELSE BUT HIMSELF FOR HIS SIN

- A. Eve for giving him the fruit
- B. God for giving him Eve

XI. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE SERPENT

- A. Why was the serpent punished for being used by Satan?
 - i. Symbolic of sin/fall
 - a. Eat dust – humble defeat
- B. Hatred between serpent and woman
- C. Redemptive promise
 - i. Her Seed will crush his head

XII. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE WOMAN

¹ Guzik, David. "Study Guide For Genesis 3." *Blue Letter Bible*, 2018,
https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-3.cfm.

² Guzik

- A. Toil in childbearing
- B. Tension and conflict between men and woman

XIII. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE MAN

- A. Ground is now cursed
- B. Toil in work
- C. Physical death

XIV. SKINS – V. 21

- A. First animal sacrifice
 - i. Covers their shame
- B. Contrasted with Adam and Eve's attempt with the fig leaves

XV. SENT HIM OUT FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN – V. 23

- A. This was a great mercy
- B. Imagine if we had to endure all this hardship, pain, suffering for eternity

XVI. EAST – V. 24

- A. Signifies exile

XVII. WAS IT GOD'S PLAN FOR ADAM TO FALL?

- A. Innocent humans vs. redeemed humans

XVIII. POINTS TO JESUS

- A. Jesus is the Seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent
 - i. Satan will bruise His heel on the cross
 - ii. ***Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet...***
 - iii. Points to the virgin birth
- B. From David Guzik:³
 - i. Sin brought pain to childbirth but Jesus endured pain to bring many sons to glory
 - a. ***Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.***
 - ii. Sin brought conflict but Jesus endured conflict for our salvation.
 - a. ***Hebrews 12:3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.***

³ Guzik

- iii. The curse brought forth thorns and thistles but Jesus bore a crown of thorns on His head
 - a. ***John 19:2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.***
- iv. The curse brought sweat but Jesus sweat drops of blood on our behalf
 - a. ***Luke 22:44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***
- v. Sin brought sorrow but Jesus became a Man of sorrows
 - a. ***Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***
- vi. Sin brought death but Jesus tasted death so that we might live
 - a. ***Hebrews 2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.***

XIX. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

A. What causes you to be tempted to doubt or question God and His word?

B. How can we maintain a humble spirit to prevent our pride from causing us to stumble (Proverbs 16:18)?

C. Why do you think the serpent tried to deceive Eve first instead of Adam?

D. Are there any areas in your life in which you know the command of God yet you intentionally disobey? What is the result of this rebellion?

E. What are the consequences of misquoting or misunderstanding God's commands (Proverbs 30:5-6; Matthew 15:9)?

F. Why do you think Adam went along with and participated in Eve's sin?

G. What is the difference between deception and rebellion? Why is each one dangerous?

H. What was the purpose in God questioning Adam and Eve?

I. What does God's approach to dealing with their sin reveal about God's character in regards to our own sin?

J. How can we still give glory to God in our sin (Joshua 7:19-20)?

XX. FURTHER STUDY

A. Compare the way Eve was tempted to the way Jesus was tempted in Matthew 4:1-11.

B. Compare the way Eve was tempted to the way we are tempted to this day. See 1 John 2:16

C. Compare and contrast Matthew 26:26-27 with Genesis 3:6. What is Jesus implying?

D. What is the difference between David's confession and Adam's confession? What is the result (2 Samuel 12:13)?

E. What does the phrase "dust you shall eat" imply in verse 14? See Micah 7:15-17

F. Why do the biblical authors credit responsibility for the fall to Adam instead of Eve (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22)?

G. A similar phrase to verse 16 is found in Genesis 4:7. What does this tell us about the fractured relationship between husbands and wives?

H. What does the placement of cherubim in other sections of Scripture tell us about the purpose of the cherubim and the Garden of Eden after the fall? See Exodus 25; Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 10; Revelation 4
