

GENESIS CHAPTER 3

This is a key chapter as it reveals how mankind fell into sin and Satan's role in that event.

God's clear command

Chapter 2 v 16-17 "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

We can be sure Adam and Eve are very much aware of this tree and although there are many trees, there could be no mistake about which they were forbidden to eat from.

The role of Satan

Satan has several names in Scripture and each name is descriptive of his character. Here, he is called the serpent and is described as crafty. He uses more deceptions, lies and schemes than anyone else to entice people into sin.

His strategy: He wants to put doubt into Eve's mind concerning what God has said. He questions whether God has forbidden them to eat from any of the trees in the garden. He is sowing the suggestion that God is mean and very negative towards them.

Eve says that they can eat the fruit of all the trees except one! They mustn't even touch it. If they do, they will die. Now Eve is exaggerating God's command – He didn't say they couldn't touch it!

Satan is quick to contradict God's command. No one deals in death like Satan. It is terrible hypocrisy for him to suggest God would not bring judgement where there is disobedience. Satan longs to bring death and destruction. Satan's accusation that God wants to deprive us from being like Him is completely untrue. God who is holy and separate from sin wants us to be like Him.

Eve's fall and then Adam's fall

She looks at the fruit and sees it is very attractive; it looks good enough to eat. What's more, she believes it will do her good and make her wise. So, she takes the fruit and eats it.

Then she gives some to her husband, who eats it, knowing very well that it is forbidden fruit.

Sin can often appear very attractive: it can look like a good option. But God never lies. We must trust and obey God's word, resisting sin's temptation.

The immediate impact upon Adam and Eve

They realise that they are naked. This did not bother them before they sinned, but now it is significant. Now their nakedness opens the door for lust and other sins. Their disobedience exposes them to temptation and perversion in many areas. They try to use fig leaves to make some kind of covering for their nakedness.

Their relationship with God changes.

They hide themselves from God.

They are afraid.

God's judgement.

God knows Adam and Eve are hiding and confronts them with their sin.

Their nakedness is more than physical. Before God they are naked and exposed in every aspect of their lives.

Adam blames Eve. In blatant arrogance he speaks of her as the one whom God gave and is implying that God is partly responsible for their sin.

Eve blames the serpent and holds him responsible, but they have both sinned.

God addresses the serpent

God curses the serpent. His destiny will never change.

God speaks an amazing prophecy that from the woman will come a Deliverer who will suffer but who will defeat Satan.

God speaks to the woman.

She will experience great sorrow and in childbirth will suffer great pain.

She will need to submit to her husband and he will rule over her.

God speaks to Adam

“Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life...For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Eve was to become the mother of all living.

God provides coats of skin to cover Adam and Eve and undoubtedly the blood of an animal was shed to provide those coats. This is the first example in Scripture of the divine principle that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of, or covering for sin.

Ultimately, this principle will lead to Jesus, the Lamb of God who by shedding His blood, takes away the sins of the world.

God brings further judgement on Adam and Eve and removes them from the garden. The LORD God placed the Cherubim to guard the garden from any attempt to enter it.

There is no clear comment about removing them physically from the garden but I suggest the following points

The removal was a clear sign that things had changed, fellowship with God was not the same and so to be removed from the place of fellowship was very salutary.

They had disobeyed regarding the tree of knowledge of good and evil and so were vulnerable to eating from any other tree.

Sin brings death so to partake of the tree of life was not compatible with their disobedience so this tree was denied them. However after the cross and resurrection of the Lord Jesus he promises the church in Ephesus that if they overcome and stand firm in their faith they will eat of the tree of life.

Points to consider:

Why do we struggle with clear commands from God?

What do we discover about Satan`s role and strategy from verses 4-6?

What caused Eve to disobey God?

What was the significance of knowing they were naked? Why did it not bother them before?

Why did they hide from God in fear?

Why is Adam equally guilty of sin?

What does God say to the serpent? What is the beginning of the cross and victory over Satan?

What does God say to Adam and Eve?

What does this teach us about GOD and the consequences of sin?