

Trinity Sunday School Class – HPC – May 1, 2022

ADAM - THE FALL OF MANKIND

I. The Fall into Sin (Genesis 3) Overview

What a mournful chapter in the history of man. It gives the only true account of the origin of all the physical and moral evils that are in the world. It upholds the moral character of God; shows that man, made upright, not being able to resist a slight temptation, and becoming guilty and miserable, plunged all his posterity into the same abyss.

Romans 5:12 – “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

II. Participants in The Fall

1. The Snake – There being in the first pair no principle of evil to work upon, a solicitation to sin could only come from without as in the analogous case of the temptation of Jesus Christ (Mt. 4:13). There being no other person and Satan being unable to appear as a person he had to employ an inferior creature. Many believe the pre-fall snake was considerably different from the slithering snakes we know today. The voice through the serpent was indeed that of Satan himself. This is affirmed by:

The Apostle Paul 2 Cor 11:3

The Apostle John Rev. 12:9

The Apostle Peter 2 Pet 2:16

The three Apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write as they did. There are allegories in the Bible but this is not one of them.

2. Satan - As Lucifer, ("Shinning One", Sometimes "Son of the Morning", he was created as a dazzling arch-angel who some think led the worship in heaven.

His dazzling beauty is described in Ezek 28: 11-15.

His motivation to challenge God's authority is contained in Isaiah 14: 12-17 where his "five I Wills" were published:

- "I will ascend into heaven."
- "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."
- "I will sit upon the mountain of the congregation in the sides of the north."
- "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds."
- "I will be like the Most High."

He was cast out of his subordinate role in heaven and appears in the Garden of Eden to bring down Adam and Eve and usurp their dominion (rule for God) over this World. Being successful he became "the god of this world". He is out to rob, kill and destroy. He hates the Jews because his conqueror Jesus Christ came through their race. He hates individuals because God has provided a way of salvation for us, through Jesus Christ, but has not provided any salvation for him.

3. Adam - His creation (Gen 2:7). He was formed out of the Dust of the Earth (Adamah) and did not receive life until God breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life.

He was created in the image of God with a tripartite nature:

Spirit - Gave him God-consciousness

Soul - Gave him Self-consciousness

Body - Gave him world-consciousness

4. Eve - Her creation (Gen 1:27, 2:21-25) She was created by God from a rib of Adam. The man("ish") now had a woman ("isha"). "Bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh."

Note: Only the Bible can account for the creation of two sexes i.e. male and female.

III. The Temptation and Literal FALL

The detailed account of the temptation that confronted the couple gives us a detailed blueprint of how temptation works in people's lives today.

Step One – Wrongly Recalling God's Word (3:1-3)

Satan rephrases God's precise words in 2:16,17 in such a way that he dictated both the command and the character of God who gave it. Satan picked up on Eve wrongfully recalling God's word, "for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt *surely die*" (2:17). She responded to Satan saying, God said, "*lest ye die*"(3:3). Emboldened Satan response is, "Ye shall *not* surely die." (3:4). Directly contradicting God.

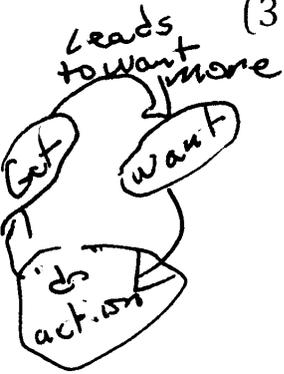
Step Two – Wrongfully assessing God's Purpose (3:4,5)

Since Eve was not caught by Satan's rephrasing of God's Command, Satan adopted an alternative plan: calling into question God's purpose or motivation for giving them the command. God intended the instruction for the benefit of man – to serve as a privileged opportunity for their obedience as well as to insure their dependence on God as the only source of knowledge of good and evil. But Satan suggested that God's intention was petty, for He was unwilling to share His Divine position with man who, by eating from the tree would be equally qualified to be called god, (hence like God or as gods as the phrase may be translated). Ultimately therefore God's character as a loving and gracious Father, with the best interests of His children

at heart was called into question.

Step Three - Wrongfully Approving what seemed Good

(3:6)



Eve's assessment: She saw that the tree was good and that is identical to God's assessment after the initial creation, "God saw everything He had made, and behold it was very good" (1:31). Eve assessed the "good" or appeal of eating the fruit in three ways:

1. It was practical being useful for food.
"The lust of the flesh"
2. It was esthetically beautiful.
"The lust of the eyes"
3. It had the possibility for wisdom.
"The boastful pride of life"

1 John 2:17,17 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

The strongest appeal to Eve was that of wisdom which in scripture is both mental and spiritual acumen. By definition, "wisdom is the right application of knowledge". We must rely on God to help us discern the right way. Her self-motivation led her to eat and give the fruit to her husband Adam also. The woman was deceived by Satan, (1 Tim 2:14) and the man deliberately disobeyed God's command.

IV. The Results of the Fall -

- a. Man's first invention, "Fig Leaf Coverings". Not only were the fig leaves and attempt to cover their nakedness but to

assuage their sense of exposure to impending punishment they knew their sin deserved. The donning of the fig leaves highlighted the typical impact of sin in our human relationships, namely, division and disruption. This is consistent with one of the fundamental aspects of death as separation rather than cessation. They tried to hide from the Lord whom they usually welcomed. They hid amongst the trees God had given them but how foolish to think of eluding His notice, (Psalm 139:1-12)

b. Division From God (3:8)

As a result of their sin there was a separation in the experience of their relationship with God. The consequence is presented with especially tragic emphasis by the depiction of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. Some believe that the “walking” indicates the Lord appeared as a person. That being so it would be the Son of God who so appeared on other occasions in the Old Testament.

c. God’s Response to Their Sin (3: 9-21)

His response is a Father in every ideal sense of the word. How God responded to the couple’s sin “sets the course” for the way in which people today are to anticipate and assess God’s response to the sin of His children. He did not call to them in wrath but in a tone of gentle and patient questioning. “Where are you?”, “Who told you that you were naked?”, “Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to eat?”. God’s first question is an appeal to consider their condition- the effect of their sin rather than the sin itself. The later question refers directly to the sin. When the Lord asked, “Where are You?” it proved two things: 1. Man was lost, and God had come to seek him. This illustrated man’s sin and God’s grace

2. God takes the initiative in salvation demonstrating the very things Satan got Eve to doubt – HIS LOVE.

d. Their Response (3: 12, 13)

They responded by Blaming God or someone else.

Matthew Henry wrote hundreds of years ago that sin is like the “brat” no one wants to own When God’s questions drew out the confession that, “I ate”, God ceased His questioning and moved on.

e. God’s judgment of the serpent and Satan. (3: 14,15)

The judgment on the Serpent (v14) The judgment on Satan (v15) which is known as “The Protevangelism” meaning, “The First Gospel”. It predicts the perpetual hostility held between him, (his agents), and her seed (The Messiah). The woman’s seed would crush the Devils head, a mortal wound spelling utter defeat. This would be administered at Calvary where the Saviour decisively triumphed over the Devil. We note the kindness of God in promising the Messiah before pronouncing sentence on Eve and Adam.

f. Merciful Chastisement from God (3:14-20)

God’s chastisement of His children always emanates out of love.

To the woman – travail in childbirth and rule by husband

To the Man –The ground cursed, sorrow, sweat, and

thorns

To both spiritual and physical death.

To both he provides a way for salvation and eternal life.

g. God’s gracious forgiveness but dire consequences for their Sin.

- God establishes a pattern for His children to be forgiven for sin.
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The Lord God provided them with coats/garments of skin so that the first sinners 'might be made fit for God's presence. The tunics represent the shedding of blood and speaks of Christ's blood shed for us. Scripture says that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. In scripture a garment, in the good ethical sense represents Righteousness. To the Christian, Christ is made unto us Righteousness thus we are fit for God's presence.

- . God revealed that humanity is completely depraved in dire need of Divine redemption. Therefore making clear that the consequences of that first sin did indeed extend beyond the first parents. This is proven by their first son becoming a murderer of his brother. More scripture says all have sinned and come short of The glory of God.

h. Expulsion from the Garden of Eden

Expulsion so they will not eat of the tree of life and live forever in a dire condition.

Believers in the promised Messiah, (Jesus Christ), will one day enjoy eating of the 'tree of life in the garden in the new Jerusalem and in the very presence of the Lord. Rev 22:1,22

i. The barrier to the Garden – The Cherubim & flaming sword.

j. The barrier to God – our sin.

Barriers can keep one protested or keep one out. When Adam and Eve sinned that broke their open and free relationship with God, creating a huge barrier that could not be crossed. Therefore, God send His son Jesus to become human and live amongst us yet without sin. He, as the second man, gave his own life on the cross to pay the debt for our sin. By doing this He broke through the barrier, of death for us, and by His resurrection He opened

for us a path to new life. We cannot earn our salvation and break through the barrier but by Jesus' sacrifice for us everything is changed.

It all begins and ends with God.
Blessings!