

The Fall of Man

Genesis 3:1-24

Key Verse: 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

This passage explains the great difference between the world in Genesis 2 and the world we live in now, a world of suffering and difficulty, pain and death. This all hinged on man's choice to reject God's love, tempted by Satan. This had lasting impact on all of creation, which God had so carefully created, destroying harmony. Many think personal choice has no impact, but it does, not just our personal lives but all of creation is affected.

* Adam and Eve disobeyed God (1-7)

1. Read verse 1. How is the serpent described? Who does it represent? (Rev 12:7-9) What is characteristic of his nature? (3:1, Jn 8:44)
 - Verse 1. He is crafty, devious, deceptive. His language is lies. Notice this is "the" serpent, not "a" serpent.
 - Satan, that great snake. He is a creation, not an equal-opposite force with God. (not ying-yang).
 - Liar and murderer. We must know we have an enemy, and that enemy is powerful, deceitful and murderous.
2. Read verse 1 again. How did he twist the meaning of God's word? (compare 2:16,17 with 3:1,4,5) In what respect did he lie? How did he remove the absolute from God's word?
 - His strategy began by attacking woman, not man. He questioned God's motive, planting doubt of God's love and heart. He pointed out a negative, restrictive view, whereas this was first given by God to man for the purpose of true freedom and life. Attacked freedom. Challenges God's word (1), exaggerates the negative (1), removes the absoluteness of God's word (4), makes it seem that breaking the command is better than obeying (5), and makes God seem cruel and heartless and burdensome.
 - Question the boundaries, remove the absolute from God's word, make it seem that he has woman's greater interest at heart. Wants to put a different view over woman's eyes. Three-fold strategy: plant doubt in God's love and motive, remove the absolute nature of God's word (purpose of God's command is man's happiness and love), and thirdly appealed to this new self and sinful nature.
3. Read verses 2- 3. How did the woman answer him? Do you think Adam would respond to the serpent differently? Read Verses 6-7. Why did she yield to temptation? What can we learn here about how to overcome temptation? (See Mt 4:1-11)
 - Woman's influence over man was why Satan approached her. He was there, and noticed she wasn't found. James 1:15.
 - Whether directly tempted, or tempted by another person, we bear the same responsibility.
 - Her view was skewed, and this looked like the best tree. She interpreted the tree based on Satan's words. She made a choice. Adam also made a choice.
 - Remove the temptation question. Birth of self and sinful nature. She gave birth to a decision, that came from her desire that was conceived through Satan's manipulation. Hold to the word of God as the truth.
4. Why did she give some to her husband? What was the immediate result of their eating the forbidden fruit? (7) What do you think this means?

- Natural influence when we fail, we bring others with us.

* God confronts Adam and Eve (8-24)

5. Read verses 8-10. What did they do when they heard God coming? How did God confront Adam with his sin? What might Adam have done in response? What excuses did they make? What does this reveal about sin's effect on relationships?
6. Read verse 14. How did God curse the serpent? Read verse 15. How does God's promise give hope to mankind?
7. Read verse 16. How is her punishment related to her blessing? Read verses 17-18 How is his punishment related to his blessing? How is man's punishment related to his mission? [How can the curse be removed, woman set free and man's mission restored? (Jn 3:18; Mk 16:15)]
8. Read verse 21. How did God show his love for fallen man? Read verses 22-24. Why did God drive them from the Garden? Why did he not destroy the garden? What hope does this give? What is the significance of the tree of life? (Rev 22:2,14,19)

New questions:

1. Satan's existence, character and strategy.
2. Eve's yielding, result of sin.
3. God's confronting, curse, and hope.
4. Review God's love and hope even for a fallen world. He doesn't change.

The punishment, "you shall surely die," wasn't repealed, but curse was held back from Adam and Eve, and applied to Jesus.