

The Fall of Man into Sin and his Merciful Recovery **Genesis 3:1-24**

We will begin with a look at Genesis 3. This chapter is historical not allegorical. It should not, indeed it cannot be considered in any other light. If it is not historically inaccurate, the whole of the rest of the Bible ceases to be relevant to mankind.

This account of the Satan, his temptation, the fall of man into sin, and the immediate and long lasting results of that sin, shows two things:

First, the necessity of substitutionary, sacrificial redemption of sinners through Jesus Christ alone.

Second, the basis for the promised, coming, Redeemer in **Genesis 3:15**.

In Genesis 3 Satan is revealed as the Tempter.

He is the father of lies.

John 8:44 – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar**, and the father of it.”

He is the one who deceived Eve.

I Timothy 2:14 – “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”

He is the murderer of the souls of man.

John 8:44 – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

He is a historically accurate being and not an allegorical or a fictitious character.

The apostle Paul spoke of him approximately four thousand years after the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

II Corinthians 11:3 – “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

This chapter shows how sin entered and spoiled God's good creation. It also reveals the resulting curse put upon all involved.

Disobedience to the divine command came from submitting to temptation.

James 1:13-15 – “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: **But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Sin entered through the disobedience of one man to the revealed will of God.

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:”

The temptation of Satan came in several ways.

Satan casts doubt upon the will of God.

Genesis 3:1 – “Yea hath God said ...”

Satan casts doubt upon the love of God. He does so by calling attention to the limitations of God and not the abundant liberty. Instead of calling attention to all that God had provided and allowed Adam and Eve, he mentioned that thing which God had forbidden.

Genesis 3:1 – “... of every tree ...”

Satan casts doubt upon the warning and judgment of God.

Genesis 3:4 – “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die ...”

Satan casts doubt upon the goodness of God. He does so by suggesting that God has withheld some kind of benefit from Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:5 – “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

The temptation to sin against God was mixed with both truth and error.

The truth: If they ate the fruit of the tree their eyes would be opened. They would know evil.

The error: If they ate the fruit of the tree they would not be as gods and they would know good.

Eve's deception was led by her being tempted through her senses. Eve yielded to the temptation in several ways:

She listened to the lies of the Tempter.

Genesis 3:4-5 – “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

Her eyes allowed her to be tempted.

Genesis 3:6 – “... pleasant to the eyes ...”

Her fleshly lust allowed her to be tempted.

Genesis 3:6 – “... good for food ...”

Her desire for wisdom beyond that which God had provided was not tempered with a desire for obedience to the revealed will of God.

Genesis 3:6 – “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Sin entered by one man.

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:”

Adam's sin was not a sin by deception, instead, it was a sin of purposed rebellion against the revealed will of God. He knowingly and willingly took the fruit in rebellion to his Creator.

Genesis 3:17 – “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt

not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;”

As the federal head of his race, he represented everyone who would be born from his loins. **As the head of his race, God held him responsible for sin entering into the world.** Being the federal head of his race God imputed to everyone he represented the same sin and its results

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:”

I Corinthians 15:22 – “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

The doctrine of the imputation of sin is a necessary doctrine in the work of Salvation.

God may legally impute (charge) Adam's sin to all his posterity because he is their federal head.

Romans 5:12 & 18 – “(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: ... (18) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”

God may also impute (charge) the sin of the elect to His Son because they are represented in their substitute.

II Corinthians 5:21 – “**For he hath made him to be sin for us**, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

God may also impute the righteousness of His Son to the elect because He is their federal head.

II Corinthians 5:21 -- "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; **that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**"

The results of sin were immediate.

Genesis 3:7 – “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were

naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

Disobedience to the revealed will of God produced a “conscience” which was “defiled” and which “accused” them.

Titus 1:15 – “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.”

Romans 2:15 – “Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;”

Sin produced the knowledge that they were naked.

Genesis 3:7 – “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

This nakedness resulted when the glory of God departed from their once perfect bodies. They now bore the likeness of “sinful flesh” instead the likeness of holy flesh.

Sin produced shame and fear - two feelings which they did not know before sin entered.

Genesis 3:7-8 – “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”

Shame caused them to rely upon their own devises and sew fig-leaf aprons. Fear caused them to flee from the God who they had enjoyed before sin entered.

Sin produced immediate physical judgments from God.

Upon the serpent -- Genesis 3:14-15 – “And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

Upon the woman -- Genesis 3:16 – “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply

thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

Upon the man -- Genesis 3:17-19 – “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Sin produced death - spiritual death - separation from God the source of true life

Genesis 2:17 – “... in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

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:”

Ephesians 2:1 – “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:”

Sin produced physical death

Genesis 5:5 – “And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.”

Sin produced separation from the blessing of God

Genesis 3:22-24 – “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

The Bible teaches that only God can recover mankind from the tragic results of sin.

How does He do that?

Instruction from God’s Word concerning the salvation of sinners.

God Is Holy

Exodus 15:11 – “Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

Isaiah 6:3 – “... Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Revelation 15:4 – “Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

Because God Is Holy, He Hates Sin

Psalm 5:4-5 – “For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.”

Psalm 11:5 – “... the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.”

Psalm 45:7 – “Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness ...”

Proverbs 12:22 – “Lying lips are abomination to the LORD ...”

Proverbs 16:5 – “Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD.”

Proverbs 17:15 – “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.”

Sinners Are Separated From God Because Of Their Sin

Isaiah 59:1-2 – “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Isaiah 64:6-7 – “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”

Habakkuk 1:13 – “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on

iniquity ...”

Romans 3:10 – “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”

Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”

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

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death ...”

God Must Punish Sin

Genesis 2:16-17 – “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

Isaiah 13:11 – “And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity ...”

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death ...”

I Corinthians 6:9-10 – “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

II Thessalonians 1:7-9 – “... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power ...”

Revelation 21:8 – “... the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Sinners May Be Forgiven Through Jesus Christ Alone

Matthew 1:12 – “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name

JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

John 3:17-18 – “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 5:24 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

John 6:44-47 – “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”

John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Acts 13:38-39 – “Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Sinners Are Commanded To Repent and to Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ

Repent:

Luke 13:3 – “... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Acts 3:19 – “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out ...”

Acts 8:22 – “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”

Acts 17:30 – “... but now (God) commandeth all men every where to repent ...”

Believe

John 3:14-15 – “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Romans 10:9 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Come to Jesus Christ

Matthew 11:28-30 – “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Call Upon the Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”