

The Fall of Man

Genesis 3:1-24

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHAPTER

A. The Content of the Chapter

1. The third chapter of Genesis is about the fall of man. This chapter is one of the most important of all because if one were to take out this chapter the rest of the Bible would be perplexing. This chapter of the Bible tells us that we started at the top floor and fell to the bottom.
2. The third chapter refutes some popular philosophy of our day.
 - a. The refutation of evolution
 - (1) Myth: The idea that we have started at the bottom and are continuing to improve.
 - (2) Reality: We started at the top and fell to the bottom.
 - b. The refutation of better environment
 - (1) Myth: My environment (need for urban renewal) is bad, therefore, improve my environment and my character will be better.
 - (2) Reality: Improve the heart and that will better the environment (from the inside out).
 - (a) We need a change of heart (salvation) and that will improve the outside.
 - (b) Adam and Eve had the best environment and that did not keep them from failing.
 - (c) Note: There is nothing wrong with a good environment, and one should try to have one, however this is not what changes the heart of man.

B. The Characters in the Chapter

1. Satan – The work of Satan in the fall of man is front and center.
 - a. He opposes the work of God, and the plan that God has for man.
 - b. No sooner had man been placed in the garden and Satan shows up to wreak havoc.
 - c. The tactics of Satan are most evident in chapter 3, and they have not changed in all the years up to our times, they are still very current. Therefore, by studying the word of God, we can understand Satan's ways (2 Corinthians 2:11)
2. Adam – The first man on Earth, created by God.
 - a. Adam was the best that mankind had to offer up in the show down with the Devil.
 - b. Adam fails miserably in this battle in the garden, therefore he, along with his wife, will be kicked out of the Garden of Eden.

3. Eve – The first woman on Earth, created by God.
 - a. Eve was the best that mankind had to offer up in the show down with the Devil, along with her husband.
 - b. Eve fails miserably, like her husband, and will be kicked out of the garden.
4. The serpent – Found in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1)
 - a. The creature that Satan entered to deceive Eve.
 - b. Used by the Satan to cause mankind to fall.

II. THE SERPENT IN THE FALL (Genesis 3:1-5)

A. The Serpent Questions God (Genesis 3:1)

1. Satan uses the serpent, who was then a beautiful creature, to attack.
 - a. The serpent was the “*beast of the field.*”
 - b. However, it was also the embodiment of Satan.
 - c. In scripture, Satan is called “*the piercing serpent*” (Isaiah 27:1), “*that crooked serpent*” (Isaiah 27:1) and “*that old serpent*” (Revelation 12:9; Revelation 20:2).
 - d. Satan disguised himself in that which was beautiful and appealing. Today, he does not come to us in the form of a horned, forked tail beast with a hideous grin. Rather, Satan appears as a most attractive person (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15). Satan will deceive by a false outward appearance.
2. The serpent was “*more subtil than any beast of the field.*”
 - a. To be *subtil* (modern spelling is subtle) is to be crafty or sly.
 - b. Eve was beguiled through the serpent’s subtility (2 Corinthians 11:3)
 - (1) Eve misquotes God’s word (Genesis 3:2-3; Genesis 2:16-17)
 - (a) God had not said that they could not “touch” the tree.
 - (b) Eve’s heart was evidently already being swayed by the attacks of the devil on God’s word.

B. The Doubt Upon the Word of God (Genesis 3:2-5)

1. “*Yea hath God said?*”— One of Satan’s favourite tactics is to cast doubt upon the word of God.
 - a. If you do not have confidence in the word of God then you will not follow it with full assurance. Your authority will be thrown into question and you will make something else your authority (eg. “Bible scholars,” professors, carnal man, etc.)
2. The corruption of biblical authority (Genesis 3:1-5)
 - a. By changing the truth (Genesis 3:2-3)
 - (1) Adding “neither shall ye touch it” (Genesis 3:3; Genesis 2:16-17)
 - (2) Reducing “let ye die” (Genesis 3:3; see Genesis 2:17)
 - b. By accusing the truth (Genesis 3:4)
 - (1) The Devil – “Ye shall not surely die.”
 - (2) The Lord – “thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17)
 - c. By accusing the author of truth (Genesis 3:5)

- C. The Discontent with God (Genesis 3:1-5)
 - 1. The devil loves to focus upon the negative.
 - a. One sees this even today.
 - b. Man is not satisfied with where God has placed him, made him, treated him, etc.
 - c. This comes in the forms of complaints about living conditions, income, grumblings about the spouse, etc.
 - 2. The key to breaking the chains of discontentment (Genesis 3:2-5)
 - a. Always be thankful (Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2)
 - (1) Constantly be thanking God for his blessings in your life.
 - (2) Find and note things to be thankful for with your family, friends, situations, etc.
- D. The Denial of Truth (Genesis 3:4)
 - 1. Satan likes to deny the certainty and practice of divine judgment.
 - 2. Satan denies the certainty of the fact that death is inevitable if Adam and Eve partakes of the forbidden fruit. (Genesis 3:13)
 - 3. Wicked men have been denying the fact of judgment for centuries (Deuteronomy 29:19)
 - a. Seen with the prophets of God (2 Kings 1:4, 6, 16)
 - b. Seen with the true prophets of God against the false prophets (Jeremiah 28:15-17)
 - c. Seen with the leadership of Israel and Judah against the prophets (2 Chronicles 36:16)
 - d. Seen with the leadership of Judah against Jeremiah (Jeremiah 43:2-3)
 - 4. When the certainty of punishment is removed, crime increases. Satan knows this and supports leniency in the punishment of crimes. (Proverbs 29:2)
 - 5. The perverted emphasis on the love of God to the exclusion of holiness and judgment also encourages denial of judgment upon sin.
 - a. The word of God teaches us that love and truth can and does “co-exist” in God (2 John 1:3)
 - b. We are commanded in the word of God to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)
 - c. So that we and others might “grow up into Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-16).
 - (1) In order to mature as we should.
 - (2) Maturing into the right kind of Christian in the Lord.
- E. The Dishonouring of the Truth (Genesis 3:5)
 - 1. Satan dishonours God
 - a. By making him out to be cruel, unfair, and too restrictive.
 - b. He claims that God is withholding some great from Adam and Eve.
 - 2. The plan revealed.
 - a. If Satan can get God dishonoured in the eyes of mankind
 - b. Then man is less likely to follow God’s commands.
 - c. Therefore God and God’s word is pushed out of schools, government and thus dishonoured.