

## From the Beginning: The Fall

### The Garden

Gen 2:5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up--for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground-- 7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

At that time a mist was created from when God separated “the waters from the waters” (1:7) and on the third day when He spoke and “dry land [appeared]” (1:9). It was that mist, from the receding waters along with the heat of the sun, which created enough moisture to water what was then created of the plant life until rain would come later. Rain did come shortly thereafter and wasn’t postponed until the flood of Noah’s day since there’s no evidence that the mist lasted that long. Most of the flood waters came from beneath and not from above (7:11). But that will be discussed further in “The Flood”.

Gen 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

In verses 18-25 we find that of all the animals that were created in pairs of opposite genders, there wasn’t one that would be beneficial for Adam’s needs. She had to be compatible to Adam in that she must be human and share his dual traits; being of the dust and yet having a spirit.

Gen 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Adam recognized Eve as having his own human nature; apart from the animals he had already been acquainted with when he gave them their names. But there was something about this attractive creature Adam called “Woman” that made him forget his place and lose his favor with his Creator. Thus, there became...

### Trouble in Paradise

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Nowhere in the Genesis account does it say that the serpent was Satan speaking through it. We have to go to the opposite end of the Bible to the Revelation to find that information. When John, on the island of Patmos, received visions that were to be delivered to the churches of Asia, he received one in particular that revealed what Daniel foretold back in Dan 7:14.

Rev 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

The woman here represents the people of God under the Old Covenant. They were the Messianic community; a remnant of God's chosen people, Israel, specifically of the tribe of Judah. It was through this prepared group that God would send His Son into the world to save it. But...

Rev 12:3 ... another sign appeared in heaven (*Gk.3772- the sky*): behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her Child he might devour [Him].

This is speaking of the time of Jesus' birth when Herod ruled Palestine as puppet king of Rome. It was through Herod that Satan, represented by the dragon, made a vain attempt at ending the scheme of redemption. Many of the Jews who were in positions of authority at that time, speaking of "a third (*incomplete number*) of the stars of heaven", fell because of their opposition to Jesus as the Messiah. When Herod was informed by the wise men seeking the whereabouts of the newly born King of the Jews, he was perplexed that such a birth would happen without his knowledge. He sent them away to "search diligently for the Child" (*Mat 2:8*) so that he might also worship, but had actually planned on murdering Him. He was concerned that his reign would not pass to his own son.

Mat 2:12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The star had directed the wise men to a house, not a stable, where Jesus, Joseph and Mary were staying.

Mat 2:11 And going into the house (*Gk.3614- residence*) they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

By this time Jesus would have been around two years old according to the decree Herod made. Herod was furious because he felt the wise men had tricked him after they were instructed to return another way. He decreed to kill "all the male children... who were two years old and under" that were from Bethlehem where he understood Jesus would have been born according to the prophecy the wise men had told him of. (*Mat 2:16*)

After having ushered the Christ into the world, "born of woman (*Mat 1:18*), born under the Law" (*Gal 4:4*), the faithful remnant of God's people under the Old Covenant transitioned into the New. Jesus was born "when the fullness of time had come" (*Gal 4:4*), "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (*Lk 2:52*), proclaimed "the gospel of the kingdom" (*Mat 9:35*), "endured the cross, [having despised] the shame" (*Heb 12:2*), "died for our sins...was buried" and "raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (*1 Cor 15:3-4*) "and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (*Heb 12:2*) Thus the Old Testament remnant...

Rev 12:5 ... gave birth to a male Child, One Who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her Child was caught up to God and to His throne,

John revealed to the churches of Asia a vision of what he had already personally witnessed, in Acts 1:9-11, of Christ ascending back to Heaven, fulfilling a prophesy in Daniel.

Dan 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came One like a Son of man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

So what of the dragon? What happened to him since he was unable to thwart God's plan to redeem mankind?

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that **ancient serpent**, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (*emp. mine*)

Satan was behind the persecution Rome inflicted on the infant church and John was to warn them of its, then, imminent coming. Later, John...

Rev 20:1 ... saw an angel coming down from Heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that **ancient serpent**, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. (*emp. mine*)

The thousand year binding represents the present Christian age of reprieve from a worldwide persecution. It began at Pentecost and will end at the loosing of Satan from his prison. Thus revealing who the serpent was that tempted Eve in the garden. Even in chains, Satan still "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (*1 Pet 5:8*). He does so by shrewdness as Paul feared would happen to the church at Corinth.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Jesus also referenced Satan when speaking to His detractors who didn't accept Him as being the Messiah.

Joh 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer **from the beginning**, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (*emp. mine*)

*"The devil deceived our first parents, and they became subject to death, Gen. 3. As he was the cause why death came into the world, he may be said to have been a murderer in that act, or from the beginning."* Albert Barnes

Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Gen 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband **who was with her**, and he ate. (*emp. mine*)

That very first sin was caused by disobedience to at least three rules. First, that they were both guilty of going against the one law God gave them. Eve admitted she knew of the law when the serpent first asked her if God actually told her there were any trees from which she and Adam were not to eat of (*v. 1*). But then Satan went on to use a half-truth to confuse Eve into committing what came to later be understood as “the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eye and pride in possessions” (*1 Jn 2:16*). The “good and evil” Adam and Eve would come to know came with a price, the loss of a direct relationship with God. The second and third parts of their disobedience were with respect to the creation order. Adam forgot his place as well did Eve. Paul would later deal with a situation which warranted writing Timothy concerning that order.

1Ti 2:12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was **formed first, then** Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. (*emp. mine*)

To “be saved through childbearing”, a specific of womanhood whether a mother or not, was a phrase attributed to woman in her subjective role according to the creation order, and along with that subjection and fulfilling the other listed qualities, she would be saved. The act of childbearing itself does not produce salvation and is not the intent of Paul’s instructions.

A moral law, which if broken produces shame, has been in existence since the beginning but it took an act of disobedience for Adam and Eve to recognize its reality. After eating the forbidden fruit Adam and Eve realized their nudity for the first time and were thus ashamed. That’s what signaled their disobedience for God to approach them.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Already knowing where they were and what they did, God questioned them concerning their disobedience in order for **them** to admit what they had done firsthand. It was the first time the “blame game” was used as a way of thinking one might pass their faults on to someone else and not suffer the consequences.

Gen 3:12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me (*here trying to make God feel guilty for giving Eve to him*), she gave me fruit of the tree (*thus passing the blame on to Eve*), and I ate." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

She knew better, but the fact remained, Adam was responsible for Eve's protection because of the creation order and Eve knew of the law to not eat of the tree. But what of the serpent?

### The Definitive Plan

Gen 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

To understand the fate of the serpent we need to understand what is referred to as its offspring, along with what is meant by the woman's. Speaking to the serpent, a.k.a. Satan, the Lord God made reference to his children as Jesus did in Jn 8:44 when He said to His detractors "you are of your father the devil". Sin, which is the product (*seed and offspring*) of Satan, breeds a following that is anathema to anything good. And since Jesus is the epitome of all that is good, hostility was always present by those who, unconsciously or otherwise, were only doing Satan's bidding. So why didn't God say there would be hostility between the seed of Adam and the serpent or between the offspring of both Adam and Eve? This is where we find the true meaning of the passage with reference to "her offspring".

In Gal 4:4, Paul noted that Christ was "born of woman", showing that Joseph had nothing to do with Mary conceiving her "child from the Holy Spirit" (*Mat 1:18*). Since death is passed down through the male (*Rom 5:12*), Jesus was not a recipient of it. Deity cannot die making Him God in the flesh in order to give the ultimate sacrifice for the redemption of His creation. That body that Jesus occupied was prepared (*Heb 10:5*) so that He could leave His Father's side, come to the earth becoming one of us, live as a human with all that comes with it, in pain and temptation and yet do so without succumbing to "the sin which so easily besets us" (*Heb 12:1- MKJV*).

1Jn 3:5 You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.

It was through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus that the Old Law was nailed to His cross (*Col 2:14*), therefore satisfying the requirement of the law of sin and death (*Rom 8:2*). His heel being bruised, i.e. He died but His death resolved in His resurrection, was minor to the crushing blow Satan received. Understanding the scheme of redemption, along with the knowledge of an everlasting life without pain or suffering, those in Christ (*Gal 3:26*) no longer fear the afterlife.

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

How does that sacrifice apply to us today? By our copying Christ's same steps in our obedience to His word.

Rom 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

The scheme of redemption was completed when Jesus defeated Satan by bruising his head, dealing a crushing blow to the tempter's reign of terror through his authority to possess the eternal souls of the disobedient "from the beginning".

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, Who has made us both (*Jew & Gentile*) one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the Law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body (*the church*) through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

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