

IV.2. Lambs to Rams: From the Beginning: The Fall

The Garden

Gen 2:5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and *there was* not a man to till the ground. 6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. 7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

At that time a mist was created, from when God separated “the waters from the waters” (1:7) 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 eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 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.

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 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto 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 subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of 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 there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

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 ... there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

This is speaking of the time of Jesus' birth when Herod ruled in Israel 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. (*During his insurrection "a third [incomplete number] of the stars [angels] of heaven", fell.*) 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 of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country 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 when they were come into the house, (*Gk.3614- residence*) they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto 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” (*Gal4:4*), 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 ... brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto 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, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him.¹⁴ And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *that* which 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 cast out, that **old** (*Gk.744- primeval*) **serpent**, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (*Emp. added*)

Thus revealing who the serpent was that tempted Eve in the garden. Satan was behind the persecution that the Jews and 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 come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that **old serpent**, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. (*Emp. added*)

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. 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 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.

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

Joh 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. (*Emp. added*)

“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 unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye 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 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. (*Emp. added*)

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 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was **first formed**, **then** Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. (*Emp. added*)

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 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. 9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? 10 And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. 11 And He said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not 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 And the man said, The woman whom Thou gavest *to be* with me (*here trying to make God feel guilty for giving Eve to him*), she gave me of the tree (*thus passing the blame on to Eve*), and I did eat. 13 And the LORD God said to the woman, What is this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

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 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: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; [He] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt 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 And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him 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 heal 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 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

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

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the

dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also *in the likeness of His* resurrection:

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 ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For He is our peace, Who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; 15 Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

IV.2. Questions

1. What hydrated plant life before it was watered with rain and what was its source? a) water from the Tigris River; b) a mist when land appeared; c) water Adam carried from the Euphrates.
2. How do we determine who the serpent was that tempted Eve? a) through Paul in 2 Cor 11:3; b) by going to Revelation 12:9 and 20:2; c) we don't really know.
3. How old was Jesus when the wise men visited Him? a) He was still an infant, b) He was two years old; c) He was a teen.
4. What did Jesus mean when He referred to His detractors as the offspring of the devil? a) they were fathered by Satan; b) they were the product of Satan by not accepting Jesus as the Messiah; c) Jesus was frustrated and just lashing out.
5. Since Adam and Eve had been nude since they were created, why were they ashamed of it once they ate of the tree they were told not to? a) they were more mature; b) they used it to redirect God's attention by blaming their sin on another; c) their parents saw them.
6. Explain what is meant that Jesus was "born of a woman". a) Mary was artificially inseminated; b) human seed had nothing to do with Mary conceiving Jesus; c) it was a phrase that included both parents.
7. What did Jesus' heel being bruised represent? a) Jesus' foot was bitten by the serpent; b) His death was

resolved in His resurrection; c) along with being God He was part human.

8. How do we emulate Jesus' death, burial and resurrection? a) through baptism; b) by being martyred for His cause; c) by having water poured over us.