



THE FALL



Lesson 2 for
April 9, 2022



Perfect people, a perfect environment, perfect happiness... How could such a perfect world get ruined?

How could the enemy corrupt the minds of the first human beings? Why did they doubt God? Why did they want to become something they could not? What were the consequences?



▶ The fall:

- ▶ The strategy of the serpent
- ▶ Eve's reaction
- ▶ God's reaction

▶ The consequences:

- ▶ Curse and promise
- ▶ Death and hope

THE STRATEGY OF THE SERPENT

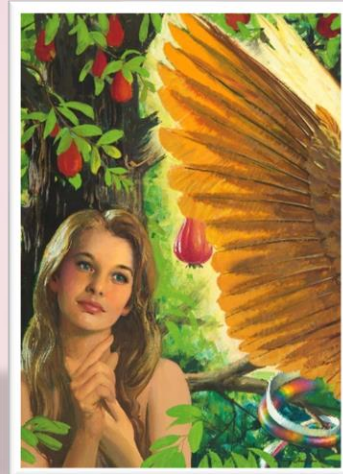
"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?'" (Genesis 3:1 NIV)



The serpent was known as a clever animal (although it couldn't talk). Isaiah wrote about a "gliding serpent" that he identified as Leviathan and the Dragon (Is. 14:29; 27:1). In Revelation, John identified that Dragon as "the ancient serpent," Satan (Rev. 20:2).

Satan showed up before Eve using that shape and ask her to explain the meaning of the Word of God. Eve was happy to answer the questions of the "serpent" (Gn. 3:2-3).

This allowed Satan to openly sow some doubts about God in Eve's mind (Gn. 3:4-5).



EVE'S REACTION

GOD

Eat of every tree
(Gn. 2:16)

Don't eat of the tree of
good and evil (Gn. 2:17a)

If you eat, you will die
(Gn. 2:17b)

SATAN

You cannot eat of every
tree? (Gn. 3:1)

God doesn't want you to
be like Him (Gn. 3:5)

You're immortal, you
cannot die (Gn. 3:4)

Satan offered Eve something he couldn't have, immortality and divinity (1Tim. 6:15-16; Is. 14:14). Eve thought that was achievable and desirable. He believed in immortality and began acting like God.

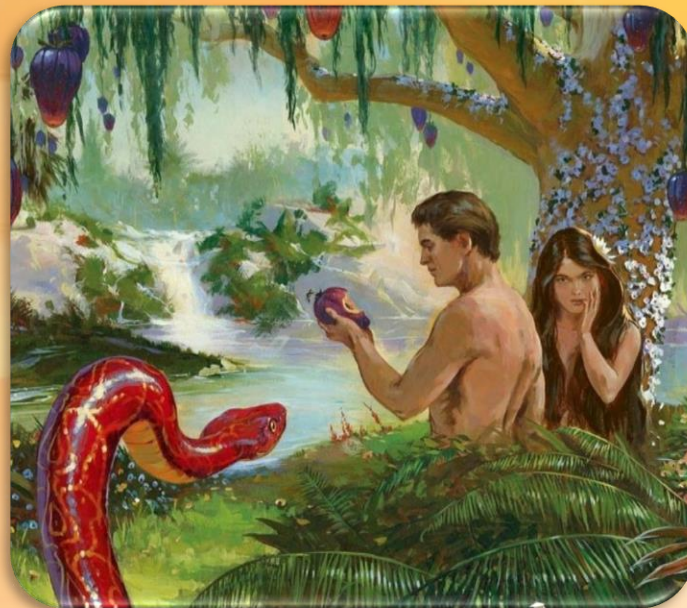
GOD

"God saw that it was
good" (Gn. 1:10)

EVE

"the woman saw that the
tree was good" (Gn. 3:6)

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." (Genesis 3:6)



GOD'S REACTION

"Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:9)

"Where are you?" "Who told you that you were naked?" "Did you eat of the tree I told you not to?" "What is this you have done?" (Gn. 3:9, 11, 13).

Answers: trying to conceal their sin, self-justification, blaming others... Do they sound familiar to you?

Adam and Eve felt deceived. They had believed in false expectations. Their sin was separating them from God. God used questions to find out the truth as in a trial (although He already knew the answers).

What was God's intention? To redeem them. He wants us to acknowledge our sins so He can offer forgiveness and restoration.



CURSE AND PROMISE

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)



Satan was cursed by God through the serpent because he was the one responsible for the existence of evil (Genesis 3:14).

Then God made a promise with a threefold prophecy:



The serpent and the woman

There would be constant hostility between Satan and the Church of God (Rev. 12:17)



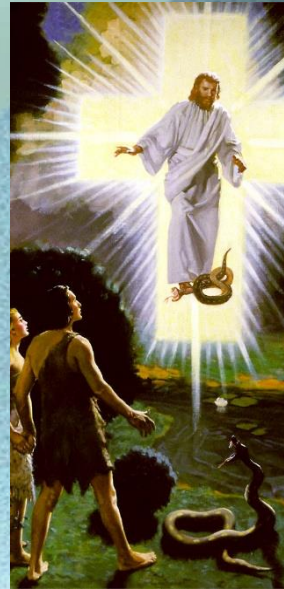
The offspring of the serpent and the woman's

There would be constant hostility between believers and nonbelievers, between the children of God and the children of men (Gn. 6:2)



The Seed and the serpent

Satan “bruised” Jesus by hanging Him on the cross, but Jesus will eventually destroy Satan (Ro. 16:20; Heb. 2:14)



DEATH AND HOPE

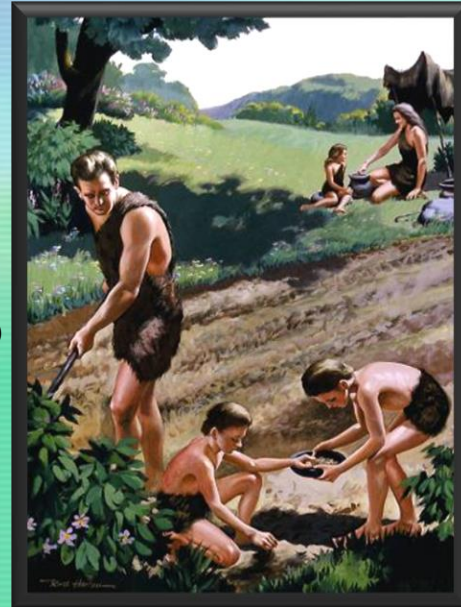
“Then he said to the woman, ‘I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth.’” (Genesis 3:16 NLT)

Giving birth and raising children should’ve been something pleasant, but sin made it painful. The promised seed would come with work and suffering.

Adam was the head of the married couple, so he was held responsible for the consequences of their sin. The earth was cursed for his sake (Gn. 3:17), and he was cursed to go back to the dust he had come from (Gn. 3:19).

Death was certain, but Adam embraced the promised hope. He changed his wife’s name, from *Isha* (Gn. 2:23) to *Eve* (Gn. 3:20), the mother of the seed that would free them from death’s curse.

We will forever thank God because He has given us eternal life with His great sacrifice.



“To man the first intimation of redemption was communicated in the sentence pronounced upon Satan in the garden [...] Adam and Eve stood as criminals before the righteous Judge, awaiting the sentence which transgression had incurred; but before they heard of the life of toil and sorrow which must be their portion, or of the decree that they must return to dust, they listened to words that could not fail to give them hope. Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, they could look forward to final victory.”

E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 4, p. 65)