

Understanding the Fall

(Genesis 3:1-15)

Introduction

Good morning, Lighthouse are you ready for the Word of God this morning? This brings us to our text this morning Genesis chapter 3. Immediately many of you can already say what Genesis 3 is generally about. What possibly came to mind is “The Fall.” In my opinion, it is one of the most crucial chapters in all the Bible especially for new believers to understand and be familiar with. What took place is the source of which all of our problems came. Sickness, disease, sorrow, hardship, and death – it hinges on this very event – the fall of man - where sin came into the world. All of these are results of humanity’s greatest issue: sin. We are going to examine what took place in this chapter.

Background

Author: Moses (first five books of the Old Testament known as the Pentateuch or Torah). It was not the first book of the Bible written, but it contains the first events of our history.

Theme: The beginnings: This book gives us the answers to life’s greatest questions: Where did we come from? Is there a Creator? What is our purpose? 2 The first 2 chapters deal with the creation of the world. God did this in 6 literal days and rested on the seventh. Yes, literal 24hr periods, not metaphors for periods of times. This was not millions or billions of years passing. Each time God finished a day a phrase followed: evening and morning. God did not need 6 days to create the world neither did He rest because He was tired. He could’ve done it all in an instant as He spoke it into existence. He was laying out a pattern for humanity’s labor – 6 days labor and rest. This brings us into chapter 3, the fall. Humanity and the earth were once in a state of perfection would now be lost.

Scripture

Genesis 3:1-15 (1) Now the serpent was more subtil 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? (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. (4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (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. (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. (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. (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? (12) And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. (13) And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. (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; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Outline

I. Doubting of God's Word, v. 1.

A. The Serpent was more subtle than any other animal.

1. This serpent is no doubt Satan.
2. While the text does not flat out tell us this is Satan, but the from the rest of Scripture we are told this is him.

3. While not the only passage that teaches us His identity, this one identifies them together as the same.

Revelation 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old 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.”

4. He did not start out as this serpent, he changed into this form. Satan today is still in the business of doing this and using mankind to do it.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (13) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

5. He continues to deceive in different forms using preachers and teachers that teach on works for salvation.

B. He approaches Eve with intention to confuse her and cause doubt.

1. “Yea hath God said Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” v. 4
2. Satan will start with trying to instill doubt in you.
3. If he can get you to doubt what God said, he will capitalize.

II. Distortion of God’s Word, vv. 2-3.

A. Eve’s response. “(2) 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.”

1. Satan of course knew what God had already said.
2. There are three things in error in Eve’s response.

B. The error in Eve’s response.

1. Lets look at the initial command made by God and make the comparison.

Genesis 2:16-17 (16) 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.

Genesis 3:2-3 (2) 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.

2. She omitted the word “freely.”
3. She added “neither shall ye touch it.”
4. She changed “shall surely die” to “lest ye die” – lowering its severity.
5. Now, we don’t want to put all the blame here on Eve, who was it that Eve received her information from? God or Adam?
 - a. The command from 2:16 was given to Adam, Eve was not made until after. What she would know regarding God’s command would be from Adam.
 - b. I can see the conversation going: Hey, Eve, we can eat of any tree here except that one – don’t eat from that tree, in matter of fact, don’t even touch it or you’ll die.
6. When we have God’s Word distorted or inaccurate from what it really teaches, it gives the devil perfect opportunity to capitalize.

III. Denial of God’s Word, vv. 4-5.

A. Satan denies what God said would happen, v. 4.

1. “Ye shall not surely die.” (Notice plural language "Ye").
2. Notice the progression, doubting God’s Word – distorting God’s Word and to now flat out denying.

B. Satan counters God’s truth with his own lie, v. 5.

1. “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.”
2. Satan wanted her to believe this and he does this with us too. “God is holding out on you!” He doesn’t really want what’s best for you. I can give you better.” When you start to question or forget the grace of God and the goodness of God, you will find it much easier to disobey the will of God.”
3. This temptation was powerful because there was a little truth in it. He’s not going to come out and just say “that’s a lie,” He’s going to mix truth with lies. They would not have an immediate physical death, but there was an immediate spiritual one. They would know good and evil, but not in the way of a divine being, it would be in shame and sorrow.
4. There is a great irony here: this temptation he did on Eve was his own fall: He wanted equality with God.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (12) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

IV. Deception and deliberation, v. 6

A. Eve was deceived by Satan and gave in to the temptation.

(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.

1. She surrendered to the temptation exactly the way John describes temptation in the three categories.

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Good for food - Lust of the flesh. Pleasant to the eyes - Lust of the eyes. Desired to make one wise - Pride of life.

2. She saw it was good for food – It was pleasant to the eyes, and her desire to be as a god – knowing good and evil.

3. Everywhere throughout scripture when temptation to sin is involved, you will see either some or all of these in there. David with Bathsheba, and even Jesus 7 in the wilderness. Let's look at Jesus' account.

B. In contrast with Eve, Jesus was victorious.

Matthew 4:1-11 (1) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (2) And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. (3) And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. (4) But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (5) Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, (6) And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. (7) Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. (8) Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (11) Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

1. Stone be made bread - Lust of the flesh. All kingdoms of the world - Lust of the eyes. Cast thyself down - Pride of life.

2. In overcoming these temptations, Jesus laid out the perfect example. He was equipped with Scripture. He had it memorized, but not just because He quoted

it. But because He was obedient to the Scripture He quoted.

3. Knowing the Bible and memorizing passages is a great place to be and a goal we all should have, but what is the benefit if there is no applying it to our lives and obeying it?
4. Take note too, Satan quoted Scripture and attempted to use it against Jesus.

Here's the irony of him doing so. The next verse from the passage he used.

Psalm 91:13 (13) Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

C. Adam deliberately sinned.

1. Some illustrations and books have it where Eve eats the fruit and then goes off to find Adam and give him the fruit too. Notice what it says though. ... she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave **also unto her husband with her**; and he did eat.
2. Adam was aware what was going on. He was with her. (Ye shall not die...)
3. Some men can be so quick to point out and rejoice “Ahh, Eve was deceived, not Adam.”
 - a. Think about that for a second: Adam was not deceived, but still sinned against the Lord. His sin was deliberate.
 - b. Being deceived does not excuse your sin, but it is even more shame to do it with deliberation. Adam was not in a better position than Eve.

V. Damnation and shame, vv. 7-13.

A. The attempted cover up, vv. 7-9.

1. Their eyes were opened, and they saw they were naked.
 - a. This signified there was shame.

b. Sin promises pleasure, but its only temporary. It brings shame and sorrow.

2. Their disobedience to God has brought damnation to the world and the generations to come. Adam is responsible for bringing sin and its consequences in the world.

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:

3. They then sewed fig leaves to cover themselves. Their own attempt to cover themselves was clever, but not much wisdom. Fig leaves are not the ideal covering.

4. They then heard the voice of God walking through the garden as they hid themselves from the Lord's presence.

a. Of course, God already knew where they were and what they have done.

b. God's questions were not because He was looking for them or trying to learn.

c. It was for Adam to confess what he has done, to express his accountability.

B. The attempted blame shift, vv. 10-13.

1. God asks Adam if he has eaten of the tree he was commanded not to eat.

2. Instead of coming clean and taking responsibility, he shifts the blame. So, who does he blame?

3. As a kid hearing the story, I always thought he just blames Eve. But look

again. (12) And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

4. He did indeed blame Eve, but the first shift in fault is God. The woman “THOU gavest to be with me.” God, if you didn’t give me this woman...
5. How often do we try to put fault on everyone but ourselves? Our nature tends to first defend our own honor. It's everyone's fault but my own.
6. Eve then shifts to the serpent: “He beguiled me and I ate.”

VI. Deliverance illustrated, vv. 14-15.

A. The consequence to the serpent v. 14.

1. The serpent would be on his belly and dust shall he eat all the days of his life.
2. This was true of the serpent as an animal, but it is also true of Satan. To eat dust has the idea of total defeat. God’s judgment on Satan is for him to always know defeat. He will always reach for victory but always fall short of it.
3. Satan can remind you of your past, but we know what his future holds.

B. The deliverer to come, v. 15.

Genesis 3:15 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.

1. The second part of the curse is directed against Satan himself. God placed a natural animosity between Satan and mankind. Enmity has the idea of ill will, hatred, and a mutual antagonism.
2. The seed of the woman shall bruise the head of Satan and Satan shall bruise his heel.
3. This verse is known as the Protoevangelium, the first case the Gospel is seen in the Bible.
4. Notice it is the seed of the woman. We are born from our father’s seed. This seed is talking about Jesus.

Galatians 4:3-5 (3) Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

(4) But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

(5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

5. Something that may give the ladies a chuckle. All of us are born with a sin nature. We inherit it from the seed of our father. Our fathers are the ones who pass the sin nature down to the next. Jesus not having a earthly father equals not having a sin nature. So, moms, If you ever wonder why your kids are misbehaving and not being obedient. It's because they are sinners through their dad. So, feel free to look at your man and let him know: "It's all your fault."

5. Adam and Eve were removed from Eden. God could've left humanity condemned right there and would've been just do so. In His grace though He provided the only way.

Conclusion

When we read the rest of Scripture, we cannot count on this world becoming a better place. Satan is still at it with his lies and deception, mankind continually rebels against their Creator. Because of this event right here with Adam, this world will only go downhill until Jesus returns. A world that once was in perfection, all lost because of this one event. Its consequence and nature are passed down continually. You may be thinking "so how is any of this my fault?" You would be right. This was not your fault. It is not your fault you were born a sinner, but it is your fault if you choose to not do anything about it. You may not be able to fix this world, but you can fix your individual sin problem and know where you'll spend your life after you leave this world. Jesus took your place on cross, He was buried and three days later He rose from the grave, defeating death and conquering sin. Will your trust in Him to save you?

Romans 5:18 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.