



The Fall and Its Consequences Genesis 3-4

Introduction

1. The Adversary -Satan

Sometime before He finished the creation of the earth and man, God created innumerable angelic, spirit beings (Genesis 1:1, 2:1; Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 12:22). They were given intelligence, emotions and a moral will to assist God in working out the destinies of men and nations (Psalm 91:11; 1 Kings 19:4-8; Matthew 4:11; Hebrews 1:13). The angels were united in worshiping God until Satan and other angels rebelled and became hostile opponents to His word (Job 15:14, 38:4-7; 1 Timothy 3:6; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Satan was declared cursed by God after he deceived Eve in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:14).

Some scholars find Satan's fall described in Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-18. While these verses literally concern the King of Babylon and the King of Tyre, respectively, some see them as a double reference to both the ancient kings and Satan.

2. The Origin of Sin

Satan developed arrogance and pride in his heart and sought to exalt himself declaring, "*I will make myself like the Most High*" (implied in Isaiah 14:14). He fell morally at the moment of his pride and, as leader of fallen angels, started a heavenly battle which continues today (Ephesians 6:12). Although he suffered defeat at the cross, Satan is still our adversary (1 Peter 5:8) and has access to God as the accuser against the brethren (Revelation 12:10). During the tribulation period, Satan and his demons will be banished from heaven and restricted to the earth (Revelation 12:9). Then, he will be bound for a thousand years prior to being cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:2).

3. Satan's Characteristics

In Scripture, Satan is given several names including the devil (Matthew 4:1, 13:39; Luke 4:2,6), father of lies (John 8:44 NASB), prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4), the evil one (John 17:15) and ruler of this world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11).

Satan will roam the earth until the second coming of Christ, and in concert with our flesh and the world, he works to disrupt our fellowship with God, oppose

God's purposes and destroy the joy of our salvation. His second banishment from heaven, his final defeat and his ultimate doom, are explained in Revelation 12:9, and 20:10.

In the meantime, Satan continues to be a deceptive, devious, scheming liar and murderer, a relentless opponent of God and all humanity. He is a master counterfeiter, masquerading and role playing (Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 11:14). "*Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*" (1 Peter 5:8).

OUTLINE of GENESIS 3 and 4

I. The Temptation and Fall - Genesis 3:1-7

II. The Judgment - Genesis 3:8-24

III. The Consequences of Sin - Genesis 4:1-15

IV. Human Achievements and Failures - Genesis 4:16-26

I. The Temptation and Fall - Genesis 3:1-7

A. The Serpent's Deception - Genesis 3:1-3

In the Garden of Eden, Satan manifested himself as a serpent to tempt the woman. He refuted her statement about God's prohibition, and persuaded her to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was her vulnerability to his deception, not her open rebellion against God, which caused her to misunderstand God and believe the serpent. She disobeyed God and convinced Adam to do the same.

B. The Temptation and Fall - Genesis 3:4-5.

Three words characterize the sequence of Eve's temptation and fall.

1.) Eve "*saw*". She understood that the tree was good for food.

2.) "*It was pleasant to the eyes.*" Eve was deceived, thinking that the tree was "*desirable to make one wise*".

3.) She "*took*". Eve was "*deceived and fell into transgression*" (1 Timothy 2:14) She ate the fruit and gave to the man who also ate.

God had provided the first man and woman with a life in paradise to satisfy their every need and unselfish desires. The serpent enticed them to live independently of God and thereby satisfy their human desires beyond God's bountiful provisions. The woman was deceived

and seduced by the serpent whereas the man violated God's prohibition directly (1 Timothy 2:14). Eve believed a lie rather than the truth and Adam joined her in disobedience to God.

C. The Cause of Their Sin - Genesis 3:6-7

Three things caused the first man and woman to yield to temptation:

- Eve's willingness to listen to the serpent's words and misquote God's words.
- Eve's willingness to believe the serpent's words and doubt God's words.
- Adam and Eve's willingness to act on the serpent's words as if they were true and disobey God.

When you sense these subtle inclinations in your life, read Ephesians 6:10-18 and ask for God's help. Also, remember how important it is to know what God's word really says. See Psalm 199:11.

D. The Universal Result

The universal result of this fatal event meant inherent sin and death for all mankind (Romans 3:23, 5:12). The propensity to sin entered man with Adam's disobedience. Since that nature is present in all of us from the moment we are conceived (Psalm 51:5), it is impossible to live in a way that is pleasing to God apart from submission to Him and His Son. Every person born after the first man and woman comes into the world physically alive and spiritually dead (*"after its kind"*).

E. The Weakness of the Flesh

When the Bible speaks of the flesh, it refers to that part of human beings that is controlled by sin and is directed to selfish pursuits rather than service to God. It is that compulsive, self-oriented, inner force in each of us which expresses itself in rebellion against God (Ephesians 2:1-2).

Application

Have you hidden God's word in your heart so you may not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11)? Do you longingly and gratefully read and study God's word daily? Do you joyfully apply the principles and precepts of God's word to your life? Without personal knowledge of God's word it is too easy to be deceived. Without obedience to God's word, deception is inevitable.

II. The Judgment - Genesis 3:8-24

A. Guilt and Conscience - Genesis 3:8-10

Shame and guilt replaced the innocence of the man and woman after they sinned. They knew the difference

between good and evil. They attempted to hide their nakedness from each other and from God. They had distrusted and disobeyed God and became sinners trying to hide from God among the trees of the Garden.

B. Life Forever Changed - Genesis 3:11-13

When God found them, the man did not take responsibility for his action but tried to place the blame on the woman. In turn, she tried to blame the serpent. Both tried to blame their transgression on someone else rather than confess and accept personal responsibility for wrongdoing. After God obtained their confessions, He announced His judgment and new conditions of life.

C. The Serpent - Genesis 3:14-15

God cursed the serpent, invoking His judgment upon the serpent's evil deception. The serpent would slither on his belly (he may have had legs before the curse), and eat dust forever. "Eating dust" is an ancient Middle Eastern expression used to describe the lowest of all forms of life. The Bible describes it as a shameful, degrading defeat (Isaiah 49:23; Micah 7:17).

God established animosity and hostility between the serpent and mankind. The serpent's seed refers to unbelievers – they are called the devil's children in John 8:44. The woman's seed refers to her descendant, Jesus Christ, and all those who believe in Him. Satan will "bruise" Christ's heel causing Him great suffering. Christ, however, will "bruise" Satan's head meaning He will defeat and destroy Satan with a fatal blow. It is singularly noteworthy that in the first book of the Bible our merciful God gives us a message of hope.

D. The Woman - Genesis 3:16

God told the woman that conceiving and bearing children would be an agonizingly painful experience. The labor and pain would be a constant reminder that the first woman gave birth to sin and passed it on to all women. The God-ordained harmonious roles for husband and wife were broken by sin. Many, if not most, marriages would have unpleasant struggles of self-will. Her "desire" for her husband probably meant she would try to dominate him. There would be disagreements between them, but the husband "shall rule" over the wife. Apart from God's mercy, grace and intimate involvement, it is impossible for marriages to thrive according to His divine design.

E. The Man - Genesis 3:17-24

God punished the man because he had relinquished his leadership, turned his back on God's instructions and given in to his wife's wishes. God cursed the ground on which the man would now have to work extremely

hard. Previously, he had been given the privilege of enjoying the produce from the Garden. Now there would be “thorns and thistles” and other obstacles causing him great sweat and difficult toil.

God had already told the man that eating from the wrong tree meant death (2:17). This referred to physical death. The Bible speaks of three different kinds of death:

- Physical death - the separation of the material and immaterial parts of the person (body and soul);
- Spiritual death - the separation of the person from God;
- Eternal death - the permanent.

The man did not die immediately, but lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5). All mankind after Adam’s sin suffers the tribulations of life and physical death.

Before they were expelled from the garden, Adam gave the name, Eve, to his wife because she was the mother of all living. God provided clothing of animal skins for the naked couple. He then drove them out to till the ground, the dust from which Adam had been created. God placed Cherubim (angels with flaming swords) to guard the tree of life

John MacArthur ([The MacArthur Bible Commentary](#)) notes that "It is appropriate that those bearing the guilt of sin should cover themselves." God demonstrated this when He killed animals to use their skins as clothing for the guilty pair. This was a foreshadowing of the animal sacrifices for sin under God's law and, in the fullness of time, the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. See Romans 3:21-26.

Only God can provide for the problem of sin and "*without the shedding of blood there is no remission (forgiveness)*" (Hebrews 9:22).

III. The Consequences of Sin - Genesis 4:1-15

A. First Born Sons - Genesis 4:1-2

Adam and Eve had their first child, Cain, at which time Eve acknowledged God as the giver of life. Then she gave birth to her second son, Abel. Some interpreters believe the boys were twins since no time period intervened between verses 1-2. Mankind’s depraved condition is brought out in the story of the two sons.

B. Abel’s Righteousness, Cain’s Sin - Genesis 4:3-8

When they were young men, Cain made an offering to the Lord of some of his crops from the ground. Abel made an offering of the firstborn and fat from his flock. Cain’s offering was not acceptable to God, whereas

Abel’s was. Why? Abel’s attitude reflected genuine faith by offering his best to God. By contrast, Cain’s comportment and mental composure showed that he was simply carrying out a duty. He became angry at God’s rejection and did not heed God’s spoken warning to him. His crouching sin of jealousy eventually induced him to kill Abel.

C. God’s Judgment - Genesis 4:9-15

When God questioned him, Cain tried to hide his hideous act by lying. 1 John 3:12 states that Cain was "*of the wicked one*" and "*his works were evil*". God cursed his farm land and banished him to wander from place to place as "*a fugitive and a vagabond*" (outcast and beggar). As such, Cain would be vulnerable to those who wanted to take his life. He responded to God with self-pity rather than remorse and repentance. God mercifully put an identifiable mark on Cain that provided divine protection, but also reminded others and himself of his shame throughout his life.

IV. Human Achievements and Failures - Genesis 4:16-26

A. The Ungodly Line of Cain - Genesis 4:16-22

Cain wandered eastward and had relations with his wife (sister), one of Adam’s daughters. Interfamily reproduction was not forbidden until the Mosaic law (Leviticus 18:6-13). Cain’s descendants started the spread of civilization by building cities, inventing tents, improving agriculture, introducing music, and developing simple metallurgical processes. These were all needed progressive steps in the growth of civilization.

B. Lamech’s Sins - Genesis 4:23-24

God’s grace and justice allowed both human prowess in achievements and increasing moral failure in humanity. Lamech, the seventh generation, was the first bigamist, demonstrating how sin escalated following the Fall, especially in marriage relationships and premeditated murder. Polygamy was contrary to God’s will (2:24). Even though Abraham and Jacob later explained that it was the means of ensuring a male survivor, more often it was motivated by the lust of the flesh. In addition to bigamy, Lamech also committed murder and boasted about it to his wives. Some expositors believe Lamech used a metal weapon developed by his son, metallurgist Tubal-Cain, for a murder weapon. This is why Lamech’s poem is sometimes called the “Song of the Sword”.

C. The Godly Line of Seth - Genesis 4:25-26.

The name, Seth, means “granted” or “to set, to place”. Eve gave her third son this meaningful name to express

her faith that God would continue to propagate the promised Seed in spite of physical death (3:15). Seth's son, Enosh, was born. The Scriptures record that it was at this time that men began to "*call on the name of the Lord*".

God graciously created Seth's godly line which would lead to our Redeemer and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 3:38). This provides great confidence and hope for all sin-weary people.

Application

How can you encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to "*call upon the name of the Lord*" (Genesis 4:26)? Who will you invite to this Bible study so they may learn about the confidence and hope available in the Lord Jesus Christ?

11. How would you describe God's thoughts and feelings about mankind's ever increasing wickedness, evil acts, and sinful ways?

12. What did God tell Noah concerning His plans for corrupted mankind and the earth?

DAY FOUR: Read Genesis 6:14-22.

13. Describe the general size and shape of the ark according to God's instructions (1 cubit = 18 inches).

14. Explain God's method of destroying all flesh and every living thing on earth.

15. What were God's instructions concerning Noah, his family and every living thing of all flesh?

DAY FIVE: Read Genesis 7:1-10, 8:20.

16. Explain the purpose of taking aboard seven each of "*every clean animal*" along with "*two each of animals that are unclean*" (see 8:20).

17. What was Noah to do in preparation for God's implementing His plan of destroying all living things?

18. What specifically was God's plan of destruction?

19. How old was Noah when the flood of waters was on the earth?

DAY SIX: Read Genesis 7:11-24, 8:3; Psalm 104:6-9; Luke 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7 and 2 Peter 3:3-7.

20. In your own words, describe the great flood, including its purpose, magnitude, duration of rain, time to recede and result.