



**Study # 3**

**Genesis Chapter 3**

**Summary of the passage:**

Satan is introduced as the cause of a successful temptation wherein Adam disobeyed God. That fall from holiness led to a broken covenant after which man was doomed to sorrow, toil and death. The consequences of sin were immediate and universal in the world. The sorrows that befell Adam and Eve due to the curse upon the world was universal. They apply to the soil, plant life, animal life and all the offspring of Adam and Eve. What had been "very good" became corrupt. Man's friendship and inclination to worship God was turned to banishment when Adam and Eve were driven out of their pristine home and kept from returning by the flaming sword of the Cherubims at the gate of Eden.

**Key verse:**

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made."

Genesis 3:1.

Satan is introduced as a highly intelligent serpent with access to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He succeeded in tempting Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit and through her to tempt Adam to break the covenant of life. Satan was subtil. He persuaded Eve and then Adam to eat of the forbidden fruit by questioning God's word. The serpent attacked Eve directly while alone and then tempted Adam and Eve to act on their own desires rather than on the veracity of God's word. This is his common modus operandi.

**Observations – Lessons from this chapter.**

- 1. In Genesis ch. 3 God gives us a history of how His perfectly ordered world went so terribly wrong.** Sin came into the world to cause sorrow and death. This is vital knowledge to grasp the message of the Bible and the gospel.  
"The problem of the existence of evil in a world created by a holy, loving God is one that has exercised the minds and hearts of philosophers and theologians through the ages. If God is omnipotent and holy, why does He permit such things? How, indeed, could evil ever have appeared at all?" Henry M. Morris, Pg. 10 The Genesis Record. Consider also the clear statements in Romans 5:12, Romans 8:20-22. The world we live is radically different from the world which God first created, where Adam dwelt in innocence. This is a fallen world which is under the curse as the consequence for man's disobedience.
- 2. Satan was a created being and fell from God early in the history of the world.** As a created being placed in a perfect world, Satan was moved by pride to be like God, or to even become as God (Isaiah 14:12-15). The desire to be like God, was an effective means for Satan to tempt Eve, and has been the point of rebellion that has marked Satan, his minions and those under his wicked influence throughout history. His design was to bring the whole human race into rebellion to God with him. He chose to employ the body of the serpent, which was intelligent and attractive, certainly to Eve. The Bible clearly teaches that as the result of Satan's activities there is a continual spiritual warfare between God and Satan. Rev. 12:9, Ezekiel 28:15-17, Luke 10:18.  
This information gives us an understanding of the real world in which we live and of our need of a Saviour to deliver us from Satan's bondage and all the consequences of sin.
- 3. Satan's method of tempting Eve was at attack on both the word of God and the goodness of God.**

Satan's questioning Eve about God's intentions forbidding them to eat of one tree caused a loss of perspective in Eve's mind. Compare God's goodness in permitting them to "freely eat" of every tree (Ch. 2:21, with Eve's reply in Ch. 3:2, where she said, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden." The word "freely" was dropped by Eve. Satan further suggested in Ch. 3:5 that God was keeping them from the enjoyment of something good.

4. **Adam's disobedience by eating the forbidden fruit brought far reaching consequences upon mankind, who were plunged into a fallen world.** (We refer to Adam's disobedience for the covenant was made with Adam before Eve was created).
  - [1] Sin brought a sense of shame. V7.
  - [2] Sin brought estrangement to God. V8 - 13.
  - [3] Sin brought God's curse upon the serpent with enmity between the serpent and the woman. V14-15.
  - [4] Sin brought sorrow in child birth for the woman. V16
  - [5] Sin brought the woman under further rule of her husband v16. Her falling for Satan's deception had consequences.
  - [6] Sin brought God's curse upon the ground with attending struggles for survival v 17 - 19
  - [7] Sin brought banishment from the presence of God. V 21 -24.

### **Application: – How does this apply to me?**

Every child of Adam is subject to the consequences of the curse due to Adam's sin. Everything on the list above applies to our own state before God in this world. Our life of shame, sweat, toil, labour for survival among danger and death is the result of Adam's fall.

This is the reason we desperately need a Saviour. Sin's guilt must be removed. The curse must be reversed which shall take place in the renovation of this world at Christ's return. Our death sentence must be lifted through the gift of eternal life, as promised in the gospel message to all sinners who will believe in Christ (Romans 6:23).

Just as the earth is radically fallen from its first pristine form at creation through the curse, so man's nature is totally depraved. We lost the knowledge of God and we lost the desire to know and fellowship with Him. We have become fugitives running from God seeking to hide from His presence in a spirit of rebellion.

### **Things to do in light of this study:**

1. Look up further Bible references that teach man's lost condition due to sin. See Romans 3:10-23. Ephesians 2:1-6, Isaiah 1.
2. Recognise that this world is under God's judgment. It will not continue in rebellion to God indefinitely. Satan shall finally be cast out. Sin will be judged. This earth shall be burned with fire before the new reign of righteousness in the eternal state.
3. Rejoice in Christ, as the Saviour whom God has sent to save His people. Through His redeeming work at Calvary we are saved. Christ came to reverse the curse and save His people. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." Galatians 3:13
4. Put no trust in this world in its wicked fallen state but do trust in Christ, the sure and certain hope of every sinner who will repent of sin. Do plead the cross-work of Christ for your own salvation from every consequence of sin.

### **Further questions and points to study:**

Is there a link between the tree in the garden of Eden, the tree at Calvary on which Christ was crucified, and the tree of life of which saints will eat in heaven (Rev. 22:14)?

Are Christians to be realists when it comes to suffering, death and physical problems in this world? How does the doctrine of the fall through Adam's sin answer the perplexing questions of a troubled world?