

The Lord God has created the heavens and the earth. He has formed man, and then a woman from the side of man. Everything he created was good, in fact, very good. But there is trouble in paradise. A tree is growing there that has a lethal fruit. (Nowhere does the Bible say the fruit was an apple.) An evil force lurks in the newly created garden. In fact, we will learn later in the scriptures that there was 'war in Heaven,' and that the rebellious powers were thrown from heaven to the earth (Rev 12).

I do not think Adam and Eve were completely innocent in the Garden. They certainly had the ability to choose between right and wrong. They were charged with the care of the whole Garden of Eden, and were given free reign through it. Yet we find them hanging around the middle of the garden where the tree of temptation was located. Do you think they were teasing themselves with temptation? We know they were in it together.

Is that not our own experience in relation to TV, movies, magazines and books, and especially in this day to the Internet? Do platonic relationships in the office or at work run the risk of becoming more than platonic? When the lottery pool gets high enough are you tempted? At what point is innocence lost?

: 1 Now the serpent was more crafty (shrewd) than any other beast... What is your understanding of 'the serpent'? Was this an innocent creature inhabited by an evil spirit, or was this a manifestation of Satan in serpent form?

2 Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Cor 11:13-14 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of /Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.  
Job 26: 12,13 By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he shattered Rahab (sea serpent). By his wind the heavens were made air; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

Isa 27:1 In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

1 Pet 5:8 Be sober-minded, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

: 1 He said to the woman, Did God actually say...He knew what God said. Note the innuendo and lies in his short speech.

First he changes God's name from Lord God (Yahweh Elohim) to God (Elohim).

Then he addresses God's prohibition rather than his bountiful provision.

Then he questions what God said: Did God actually say?

Then he changes God's words: "you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?"

: 2-3 Eve's reply is wandering away from the charge God had given. First she uses the name of God the serpent used, Elohim, a generic rather than personal name.

She almost seems to pout when she says: We may eat of the fruit of the trees... The Lord God said: You may surely eat of every tree of the garden... Then she adds to what God said by saying: neither shall you touch it...

Finally she minimizes the fact of death, by saying: lest you die.

: 4 But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die.' First the serpent distorted God's words. Now he blatantly contradicts them. Was the serpent using a play on words, the word 'die'?

Do you think Adam and Eve would have died a natural death if they had not sinned? What about the rest of creation: the plants, animals and other creatures? Was the Second Law of Thermodynamics operative in the Garden of Eden?

Did creation start with something like the 'big bang'?

What was the nature of the death that was about to befall Adam and Eve?

: 5 ...your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Satan himself wanted to be like God and to be God. He now tempts God's beloved creation with the same desires. (In our current secular naturalist worldview, there is no transcendent god, and therefore we are all gods ourselves.) Satan is a doomed creature, and wants to take us all down with him (Rev 20:1-10).

: 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was:

good for food	the lust of the flesh
a delight to the eyes	the lust of the eyes
to be desired to make one wise	the pride of life

1 John 2:16

She took of the fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her... Eve sinned personally and brought on severe consequences (Gen 3:16; 1 Tim 2:14-15).

But Adam was right there with her. It was his duty to guard and protect the garden, and he failed miserably. Both he and Eve were hanging around the temptation tree together.

...and he ate. The consequences of this were and are catastrophic. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... Rom 5:12).

Genesis 3:1-24

Continued

The last and decisive act of disobedience has occurred. '...and he did eat'. Sin has now entered into mankind. The rest of the Bible deals with the consequences of Adam's act and God's provision for redeeming Adam and his seed. The first thing we see is that Adam and Eve did not

die right there. In fact, instead of falling in a heap, their eyes were opened and they began to realize the consequences of what they did. Their innocence was lost. They had to hide from each other, and soon would have to hide from God.

: 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they know that they were naked. They were promised the knowledge of good and evil. Instead they found the death of innocence, and in its place alienation, guilt, shame and fear. These are all consequences of death. Many more will follow as we study this Book.

What does it mean to be naked? Is it only to be without clothes? Why is there more and more physical nakedness in movies, magazines, advertisements, Internet, etc. as we become more and more secularized?

Have we lost all our shame? What is the role of shame in a society? What happens to a society that loses its sense of shame? Can one be 'saved' if he has no sense of shame? Can a nation survive without a sense of shame?

: 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden.. God and man were in close communion. They both were responsible for the care and maintenance of the garden. Their daily visits probably provided a chance to plan for the next day, the care of the back forty, for instance.

Do you ever long for such innocence that you could commune this way with God?

Later God said to Israel: I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people (Lev 26:11-12).

And the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord..

In Jeremiah 23:24 God asks three questions of the nation of Israel:

1. Am I a God at hand, and not a God afar off?
2. Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?
3. Do I not fill heaven and earth?

How do we hide ourselves from God? Why do we hide ourselves from God? Can we really hide ourselves from God? What are the consequences of hiding ourselves from God?

See Psalm 139. V.7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

: 9-11 God immediately begins his search for his lost humanity.

He asks three questions of Adam:

1. Where are you?
2. Who told you that you were naked?
3. Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

Did God not really know where they were?

Adam's reply confirms his guilt, because until then he had known no shame.

Adam does not answer the second question, but God does with his third question.

: 12 Adam answers God very much the same way we would when confronted with some wrongdoing.

First he blames God: The woman whom you gave to be with me... Then he blames Eve: she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate. He failed to confess his own sin. If he had would the consequences for mankind have been different?

Instead he alienates his only companion (bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh,) on earth. Some have suggested that Adam took of the fruit out of his love for Eve, who had already sinned. But we see separation and alienation, not love, in Adam's response.

1 Tim 2:13 suggests that Adam was not deceived, but knew full well what he was doing?

: 13 God's 4th question is addressed to Eve: What is this that you have done?

Every man and women must stand before the Judgment seat of God. Eve could not avoid her own responsibility. Even though Adam was her head, she could not place the responsibility on him. She tried to blame the serpent, but that did not carry any weight in her defense.

Rom 14:10 For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God...so then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Adam heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden...

What would be your response if God knocked on the door of your home today?

Would you show up at church if you found out that God was to be the guest speaker next Sunday?

To be continued