

In the Beginning

A Study Through the Book of Genesis



Lesson 8: "Man's Fall into Sin" Chapter 3:1-11

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

I. The Serpent (3:1)

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

- A. Serpent – from the Hebrew word *na-hash* meaning snake.
 - 1. He was not a supernatural being.
 - 2. He was a serpent, one of the wild animals of creation.
 - 3. The serpent was the tempter – Satan in the form of a snake.
 - 4. This raises an important question; did God create evil?
- B. The serpent was cunning, a derogatory word – from the Hebrew word *a-rum* meaning crafty, shrewd, clever, synonymous with deceptive, using trickery.
- C. The serpent asked the woman, *"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"*
 - 1. What type of trickery and deception was the serpent using on the woman?

II. The Serpent Entices the Woman (2-5)

²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- A. The woman's reply - *"We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "*
 - 1. The woman knew God's command and could recite it.
 - 2. The woman knew the consequences of disobeying.
- B. The serpent made this statement to the woman - *"You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*
 - 1. This expression "you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17, God's words to the man) means that the man would come under the verdict of a death penalty. It is the pronouncement of a judge on one who has been condemned to die.
 - 2. The serpent was twisting God's words saying that their death would not be an immediate, physical death. The death that God was talking about was an eternal death, separation from God because of disobedience.
 - 3. The serpent used trickery and deception to entice the woman by telling her that if she did eat of the fruit,
 - a. Her eyes would be opened – she would have understanding and wisdom.
 - b. She would be like God, knowing good and evil.

III. The Decision is Made (6)

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.

- A. The serpent tempted the woman to disobey God through the means of trickery and deception.
- B. When the woman saw the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and would make her wise, she made the decision to eat the fruit.
 - 1. When does disobedience become sin: when we make the decision to disobey, or when we do the act or deed?
 - 2. James 1:14-15 ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
 - 3. When evil is embraced in the heart, it is sinful.
- C. The woman ate of the fruit and gave it to her husband, and he ate also.

IV. The Consequences of Man's Fall (7-11)

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

- A. The eyes of both of them were opened – they knew they knew they were naked and they were ashamed. They made coverings for themselves.
- B. They heard God walking in the garden and hid?
 - 1. Why did they hide?
 - a. They were ashamed.
 - b. They were afraid.
- C. God asked the man, *"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*