

Adam and Eve, the Gospel of Salvation

Genesis 2:4-3:24

with Rockey's Thoughts, October 11, 2020

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The Story of Adam and Eve

2:4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, **5** before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; **6** but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. **11** The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. **12** And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. **13** The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. **14** The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." **19** Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. **20** So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **22** Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said:

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“This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

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?’”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat 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 has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For 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.”

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. **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?”

12 Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

13 And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.
15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;

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He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”

16 To the woman He said:

“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”

17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.
18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.
19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.”

20 And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— **23** therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. **24** So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Rockey's Thoughts

(2:4-25) God created Adam from dust and breathed His own spirit into Adam to make him a living being. God's spirit that He breathed into Adam is eternal. It does not die like a physical body dies. Spiritual death is separation from God. The Lord placed Adam in the garden of Eden to tend it. We see that God and Adam shared intimate face-to-face communication. The Lord gave Adam one rule to follow with a warning (2:16b-17): “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” God knew that Adam needed a helper. The Lord brought all of the animals to Adam to see what he would call them, but among all of the animals Adam did not find a suitable helper. So God put Adam to sleep and with some genetic modifications he cloned a woman to be Adam's helper. From Adam and Eve's relationship we can see that the functional relationship for a man and a woman in marriage is a unity where what effects one also effects the other as if they share a single body (2:23-24): “Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” In their innocence Adam and Eve had no shame that required a covering.

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(3:1-6) One day Satan came to tempt Eve. The text says a serpent and the stories we've seen depict an actual snake that walks upright and speaks, but from Genesis to Revelation God metaphorically represents Satan as a serpent and four other reptiles.¹ So we don't need to interpret this as a literal snake and I will simply use Satan instead of the serpent. Satan begins his temptation of Eve with a half-truth, **3:1** "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" Eve corrects Satan with the whole truth, **3:2-3** "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but 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.'" Satan counters with another half-truth, **3:4** "You will not surely die." This is a half-truth because though they would not die physically, they would die spiritually. People may be physically alive or physically dead. At the same time, people may be spiritually alive or spiritually dead. The Bible rarely makes a distinction and it is up to the reader to determine by the context if it is physical or spiritual life or death that is meant. After setting Eve up with two half-truths, Satan performs the coup de gras by telling Eve a complete lie and appealing to the vanity of her soul and the desires of her flesh, **3:5** "For 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." So to satisfy the desires of her flesh and intellect, Eve ate the forbidden fruit and also gave it to her husband Adam who willingly joined her. People are triune beings with a spirit, a soul (mind, will and emotions) and a body. The proper alignment is for the spirit to be submitted to the Holy Spirit of God, the soul to be subject to the spirit and the flesh to be subject to the soul. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and sin, they raised their intellect and their flesh above their spirits. This separated their spirits from God and their spirits died.

(3:7-13) Adam and Eve had known goodness by their fellowship with God and the blessings He had given them in the garden of Eden. Now they also knew evil by their sin of disobedience. Immediately they knew their true condition and they tried to cover up their shame with fig leaves. We see that Adam and Eve enjoyed daily fellowship with God and they expected Him to come to them in the evening. Because of their shame, Adam and Eve hid themselves from God. Shame had become an obstacle in their relationship. Adam and Eve did not die physically, but they did die spiritually as shown by their attempt to hide from the Lord and their separating themselves from God. The Lord God still searched and called for Adam and Eve until they were found. As God questioned them concerning their withdrawal from Him, Adam and Eve confessed what they had done while trying to shift the blame.

(3:14-19) In response to Satan's temptation and Adam and Eve's original sin, God placed a curse on each of them. Again, I don't take the serpent to be a literal snake, but a metaphor for Satan. God cursed Satan as a low-down coward that would eat dust, meaning that he would trouble mankind (made from dust) throughout history. The woman and her posterity would hate Satan. Then God ends Satan's curse with the first prophecy of the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, **3:15b** "He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Eve received a curse of sorrow. Women would have pain in conception and from their children. The relationship with husbands became dysfunctional. It went from **2:23a** "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" to **3:16b** "your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Adam received a curse of death. The environment changed from a garden to a place with nuisance plants. Man would toil and sweat to provide the necessities of life until he literally worked himself to death.

(3:20-24) Adam and Eve must have shown a contrite attitude in their repentance, because God extended grace to them. We see this by His covering their shame with "tunics of skin." The only way to get the

¹ See "[Area Indoctrination Briefing](#)."

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skins was by the shedding of innocent blood. This is the second prophecy of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect lamb of God who would shed His own innocent blood on a cross at Calvary for all of the sins ever committed by humanity. Even though Adam and Eve received God's grace, there were still consequences for their sin. They were denied the direct access to the tree of life that they enjoyed in their innocence. Also, they were driven out of the garden of Eden, the only home they had ever known, and they would never again enjoy the easy and perfect life they had lived before their original sin.

We've looked at the micro details of the story. Now I want to step back and look at the macro patterns I see in the picture the story paints. When Adam and Eve lived in innocence in the garden, they had continual access to the tree of life. Their spirits were eternal and would live forever. When they sinned, they were judged by the one rule of law that had been given to them. Their spirits died as we see in their attempt to separate themselves from God. For their spirits to live again they needed to be regenerated, they needed to be born again. As gardeners, their covering of fig leaves represented their works and did not make them acceptable in God's sight. We know the contrition of their hearts must have been right because God himself covered their shame (sin) with animal skins that represented the shedding of innocent blood. This foreshadows the sacrifice of the perfect lamb of God, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ who willingly allowed His own blood to be shed as a sacrifice for all of the sins ever committed by mankind. Here at the very start of human history the pattern of life is set. People are born in innocence and their spirits are alive. When each person commits their original sin, their spirit dies and it must be regenerated to live again. Sinners are judged by the law. To have this judgment set aside and for their spirits to be born again, they must submit themselves to God and receive His free gift of salvation.

When I was young I was taught that God created everything to be eternal and that there was no entropy or death before Adam and Eve sinned. Along with this I was also taught that a more exact translation of the Hebrew for "die" in the rule Adam and Eve were to obey would be "dying you will die." Since Adam and Eve didn't die physically when they ate the forbidden fruit, God had to have a way out or He would be a liar. So I was taught the concept that entropy entered creation with original sin and that Adam and Eve began to age until they eventually died physically. All of the emphasis was on physical life. With all I've learned in my many years of life, I don't believe these teachings anymore. I believe that entropy and physical death were always a natural part of the creation. I also know that doubling in the Hebrew language is very common. We know that Adam and Eve did not die physically, but spiritually when they sinned. It is what the story tells us and it is consistent with the pattern we see in the Bible, throughout history and life.

There are a few more global lessons that can be taken from this story. Sin opens the door to a curse. I know that Jesus became a curse for us when he died on the cross for our sins, but we still see the effect of the curses given to Adam and Eve in our lives. Women still experience sorrow in conception and family relationships. We still have dysfunctional marriages. There are still weeds, thorns and thistles in the earth. Most men still work throughout their lives, literally working themselves to death. Even when we are living in God's grace, if we sin it reopens the door to a curse. As long as we don't rebel, loose our faith or sin unto death,² our spirits do not die, but the door remains open to the curse until we repent so God can forgive our sin. As it says in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

2 See "[Paradise Lost and Found](#)."

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Now that the tree of life in the garden of Eden is denied to mankind, God has made a way through the shedding of innocent blood for mankind to enter His grace so they can eat again of the tree of life. Even though our sins are forgiven and our spirits are born again when we submit ourselves to God and receive His grace, there are still consequences for the sin. Our lives are in some way reduced by each act of disobedience to God. Though we may be blessed exceedingly as we grow in God's grace, our lives will never be what they could have been before we sinned.

In the introduction to the Bible Stories, I wrote about the age of conscience, the age of law and the age of grace. I noted that it could lead to the mistake of believing that there were different requirements for salvation in the different ages. However, from the very beginning here in the story of Adam and Eve we find the Gospel of Salvation. In innocence our spirits are eternal. When we commit our original sin, our spirit dies. If we turn back to God and enter into a submitted relationship with Him as Lord, then He covers our sin with His own shed blood. He becomes our Savior and our spirits are regenerated, we are born again.