



Lesson 3 – The Temptation and Fall

Based on Genesis 3

- 1) What happened in Heaven shortly before the Earth was Created?

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou _____ from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the _____ of the stars of heaven...

No longer free to stir up rebellion in heaven, Satan's enmity against God found a new field in plotting the ruin of the human race. In the happiness and peace of the holy pair in Eden he beheld a vision of the bliss that to him was forever lost. Moved by envy, he determined to incite them to disobedience and bring upon them the guilt and penalty of sin. He would change their love to distrust and their songs of praise to reproaches against their Maker. Thus, he would not only plunge these innocent beings into the same misery which he was himself enduring, but would cast dishonor upon God, and cause grief in heaven.

Our first parents were not left without a warning of the danger that threatened them. Heavenly messengers opened to them the history of Satan's fall and his plots for their destruction, unfolding more fully the nature of the divine government, which the prince of evil was trying to overthrow. It was by disobedience to the just commands of God that Satan and his host had fallen. How important, then, that Adam and Eve should honor that law by which alone it was possible for order and equity to be maintained.

- 2) How did Satan appear to Eve?

Genesis 3:1 Now the _____ was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

In order to accomplish his work unperceived, Satan chose to employ as his medium the serpent, a disguise well adapted for his purpose of deception. The serpent was then one of the wisest and most beautiful creatures on the earth. It had wings, and while flying through the air presented an appearance of dazzling brightness, having the color and brilliancy of burnished gold. Resting in the rich-laden branches of the forbidden tree and regaling itself with the delicious fruit, it was an object to arrest the attention and delight the eye of the beholder. Thus, in the garden of peace lurked the destroyer, watching for his prey.

Satan was not to follow them with continual temptations; he could have access to them only at the forbidden tree. Should they attempt to investigate its nature, they would be exposed to his wiles.

- 3) What did Eve reply to the serpent?

Genesis 3:2-3 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the _____: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye _____ eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

The angels had cautioned Eve to beware of separating herself from her husband while occupied in their daily labor in the garden; with him she would be in less danger from temptation than if she were alone.

absorbed in her pleasing task, she unconsciously wandered from his side. On perceiving that she was alone, she felt an apprehension of danger, but dismissed her fears, deciding that she had sufficient wisdom and strength to discern evil and to withstand it. Unmindful of the angels' caution, she soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the forbidden tree. The fruit was very beautiful, and she questioned with herself why God had withheld it from them. Now was the tempter's opportunity.

- 4) What was Satan's reply to her?

Genesis 3:4-5 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye _____ surely _____: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as _____, knowing good and evil.



The serpent continued, in a musical voice, with subtle praise of her surpassing loveliness; and his words were not displeasing. Instead of fleeing from the spot she lingered wonderingly to hear a serpent speak. Had she been addressed by a being like the angels, her fears would have been excited; but she had no thought that the fascinating serpent could become the medium of the fallen foe.

By partaking of this tree, he declared, they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge. He himself had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech. And he insinuated that the Lord jealously desired to withhold it from them, lest they should be exalted to equality with Himself. It was because of its wonderful properties, imparting wisdom and power, that He had prohibited them from tasting or even touching it. The tempter intimated that the divine warning was not to be actually fulfilled; it was designed merely to intimidate them. How could it be possible for them to die? Had they not eaten of the tree of life? God had been seeking to prevent them from reaching a nobler development and finding greater happiness.

5) What was the really scary part of Satan's lie?

Genesis 3:5 ... then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as _____...

He did not let it appear that by transgression he had become an outcast from heaven. Though he had found sin to result in infinite loss, he concealed his own misery in order to draw others into the same position.

6) What is the sad record of history?

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did _____...

In the judgment men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth. Notwithstanding the sophistry of Satan to the contrary, it is always disastrous to disobey God. We must set our hearts to know what is truth. All the lessons which God has caused to be placed on record in His word are for our warning and instruction. They are given to save us from deception. Their neglect will result in ruin to ourselves. Whatever contradicts God's word, we may be sure proceeds from Satan.

7) What was the rest of Genesis 3:6?

Genesis 3:6 ...and gave also unto her husband with her; and _____ did _____.

Without a fear she plucked and ate. And now, having herself transgressed, she became the agent of Satan in working the ruin of her husband. In a state of strange, unnatural excitement, with her hands filled with the forbidden fruit, she sought his presence and related all that had occurred.

An expression of sadness came over the face of Adam. He appeared astonished and alarmed. To the words of Eve, he replied that this must be the foe against whom they had been warned; and by the divine sentence she must die. In answer she urged him to eat, repeating the words of the serpent, that they should not surely die. She reasoned that this must be true, for she felt no evidence of God's displeasure, but on the contrary realized a delicious, exhilarating influence, thrilling every faculty with new life, such, she imagined, as inspired the heavenly messengers.

There was a terrible struggle in his mind. He mourned that he had permitted Eve to wander from his side. But now the deed was done; he must be separated from her whose society had been his joy. How could he have it thus? Adam had enjoyed the companionship of God and of holy angels. He had looked upon the glory of the Creator. He understood the high destiny opened to the human race should they remain faithful to God. Yet all these blessings were lost sight of in the fear of losing that one gift which in his eyes outvalued every other. Love, gratitude, loyalty to the Creator, **all were overborne by love to Eve. She was a part of himself, and he could not endure the thought of separation.**



No sign of death appeared in her, and he decided to brave the consequences. He seized the fruit and quickly ate.

8) What was the first sign that something was different?

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed _____ together, and made themselves aprons.

9) What happened next?

Genesis 3:8-9 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the _____ in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife _____ themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

In their innocence and holiness, they had joyfully welcomed the approach of their Creator; but now they fled in terror and sought to hide in the deepest recesses of the garden.

10) What did Adam finally say to God?

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I _____ myself.

11) God replied:

Genesis 3:11 And he said, Who _____ that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12) Did Adam accept his own responsibility?

Genesis 3:12 And the man said, The _____ whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

He who, from love to Eve, had deliberately chosen to forfeit the approval of God, his home in Paradise, and an eternal life of joy, could now, after his fall, endeavor to make his companion, and even the Creator Himself, responsible for the transgression. So terrible is the power of sin.

13) Did Eve accept her own responsibility?

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The _____ beguiled me, and I did eat.

Like Adam, she charged God with the responsibility of their fall. The spirit of self-justification originated in the father of lies; it was indulged by our first parents as soon as they yielded to the influence of Satan and has been exhibited by all the sons and daughters of Adam. Instead of humbly confessing their sins, they try to shield themselves by casting the blame upon others, upon circumstances, or upon God, making even His blessings an occasion of murmuring against Him.

14) What did God do next?

Genesis 3:14-15 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art _____ above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put _____ between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Since it had been employed as Satan's medium, the serpent was to share the visitation of divine judgment. From the most beautiful and admired of the creatures of the field, it was to become the most groveling and detested of them all, feared and hated by both man and beast. The words next addressed to the serpent applied directly to Satan himself, pointing forward to his ultimate defeat and destruction.

15) And to Eve?

Genesis 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy _____ and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.



It was by her solicitation that Adam sinned, and she was now placed in subjection to her husband. Had the principles enjoined in the law of God been cherished by the fallen race, this sentence, though growing out of the results of sin, would have proved a blessing to them; **but man's abuse of the supremacy thus given him has too often rendered the lot of woman very bitter and made her life a burden.**

16) And to Adam?

Genesis 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: _____ is the _____ for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Genesis 3:18-19 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the _____ of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for _____ thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

It was not the will of God that the sinless pair should know aught of evil. He had freely given them the good and had withheld the evil. But, contrary to His command, they had eaten of the forbidden tree, and now they would continue to eat of it—they would have the knowledge of evil—all the days of their life. From that time the race would be afflicted by Satan's temptations. Instead of the happy labor heretofore appointed them, anxiety and toil were to be their lot. They would be subject to disappointment, grief, and pain, and finally to death.

The life of toil and care which was henceforth to be man's lot was appointed in love. It was a discipline rendered needful by his sin, to place a check upon the indulgence of appetite and passion, to develop habits of self-control. It was a part of God's great plan of man's recovery from the ruin and degradation of sin.

17) What did God tell them would happen if they ate from the forbidden tree?

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely _____.

The warning given to our first parents did not imply that they were to die on the very day when they partook of the forbidden fruit. But on that day the irrevocable sentence would be pronounced. Immortality was promised them on condition of obedience; by transgression they would forfeit eternal life. That very day they would be doomed to death.

18) What happened to Adam and Eve at this point?

Genesis 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and _____: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of _____, and eat, and live for _____: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a _____ which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

In order to possess an endless existence, man must continue to partake of the tree of life. Deprived of this, his vitality would gradually diminish until life should become extinct. It was Satan's plan that Adam and Eve should by disobedience incur God's displeasure; and then, if they failed to obtain forgiveness, he hoped that they would eat of the tree of life and thus perpetuate an existence of sin and misery. But after man's fall, holy angels were immediately commissioned to guard the tree of life. Around these angels flashed beams of light having the appearance of a glittering sword. None of the family of Adam were permitted to pass the barrier to partake of the life-giving fruit; hence there is not an immortal sinner.

19) What did God do for the couple?

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and _____ them.



In humility and unutterable sadness, they bade farewell to their beautiful home and went forth to dwell upon the earth, where rested the curse of sin. The atmosphere, once so mild and uniform in temperature, was now subject to marked changes, and the Lord mercifully provided them with a garment of skins as a protection from the extremes of heat and cold.

20) Was the Garden of Eden still visible to the people of the Earth before the flood?

Genesis 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a _____ which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The fallen race were long permitted to gaze upon the home of innocence, their entrance barred only by the watching angels. At the cherubim-guarded gate of Paradise the divine glory was revealed. Hither came Adam and his sons to worship God. Here they renewed their vows of obedience to that law the transgression of which had banished them from Eden. When the tide of iniquity overspread the world, and the wickedness of men determined their destruction by a flood of waters, the hand that had planted Eden withdrew it from the earth.

21) What will God do in the final restoration of this earth?

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new _____ and a new _____: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Then they that have kept God's commandments shall breathe in immortal vigor beneath the tree of life; and through unending ages the inhabitants of sinless worlds shall behold, in that garden of delight, a sample of the perfect work of God's creation, untouched by the curse of sin, a sample of what the whole earth would have become, had man but fulfilled the Creator's glorious plan.

Have we benefited from having the knowledge of good and evil? _____

Can you see God was disappointed?

Would you like to be there in the New Earth?

When is the time to trust God at His Word?