

## Genesis 3:1-8 **Sin Enters the World**

<sup>1</sup> 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?'" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> 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.'" <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. NKJV

Facts to note that are revealed about sin:

- ✧ Satan has no supernatural power to cause man to sin, and is limited even in the specific case of Job where God was demonstrating HIS own wisdom and knowledge of man which is above the knowledge of Satan as noted by God's own words when He said: **"he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited ME against him, to destroy him without cause."** [Job 2:3] Even in this case it was not the power of Satan, but the power of God as God granted Satan the power to test Job.
- ✧ Satan's only power over us is limited to our *own nature* showing the truth of the HOLY SCRIPTURES. Paul tells us: **"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man."** [1 Corinthians 10:13]
- ✧ Let no one say when he is tempted, *"I am tempted by God"*; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does HE HIMSELF tempt anyone. But **"each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."** [James 1:13-14] Notice how this very process is demonstrated by the original sin.
- ✧ Sin is a person acting out his own choice in opposition to a direct command of God.
- ✧ The serpent came and spoke to the woman, which is in itself a revealing fact. Apparently in the beginning the animals could talk and man could understand what they said, because the woman showed no sign of surprise or fear at the time. Remember also that Balaam's donkey talked to the pagan prophet, according to the account in [Numbers Chapter 22].
- ✧ The Serpent in the garden was Satan the Great Red Dragon of [Revelation Chapter 12] where it is recorded that **"the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world."**
- ✧ Satan's approach was the same as he uses against everyone today. He calls our attention to something God has commanded and suggests an alternate view so we are called to make a choice to obey God or to do what pleases our-self. Remember in the book of Judges, **"There was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes"** and this always brought the judgment of God upon the nation.
- ✧ God did not have to put the tree in the garden if He did not want man to eat from it. God wanted to give a man a choice and since God cannot tempt man, He allowed Satan to enter the garden to suggest an alternate concept to call for that choice and he did it through the woman
- ✧ Satan questioned a commandment of God, **"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"**

- ✧ The woman misquoted the commandment indicating a lack of understanding as interpreted in her own mind.
- ✧ Satan then jumped on her uncertainty and challenged it as he said to the woman "**You will not surely die. 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.**"

Here Satan called God a liar and then inserted the very concept which caused his own downfall as shown in [\[Isaiah 14:14\]](#) where he desired to be **like** GOD MOST HIGH.

There are cults today whose teaching causes the people to believe that they will be like God and even become gods themselves. Other cultic teachings go even farther on that same theme and declare "*you are little gods.*"

- ✧ Notice how it plays out in the mind of the woman:
  1. Eve took another closer look at the forbidden fruit and saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes.
  2. Then she demonstrated that she believed Satan as she saw a "tree desirable to make one wise." A person is not deceived by hearing a lie, they are deceived when they believe the lie. The Scriptures state, "**And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.**" [\[1 Timothy 2:14\]](#)
  3. Eve acted on her perception and ate of the fruit.
  4. Then just like anyone today who does what they know to be wrong, she, not wanting to be alone in the disobedience, gave it to her husband. That is the same as people do today when they attempt to entice others to join them in their misdeeds.
- ✧ Again in keeping with [\[1 Timothy 2:14\]](#), the man was not deceived, but he ate the fruit fully knowing what he was doing. That is the same as people today who follow others in doing wrong, they have their own reasons, but they know it is wrong.

I believe that his reasoning was that he knew that there was no other suitable companion for himself and if his wife was about to die he didn't want to be left alone. (This is my own reasoning and may or may not be true).

- ✧ Then their eyes were opened and they knew that they were naked. When one has a guilty conscience they feel exposed and become unreasonably defensive. You even hear them say, "What are you looking at" if you look at them.
- ✧ They sewed fig leaves together to make themselves coverings. In the shame of guilt they felt they had to cover themselves.

God had pronounced it "**Very Good**" when they were naked in their innocence and they were not ashamed. But now that they feel guilty, they feel shame of being exposed and from then on they try to hide in every way possible.

- ✧ Guilt causes shame and shame causes shameful acts on the part of the guilty. The more guilt they feel the more defensive they become and sensitive to the criticism of others even imagining criticism when there is none.
- ✧ This is evident today as people drift deeper and deeper into sin and turn away from the commandments of God, attempting by their humanistic thought to eliminate the knowledge of God and insisting that every one tolerate their actions. [\[see Romans 1:21-22\]](#)

- ✧ When they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
- ✧ Notice; even though they were covered by the fig leaf coverings they had made, they still felt naked and exposed causing them to seek to hide from the presence of God.

They had been comfortable in God's presence until their guilty consciences brought them to the shameful discomfort of knowing they were about to be faced with their actions.

- ✧ Shameful guilt causes people today to react the same way and attempt to cover and deny their wrong doing. Then they want to change the laws to make their actions acceptable to others even when it is in direct opposition to the commandments of God's WORD. They feel that by making it legal they will make it right and acceptable.

This is not true however, since wrong is still wrong even when the laws have been changed to accept it as normal life styles.

- ✧ We may change our laws to make shameful actions acceptable and we may demand that these actions be accepted and tolerated by the public, but in the end we will certainly as a nation be brought under the judgment of GOD MOST HIGH as He proves that doing what is right in our own eyes only demonstrates that we are still sinners.
- ✧ The Great Tribulation is coming to demonstrate that God will not tolerate our defiance forever.
- ✧ God gives the commandment, Satan offers the alternate concept, but the individual makes the choice and acts on that choice. Therefore God is in the right, holy and just in calling us to account for the choices we have made.
- ✧ Do not forget however, the **Scripture has confined all under sin**, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. [\[see Galatians 3:22\]](#)