

MAN STARTED AT THE TOP

Genesis 3

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Of all the chapters in the Bible, chapter three of Genesis is one of the most important chapters of all. Here are found the foundations upon which rest the doctrines of Christian faith. Here is where the drama began which set the stage for human history. Here is found the divine explanation of how mankind turned out to be what it is today. Here is revealed the subtle devices of Satan. Here is shown the total powerlessness of mankind's ability to walk a Godly path when God's grace is withheld. Here is revealed the spiritual effects of sin. Here is shown the human tendency of human nature to try to cover up sin. Here is revealed the gracious provision God has made to meet mankind's great need. Here is revealed that no one can approach God except through a mediator. Here is where it shows that man started at the top.

I. WHAT HAPPENED TO BRING ABOUT THE FALL OF MAN FROM GOD

1. Evolution theory is that man began at the bottom and is slowly climbing upward and that some day will reach the "top."
 - This philosophy attempts to deny that mankind is fallen and terribly evil and wicked.
 - The dream is to make a perfect environment and people will then be able to become perfect.
 - However, the first man and woman were placed in a perfect environment and given only ONE restriction but they failed and fell.
2. People are responsible beings, to serve, obey and glorify their Maker.
 - Nobody is independent for nobody has made themselves and all have been created by God, even though it is through human birth, therefore people owe God for their existence.
 - **"...But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it..." (Genesis 2:17)**
 - God commanded that the fruit of this tree should not be eaten, a plain command of God.
3. Satan appeared and began his subtle work:
 - The woman listened to the Evil One challenging the Word of God.
 - The woman tampered with God's Word by adding **"..neither shall ye touch it..."** to God's command to not eat of the tree.
 - The woman then changed God's Word from **"...thou shalt surely die..."** to **"...lest ye die..."** meaning that death was a possibility.
4. The WILL of God was resisted, the WORD of God was rejected, the WAY of God was deserted.
 - **"...By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned..." (Romans 5:12)**

II. SATAN'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE FALL OF MAN

1. Satan is introduced without any word of his background or history which are found in other passages.
2. Satan's chief aim is to get between the soul of a person and God, to separate a person's heart from God therefore placing confidence in a person's own self.
 - Satan uses his own lies in the place of God's truth as revealed in the Genesis 3 account.
3. Satan's method of approach is the same today as it was then.
 - He begins by throwing doubt on God's Word - **"...Yeah, hath God said...?"** suggesting that God did not mean what He had said.
 - He then substitutes his own word for God's Word - **"...Ye shall NOT surely die..."**
 - He then calls God's goodness into question - **"...For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil..."**
 - He creates the impression that God withholds things that would be advantageous to people.

4. Satan caused Eve to take another look at the forbidden tree:
 - **"...The woman saw that the tree was good for food..."** appealing to the bodily senses.
 - **"...and that it was pleasant to the eyes..."** appealing to the desire of nature and emotions.
 - **"...and a tree to be desired to make one wise..."** appealing to the intelligence.
 - Satan works from without to within, the external and bodily senses and the emotions of the soul work back to the spirit.
 - Satan tried the same approach with Jesus when he tried to get Jesus to fall down and worship him.
 - **...Command that these stones be made bread..."** **"...Cast thyself down..."** **"...Fall down and worship me..."**
 - Appealing to Jesus' bodily senses, to Jesus' courage, and then to Jesus' spirit.

III. THE EFFECT OF THE FALL TO ADAM AND EVE

1. Adam and Eve realized their shame - their "conscience" was awakened.
 - **"...And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked..."**
 - Before their fall, they were in their created state of innocence and their ignorance of evil.
 - As soon as they took of the forbidden tree, they became conscious of their wrong doing and their eyes were opened to see their fallen condition.
2. Instead of seeking God and confessing what they had done, they attempted to conceal it from God and themselves.
 - The last thing any person will ever do is to admit that something is wrong and he/she will seek relief behind his/her own self-righteousness, good works, etc.
3. Adam and Eve hid themselves when they heard the voice of the Lord God.
 - Their conscience caused them to hide from God, not run to Him.
 - God was holy and they were sinful, therefore they were afraid of Him.
 - People neglect the Bible, because it brings them nearer to God than any other book and people tend to become uneasy and want to hide from Him.
 - People make all kind of excuses for being near to God because they are so uncomfortable in their so they seek to avoid God, just like Adam and Eve did.
4. God gave Adam and Eve fair and full opportunity to confess their sin.
 - **"...Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?..."**
 - Instead of confessing his sin, Adam excused himself and blamed the woman:
 - **"...And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat..."**
 - Eve did the same thing as Adam, instead of confessing her sin, she blamed the serpent:
 - **"...And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou has done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me and I did eat..."**
 - Both tried to shift the blame to someone other than themselves.
 - Nothing has changed up to today for people make all sort of excuses for their sins.
 - God put the blame on Adam who blamed the woman who blamed the serpent.
 - **"...Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, thou shalt not eat of it; cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life..."**

CONCLUSION:

1. The fall of Adam and Eve revealed that something was wrong with them both.
2. The fall revealed the effort to hide their shame by covering themselves.
3. The fall revealed their fear of God of God and they tried to hide from Him.
4. The fall revealed the fact that instead of confessing their sin, they tried to excuse it.
5. Nothing has changed since the fall with people:
 - There is sin in ever human being, something wrong.
 - People try to cover up and excuse their sinfulness.
 - People are afraid of being in God's presence and try every way to avoid Him.
 - Instead of admitting and owning up, confessing sins, everyone tries to excuse them.
6. Satan is still as he was then in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, using the same strategies, trying to keep people away from God.