

THE FALL OF MAN

Genesis 3:1-24

Introduction: The third (3) chapter of Genesis is perhaps one of the most informative and important chapters in all of God's Bible, for here are found the foundations upon which rest the basic doctrines of our faith. The beginning of the human race, explanation of why we are like we are today, the subtle ways of Satan, enemy to man and to God, the futility and powerlessness of people to live righteous lives, the spiritual effects of sin, the attitude of God toward those who sin, the tendency of people to cover their own shame, the gracious provision which God has made, the prophecies throughout God's Word and that no person can approach God except through a mediator. All these and even more are revealed in this third (3) chapter of Genesis.

I. HOW THE "FALL" HAPPENED

1. Man (Adam) did not begin at the bottom of the "moral ladder" and is slowly but surely climbing heavenwards as is being taught in today's philosophy. NO, mankind (Adam) began at the top and FELL to the bottom.
 - Heredity and/or environment are not to blame for what happened to man.
 - Eden proves that a perfect environment (as some say is evolving) will not purify mankind.
2. God placed only a single (one) restriction upon Adam's (man's) liberty (**2:17**)
 - Man is NOT the creator but was created, therefore is accountable to his Creator/Maker.
 - Man (Adam) became self-seeking, self-centered, self-willed, and deliberately disobeyed God, therefore he sinned and FELL.
3. Adam (man) listened to and heeded the voice of the evil one, the tempter instead of remaining obedient to God's Word.
 - God's Word was challenged.
 - God's Word was "tampered" with.
 - God's Word was altered, changed.
 - Some of God's Word was omitted, left out.
4. God's instructions, will was questioned, resisted, and rejected, and God's way was left.
"...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. HOW SATAN/THE DEVIL WAS INVOLVED IN THE "FALL"

1. Satan, the devil makes his appearance without any word of his past, previous history, but God's Word reveals it in other parts of His Word. ***Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19***
2. Satan was/is determined to get between man and God, to separate man's heart from his Creator and to cause man to have confidence in himself and Satan instead of God.
3. The method Satan used in the Garden of Eden with Adam is still the same one he uses today.
 - Satan throws doubt on God's Word.

- Satan substitutes his own word for God's Word.
 - Satan casts doubt upon God's goodness and concern for people.
4. Satan's three-fold appeal to Eve was to the three basic drives in the human make up.
 - "...*good for food...*" - appealing to the senses of taste and smell.
 - "...*pleasant to the eyes...*" - appealing to "self," the seat of desire, one's emotions (soul).
 - "...*desired to make one wise...*" - appealing to the mind, intelligence (place of the spirit).
 5. Satan works from the outside to the inside (bodily senses, self/soul, spirit), whereas God works from the inside (heart) to the outside. Changing the heart first, then the rest.

III. EFFECTS OF THE "FALL" UPON ADAM (MAN)

1. The first effect of the "fall" upon Adam (man) and Eve was that of shame.
 - Their conscience was touched, uncovered, hurt. They became aware of evil and good.
 - They felt/heard God's quiet voice within their conscience/soul and felt ashamed.
2. The next effect was that Adam and Eve tried to sooth their conscience by making aprons of leaves.
 - Instead of going to God and openly admitting their guilt, they tried to hide what they had done.
 - Mankind has been doing the same thing ever since - trying to cover up, soothe their conscience.
3. The next thing Adam and Eve did was to then try to hide from God.
 - Their conscience did not tell them to go to God, but to run away from God for they had disobeyed Him.
 - Mankind has been doing the same thing ever since - running away from God for the same reason, disobedience of God.
4. God found Adam and Eve and gave them an opportunity to explain, to confess what they had done.
 - Adam blamed Eve, made an excuse.
 - Eve blamed the Serpent, made an excuse.
 - Both attempted to shift the blame somewhere else other than on themselves.
 - Things have not changed. Instead of admitting to and confessing sins, people today still attempt to excuse away or shift the blame somewhere else for their sins.

IV. WHAT GOD DID ABOUT THE "FALL"

1. It was NOT Adam and Eve who sought out God, it was God who sought out Adam and Eve.
 - God sought out Abraham, Jacob, Moses and it was Jesus Christ who sought out His Disciples.
 - Nothing has changed. It is still God seeking out people.
2. Before God acted in judgment, He displayed mercy. Before banishing Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He clothed them, then gave them a blessed promise and hope.
 - It was Satan who had brought down man (Adam), but it would be a MAN who would bring down Satan.
 - By woman (Eve) sin had come into the world, but by WOMAN, a Savior would come.

- By woman (Eve) man had been cursed, but by WOMAN, would come One who would remove the curse.
 - By woman (Eve) Paradise had been lost, but by WOMAN, would be born the One who would regain it.
 - God announced that it would be by WOMAN'S seed that Satan would be defeated.
 - Remember, God chose a "miraculous conception," a VIRGIN WOMAN to bring forth His/The Savior.
3. Before the "fall," God had defined the results/wages of sin: *"...in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die..."*
 - God's law had been broken, His Word disobeyed, therefore justice cried out for the penalty to be enforced.
 - Mercy, however, desired to spare the offenders.
 - God clothed Adam and Eve with skins of animal. God slew animals, blood was shed, a covering was provided for the two lawbreakers by God, Himself. God's justice had been satisfied.
 - Adam and Even did NOTHING. God did it all and that is still the way it is today.
 4. After the sentence of judgment had been satisfied, Adam and Eve were removed/exiled from the Garden of Eden, paradise.
 - Adam and Eve did not die physically right away, but just as God warned, they died spiritually, their relationship with God was severed and later on, they died physically.

CONCLUSION:

1. Not much has changed since Adam and Eve did what they did in the Garden of Eden.
 - Satan is still busy keeping people away from God.
 - People are still sinning and making excuses for their sins.
 - Sin still has it's eternal consequences.
 - God is still looking for those who have tried to hide from Him.
 - God's justice is still being carried out.
 - God is still merciful and forgiving.
 - God has made a way for people to have their sins taken care of by something only He does.
2. There will come a day when God will restore things to their original Garden of Eden condition with Satan being removed, evil mankind removed and God's Son, Jesus will rule and reign with God's Children, but until that happens, things will continue as they started with the "FALL OF MAN."