

## Genesis 3

### Notes:

There are some who would like us to believe that mankind is getting better – that we are improving toward good and away from evil.

“No person can properly understand human nature who fails to take into account that most basic of all the laws of human nature – the law of sin.” (Phillips, 1980) page 56

Title ideas:  
The End of Innocence!  
The Beginning of the End!

Scriptures:  
Revelation 12:9 - So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

2 Corinthians 11:14 - And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:3 - But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Genesis 2:16-17 - 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."

Isaiah 5:20 - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;

Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;  
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Ezekiel 28:11-13a - Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:

"You were the seal of perfection,

Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;

<sup>1</sup> Now the <sup>♂</sup>serpent was more cunning than any

5175 – snake  
Rev. 12:9

6175 – crafty  
(usually in a bad sense)  
2 Cor. 11:3

beast of the field which the Lord God had made.

And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said,

637/3588 -

<sup>♂</sup>'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Notes:  
Satan slithers onto the pages of Scripture in the third chapter and is last seen in the third to last chapter of the Bible.

Satan is able to change his appearance (2 Cor. 11:14).

Deception is Satan's fallen nature (John 8:44).

Why would Satan do this? What is he trying to accomplish?

Notice how Satan is twisting God's words. God said, in the form of a command, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat..." (Gen. 2:16). Satan twisted God's good into an evil (Isa. 5:20). God has given them one prohibition, stay away from one tree in a garden that was filled with trees to satisfy abundantly every need they had. Satan has a way of blinding people to what they have and focusing them on what they don't have.

Satan is calling into question God's goodness here. In essence Satan is saying that God is holding out on them.

Why did Satan target the woman? Was there something about her that made her more vulnerable to the temptation than Adam was?

'more cunning' – Satan is smarter than any human who has ever lived (Ezek. 28:12).

"The being with whom Eve dealt was more than a match for her except for one thing. She had the Word of God." (Phillips, 1980) page 56

Our best defense against the attacks and temptations of Satan are the simple Word of God believed and obeyed. Jesus quoted God's Word as Satan tempted Him in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11).

"It was God's intention that headship should be invested in Adam. Eve was created second, not first. She was not made for headship; her inmost center of rule was not her head but her heart. Adam, on the other hand, was made to rule; his inmost center of rule was his intellect. Satan twisted God's order. He began the temptation with Eve, putting her in the place of headship, engaging her in an intellectual discussion concerning right and wrong." (Phillips, 1980) page 57

Satan used a three-stage attack:

1. Doubt – did God say...
2. Denial – you won't die
3. Delusion – you will be like God

Satan is still using the same tactics with humans today. It is the delusion of being like God that led to Satan's fall.

Scriptures:  
John 10:10 - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat

Notes:  
Eve starts out well here and restates what God said. This is a good practice – whenever you feel like God is holding out on you – go back to what He said. If you examine what God says closely it is always a promise of abundance (John 10:10).

God never holds anything back from His people that they need or that is good for them, but Satan wants us to believe that He does.

the fruit of the trees of the garden;

Scriptures:  
Exodus 19:12-13 - You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. 13 Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.”

<sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst

Notes:  
Eve adds the phrase, ‘nor shall you touch it’. There is no record of God saying that. If He didn’t, why would she add that? Was there already a temptation that she tried to block with this added prohibition?

It is possible that God added this additional prohibition – He did something like it at Mount Sinai (Exo. 19:12-13).

of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it,

nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”

Scriptures:

<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will

not surely die.

4191/4191 -

Notes:

This is a flat-out lie! Now Satan is calling God a liar! Or he is challenging Eve in her understanding of what God said.

Hebrew word for die is repeated for emphasis.

“He did not directly deny God’s Word, but he introduced the assumption that God’s Word is subject to our judgment.” (Hughes, 2004) page 67

Scriptures:

<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,

6491 – to be made  
to perceive

??

Notes:

What does it mean that their eyes would be opened? They would be free to choose for themselves what was good and what was evil.

Notice, Satan describes knowing good and evil as a good thing? In the Pre-Fall state there was absolute innocence. God forbid them partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because it was not good for them to do so.

Why was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden?

knowing good and evil.”

Scriptures:  
1 John 2:16-17 - For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

<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.

Notes:

A little later we will see that God walked in the Garden with them. She could have waited and asked God about what Satan said. When faced with temptation - Pause and Pray!

One of the great mysteries of this account is why Adam didn't object or try to stop her. Why did he just go along with her?

"From Eve and Adam's sinew learn that sin takes hold when we begin to doubt God's Word and God's goodness."

'good for food' = lust of the flesh  
'pleasant to the eyes' = lust of the eyes  
'desirable to make one wise' = pride of life

'she took' – desire turned into a decision. Satan did not make her do it – he can't make us do anything against our own will. God could but doesn't. He gave us free will and obligates Himself to respect our choices.

'she...ate' – her choice becomes a chain. Satan has her now – she was a sinner.

'she also gave' – Satan's desire for her was to transform her from a sinner to a seducer – now she is doing his work.

Scriptures:  
Genesis 2:25 - And they  
were both naked, the man  
and his wife, and were not  
ashamed.

<sup>7</sup> Then the <sup>♂♂</sup>eyes of both of them <sup>♂♀</sup>were opened, and

Notes:  
At the end of chapter 2 they were  
naked and unashamed ([Gen. 2:25](#)).  
There was nothing to be ashamed of  
– God had made them that way and  
their innocence in nakedness was  
part of the ‘very good’ of His  
creation.

<sup>♂♀</sup>they knew that they <sup>♂♀</sup>*were* naked; and they <sup>♂♀</sup>sewed

Before the Fall, the flesh was in its  
proper place – at the bottom of their  
focus with communion with God at  
the top. After the Fall, that was  
turned upside-down. Suddenly the  
flesh was preeminent in their eyes.

fig leaves together and made themselves <sup>♂♀</sup>

coverings.

2290 - loincloths

Scriptures:  
Jeremiah 23:24 - Can  
anyone hide himself in  
secret places,  
So I shall not see him?"  
says the LORD;  
"Do I not fill heaven and  
earth?" says the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> And <sup>♂</sup>they <sup>♀</sup>heard the sound of the Lord <sup>△</sup>God

Notes:  
It appears that this was a part of their  
lives – walking in the Garden with  
God. It reminds us of the communion  
with God that we were created for.

'hid themselves' – You cannot hide  
from God (Jer. 23:24).

Before the Fall, the thought of being  
in God's presence with them with joy  
and comfort. Now, the thought of  
being in God's presence fills them  
with terror.

walking in the garden in the cool of the <sup>♂</sup>day, and

<sup>♂</sup>Adam and his <sup>♂</sup>wife <sup>♀</sup>hid themselves from the <sup>♂</sup>presence of the <sup>♀</sup>Lord <sup>△</sup>God among the <sup>♂</sup>trees of the <sup>♀</sup>garden.

presence of the Lord <sup>△</sup>God among the <sup>♂</sup>trees of the <sup>♀</sup>garden.

garden.

Scriptures:

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord <sup>♂</sup>God called to <sup>♂</sup>Adam and said to

<sup>♂</sup>him, “Where <sup>♂</sup>are you?”

Notes:

“Where are you?” – God never asks a question that he doesn’t already know the answer to. He asks the question so that we can discover the question and answer!

Notice that God addresses Adam and not Eve. This speaks of Adam’s role even in innocence to be the spiritual leader of his family.

‘Where are you?’ – Adam and Eve were lost by their own choice.

Scriptures:

Exodus 3:6 - Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

<sup>10</sup> So <sup>♂</sup>he said, “I heard <sup>♂</sup>Your voice in the garden,

and <sup>♂</sup>I was afraid because <sup>♂</sup>I was naked; and <sup>♂</sup>I hid

3372 -

5903 -

Notes:

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve were comfortable walking in the Garden with Almighty God. They were created to enjoy an intimate communion fellowship with Him on a daily basis.

After the Fall, they were afraid to be in His presence. Since the Fall all of mankind fears the presence of God (Ex. 3:6).

myself.”



Scriptures:

<sup>11</sup> And He said, “Who told you that you *were*

Notes:

In their innocence before the Fall their nakedness was not something to be ashamed of – it was their natural state – the state that God intended for them.

naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which

I commanded you that you should not eat?”

6680 – to  
command against

Scriptures:

12 Then the man said, “The woman whom

You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree,

5414 -

and I ate.”

Notes:

God addresses Adam and challenges him to confess his sin. God had forbidden him from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When God asked him if he had eaten of it, the right answer would have been simply and humbly, ‘Yes.’

Adam is blaming both the woman and God who gave him the woman for his failure. God tempts nor causes anyone to sin. And he is responsible for his own sin. No one to blame but himself.

“The woman listens to the serpent, the man listens to the woman, and no one listens to God.” Kenneth Matthews (Hughes, 2004) page 65

“...to err is human; to blame it on others and upon God is more human.” (Hughes, 2004) page 80

God was calling Adam to confess his sin.

Scriptures:  
1 Timothy 2:14 - And  
Adam was not deceived, but  
the woman being deceived,  
fell into transgression.

13 And the Lord God said to the woman, “What *is*

Notes:  
Eve blames the serpent!

this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I

Word study

ate.”

<sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the serpent:

Notes:

'more cunning' – verse 1

'more cursed' – verse 14

'done this' – deceived Eve

How does this curse relate to Satan?

Did the snake already crawl on its belly and lick the dust? Was the spiritual curse of Satan described symbolically?

“Because you have done this,

You are cursed more than all cattle,

779 – ‘To have  
divine harm or  
evil invoked  
upon.

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.

Scriptures:

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Acts 13:9-10 - Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

1 John 3:8 - He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Romans 16:20 - And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

15

And I will put enmity

342 – hostility, hatred

Notes:

'her Seed' = Jesus

What does it mean to 'bruise your head' and 'bruise His heel'?

'bruise your head' = Second Coming of Christ

'bruise His heel' – the cross of Christ!

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her Seed;

2233 - child

2233 - Child

He shall bruise your head,

7779 – break, cover

And you shall bruise His heel."

7779 -

Scriptures:  
Genesis 4:7 - If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

16 To the woman <sup>♀</sup> He <sup>♂</sup> said:

<sup>♂</sup>“I will greatly multiply your <sup>♀</sup>sorrow and your <sup>♀</sup>

7235/7235 –  
increase, increase  
– doubled for  
intensity

6093 -  
worrysomeness

conception;

2032 - pregnancy

In pain you <sup>♀</sup> shall bring forth children;

6089 – physical  
pain

Your <sup>♀</sup> desire *shall be* <sup>♀</sup> for your husband, <sup>♂</sup>

8669 – stretching  
out after

And he <sup>♂</sup> shall <sup>♂</sup> rule <sup>♂</sup> over you.”

4910 – have  
dominion, have  
power over

Notes:  
‘Your desire...’ is not referring to physical desire, but is a sinful desire for dominion.

Before the Fall Adam and Eve enjoyed sweet unity and fellowship. Adam was created to tend and keep the Garden of Eden and Eve was created to be a helper to Adam. There was conflict in these roles – they were perfect. It wasn’t an issue of superiority or dominance, but of working together to accomplish God’s will. That unity was broken in the Fall. The woman’s curse is to desire the man’s place in the relationship and to be discontent with being his helpmeet.

Another aspect of the curse of woman is that man would rule over her. God’s intention had always been that they live and function as equals. We live in a world where there is not equality between men and women. Unfortunately, the world’s response to that wants to leave God out of the solution. Only at the cross of Jesus are we equal. Any solution that leaves Jesus out will simply cause more evil and sin.

“The woman would now desire to control her husband, but she would fail because God had ordained that man should lead.” (Hughes, 2004) page 88

Because of sin, the beauty of headship lived out in unity and communion and love would often be replaced by tyranny, abuse, and abandonment.

Scriptures:

1 Samuel 15:23 - For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,

And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,

He also has rejected you from being king.”

Genesis 2:17 - ...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.

Genesis 5:29 - And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed.”

Romans 8:20-22 - For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Ecclesiastes 2:23 - For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.

17 Then to Adam <sup>♂</sup> He <sup>△</sup> said, “Because

<sup>♂</sup> you have heeded the voice of <sup>♂</sup> your <sup>♀</sup> wife, and have

8085 – attention, obedience

802 - woman

eaten from the <sup>♀</sup> tree of which <sup>△</sup> I commanded you, <sup>♂</sup>

saying, ‘<sup>♂</sup> You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed is the ground for <sup>♂</sup> your sake;

779 -

127 -

In toil <sup>♂</sup> you shall eat of it all the <sup>♂</sup> days of <sup>♂</sup> your <sup>♂</sup> life.

6093 – toil –  
‘Hard, difficult, or painful work that is often manual labor.’

Same word translated  
‘sorrow’ in verse 16.

Notes:

‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife...’ rather than the voice of God.

Adam should have and could have said no to Eve.

The ground that God had called Adam to tend and keep should have produced great abundance. Now, because of the Fall, it will be toil, hardship, and struggle.

This curse is made harder by woman’s desire for her husband – she will not be the helper God originally created her to be.

“The curse fell because Adam abdicated his headship as he, in passive self-interest, observed the tempting of his wife and her eating without even voicing an objection.” (Hughes, 2004) page 92

Instead of finding fulfilment in his work, man would now struggle.

Scriptures:

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth

Notes:  
Instead of producing good things, his  
labors will produce useless things.

for you,

And you shall eat the herb of the field.



Scriptures:  
Job 21:26 - They lie  
down alike in the dust,  
And worms cover them.

Ecclesiastes 3:20 - All go to  
one place: all are from the  
dust, and all return to dust.

19

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

Notes:  
'sweat of your face' = making a  
living is going to be hard

Now the very ground which God had  
used to make him and to satisfy his  
soul was a constant reminder of  
death.

Till you return to the ground,

For out of it you were taken;

For dust you are,

And to dust you shall return.”

Scriptures:

<sup>20</sup> And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because

Notes:  
'mother of all living' = a confession of faith. Even though they had the curse of death, Eve would produce more life.

she was the mother of all living.

Scriptures:

<sup>21</sup> Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made

Notes:  
God killed (sacrificed) innocent animals to cover over Adam and Eve's shame. This is a picture of what God would eventually do at the cross – Jesus' innocent life sacrificed for the sins of the whole world.

tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Try to imagine yourself there as Adam and Eve have just been told that death is the wages for their sin. And then God, instead of killing them, slaughtered innocent animals in their place. As they wore those tunics they were reminded of the cost of their sin.

Scriptures:

22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man

Notes:

‘tree of life’ mentioned five times in the Bible ([Gen. 2:9](#); [3:22](#); [Rev. 2:7](#); [22:2](#); [11:14](#)).

It is not good for man to have this knowledge – the consequence is a life of pain and suffering. God, in His grace, has put a limit on how much of that suffering we endure before going to be with Him forever – assuming we receive Christ!

If God had allowed them continued access to the tree of life, they would have remained in their fallen state forever like the fallen angels.

has become like one of Us, to know good and

1961 -

evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take

also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”——

2425 -

5769 - eternally

Scriptures:

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the

Notes:

7971 - cast

garden of Eden to till the ground from which he

was taken.

Scriptures:  
Psalm 104:4 - Who  
makes His angels spirits,  
His ministers a flame of  
fire. (Quoted in Heb. 1:7)

24 So <sup>A</sup>He drove out the <sup>♂</sup>man; and <sup>A</sup>He placed

1644 - 'To force  
to go away.'

Notes:  
'to guard the way to the tree of life' -  
so that man couldn't eat from it and  
live forever in a fallen state.

<sup>A</sup>cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a

3742 - 'A winged  
supernatural  
being that serves  
God in various  
ways.'

flaming sword which turned every way, to guard

8104 -

the way to the tree of <sup>♂</sup>life.

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