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CHRIST

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Worship with us Sunday at 9:15am and Wednesday at 7:00pm (Eastern)

“The Nature of Sin”

a study of Genesis 3

prepared by Carl D. Ballard (carldbballard@hotmail.com)

WELCOME! We are grateful you are here,
and we are excited to share God’s word with you!

Saturday, April 16, 2021 – 7:00 pm

← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

Genesis 3:1-5

“Has God indeed said...?”

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast...” [v1]

◆ The serpent:

- A created being, creature (not *eternal*, though around since *just after* the beginning)
- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now:
 - ✓ “...was *more cunning* than any beast of the field” [3:1]
 - ✓ it could talk! [3:1, 4-5]
 - ✓ it could walk (or *fly*?) [cp 3:14]

The book of Revelation presents us with a “great dragon...**that serpent of old**, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world...” [Rv 12:9; 12:3]

**Whether this serpent is an agent of the devil or Satan himself, for the purposes of our study we will treat it as being the devil*

Chinese Dragon:
“that serpent of old”?



Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

Genesis 3:1-5

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- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question:

“Has God *indeed said...?*” [v1]



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Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

“Has God *indeed* said?”

This tactic seeks to raise doubts about God's goodness:

God is, by Divine Nature, **very good** [cp Gn 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31; Titus 1:2; James 1:17]

Even so, the world is tempted to believe that God **is not good!**

For Example: “Has God *indeed* said...”

- the world was created in **only** six days? [a “scientific”, unbelieving look at Genesis 1]
- woman's role is **only** “helper” and not “**leader**”? [distorting, despising Gn 2:18-25]
- marriage is **only** between one **man** and one **woman**? [despising of Gen 2:22-25]
- you cannot eat of **every** tree of the garden? [distorting, despising of Gen 2:16-17]



Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part one) —————→

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- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question:

“Has God *indeed said*, ‘You shall *not* eat of *every* tree...?’”

GOD

VS

SATAN

“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...” [Gn 2:16-17]

“You shall not eat of every tree of the garden...” [Gn 3:1]

...with one *cunning* question, God's **freedom** seems like **prison!**

Genesis 3



The Nature of Sin

(part one)

GOD

“Of every tree... you may freely eat...” [Gn 2:16]

“All things are lawful for me, *but not all things are helpful*; all things are lawful for me, *but not all things edify*.” [1 Cor 10:23]

“I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt...” [Ex 3:16-17]

“Marriage is honorable among all, and *the bed undefiled*; but *fornicators and adulterers* God will judge...” [Hb 13:4]

“And you shall know the truth, and *the truth shall make you free*...” [John 8:32]

VS

SATAN

“You shall *not eat of every tree*...” [Gn 3:1]

You cannot take advantage of all things: “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle...” [Col 2:21-23; the “doctrines of men”, “appearance of wisdom”...]

“We remember the fish we ate in Egypt *that cost nothing*...” [Nm 11:5 (ESV)]

Marriage *restricts* your animal ‘needs’: “Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods...” [1 Cor 6:13, context]

Satan tempts us to believe that the truth is *a lie* that will restrict and imprison us: he asks falsely, “What is truth?” [John 18:38] “What is God *really hiding* from us...?”

Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Genesis 3:1-5

“Has God indeed said...?”

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- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question: “Has God **indeed said...?**”

Eve responds: “**We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden**; 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.’” - her answer to the serpent reveals at least **two** things:

- ✓ she has thought *a lot* about God's command (and **that** tree!)
- ✓ the question has begun to shake her trust in God and His word...
God said do not **eat**; **she** said do not even **touch** the tree!
 - Eve was already seeing God's law as **overly restrictive** -- but the restriction against touching the tree was **her own invention!**



Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Genesis 3:1-5

“Now the serpent

◆ The serpent:

- A created being, creature (not God)
- Before sin, different from the creature
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question

Eve responds: “**We may eat** the fruit of the trees of the garden; 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.’” - her answer to the serpent reveals at least **two** things:

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Genesis 3

False RELIGION --
That is, when we uphold our
traditions as though they were the
law of God -- betrays a *lack of faith*
in what God actually said!
[see Matthew 15:3-11]

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Genesis 3:1-5

“Has God indeed said...?”

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- A created being, **creature** (not *eternal*, though around since *just after* the beginning)
- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question: “Has God ***indeed said...***?”
- Seeing that Eve is shaken, the serpent goes a step further in his boldness, answering her: “You ***will not surely*** die.”



In order to “sell” his false doctrine, the serpent invents a “theology” about why *what God said was not what God meant* -- apparently, God has *selfish, hidden* motives for not letting them eat! “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.” [Gn 3:5; a hidden blessing?]

Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin —————→

(part one) →

Genesis 3:6

Temptation

“So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good...”

- ◆ Once trust in God and in His word has been affected, human “reasoning” takes over as a new guide for life...



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Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Genesis 3:6

Temptation

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good...”

♦ “...because she had been affected by man’s reasoning”

“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish **their own righteousness**, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”
[Romans 10:3]

“...because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, ...but became futile **in their thoughts**, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” [Romans 1:21]

Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin —————→

(part one) →

Genesis 3:6

Temptation

“So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good...”

- ◆ Once trust in God and in His word has been affected, human “reasoning” takes over as a new guide for life...
 - The woman begins to believe the serpent's theology because her own eyes “confirm” what the serpent said; in this process the word of God, which has already given clear teaching and instruction, is forgotten...



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Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

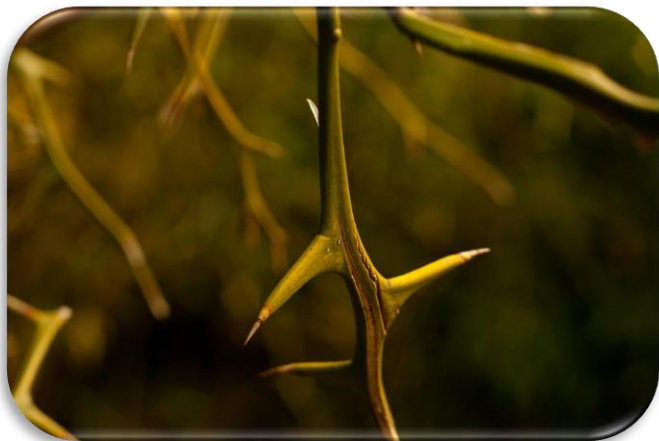
Genesis 3:6

Temptation

“So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good...”

- ◆ Once trust in God and in His word has been affected, human “reasoning” takes over as a new guide for life...
- ◆ As the woman begins to give in to sin, she is attacked in three ways:

- ① **The lust of the flesh:** Eve “saw that the tree was good for food”. “Hunger” often describes every “appetite” of the physical body that desires to be fulfilled, whether for food or other passions. In this case, why would God **deny the woman access to such good food?**
- ② **The lust of the eyes:** Eve saw that “it was pleasant to the eyes”. She has more than she needs; but that forbidden fruit **is so beautiful!**
- ③ **The prideful lust for knowledge:** she saw it was “desirable to make one wise”. A desire to know what God did not reveal, to *be like Him*. Is it possible God has hidden that which is **really the best?**



Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Disarming Satan

Satan has a powerful, but *limited* arsenal...

With the woman [Gn 3:6]:

- “the tree was good *for food*”
- “pleasant *to the eyes*”
- “desirable *to make one wise*”

After *thousands* of years had passed,
Satan still used *the same old tactics*...

With Jesus [Lk 4:1-13]:

- “this stone...*bread*” [1-4]
- “*all will be yours*” [5-8]
- “it is written: ...His angels
...*to keep you*” [9-12]

“Now when the devil had ended
every temptation...” [v13; Hb 4:15]

“...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. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15-17

Genesis 3



The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Disarming Satan

Satan has a powerful, but *limited* arsenal...

With the woman [Gn 3:6]:

- “the tree was good *for food*”
- “pleasant *to the eyes*”
- “desirable *to make one* wise”

With Jesus [Lk 4:1-13]:

“I will not be tempted by it” [Lk 4:11]

WE HAVE EXPOSED SATAN!!

If we know what weapons he will use, then we know how to shore up our defenses!! The word of God thoroughly equips us against Satan’s attacks!
[James 4:7; Eph 6:10-18; 1 Cor 10:13; etc]

Analyze any sin:
it will fall into one of
these 3 categories!

“...all that is in the world. And the one who does the will of the Father who sent him, he will overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.” [1 Jn 5:4-5]

Genesis 3



The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Genesis 3:6

Temptation

“So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good...”

- ◆ Once trust in God and in His word has been affected, human “reasoning” takes over as a new guide for life...
- ◆ As the woman begins to give in to sin, she is attacked in three ways
- ◆ Eve gave in to the full weight of temptation: “she took of its fruit and ate”
 - We have at least two things that Eve did not to help us in our fight:
 - ✓ the **full** counsel of God [see Rom 15:4; 1 Pet 2:2-4]
 - ✓ **assured victory** for those who are **in Christ!** [see Col 2:6-15; Heb 2:14-18]

But **WE**
don't have
to give in!

Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

Genesis 3:7-8

Consequence

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened...” [v7]

- ♦ The serpent was right! Their eyes were opened, just as he “promised”! [cp v5]
 - In this is the deceitfulness of sin: because sin is of the world (as are our physical bodies), it often seems truly to deliver the satisfaction that we are seeking!
 - the adulterer imagines he will never be discovered [but cp Prov 7:21-23]
 - the addict imagines he will use drugs only this one last time [but cp Prov 20:1; etc]
 - the one who trusts in riches believes he is only being prudent [but cp Mt 6:19-21; etc]



Warning!

“For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” [Gal 6:8]

Genesis 3

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 - In this is the deceitfulness of sin: because sin is of the world (as are our physical bodies), it often seems truly to deliver the satisfaction that we are seeking!
 - Consider the serpent's “promise” that their eyes would be opened. They are in *paradise*: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil can only offer them knowledge of what?
 - EVERYTHING they know and all they have been a part of up to now is GOOD only!
 - this tree can only offer them knowledge of *evil*: but often *that* is the temptation!!



Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part one) —————→

Genesis 3:7-8

Consequence

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened...” [v7]

- ◆ The serpent was right! Their eyes were opened, just as he “promised”! [cp v5]
- ◆ “...and they knew that they were naked” [v7]
 - This new knowledge (*of evil*) did not bring a blessing, but brought shame
 - once they had learned what they shouldn't have known, they could not simply return to their state of prior innocence...



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Genesis 3

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- ◆ “...and they knew that they were naked” [v7]
 - This new knowledge (*of evil*) did not bring a blessing, but brought shame
 - “...and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings” [v7]
 - now ***exposed***, they tried to “cover” the shame of their new knowledge
 - they make “coverings” [*"aprons" (ASV); "loincloths" (ESV)*]: “clothes” to hide and cover the intimate parts of the body [cp Heb 4:13]



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Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part one) —————→

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Consequence

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened...” [v7]

“...they heard the sound of the LORD God...in the garden” [v8]

◆ Later, we discover that the “sound” they heard was God’s voice [see 3:10]

- Like us, the relationship Adam and Eve had with God was based on His word!

- As with so many others, even in the Garden God presented Himself as Spirit

• cp how God presented Himself to Israel [Deut 4:36; 5:24; *cp also Ex 33:12-18; 34:5-7*]

• cp similarly Jesus as the “Word” of God who also **is** God [John 1:1-14; etc]



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Genesis 3

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- ◆ Later, we discover that the “sound” they heard was God’s voice [see 3:10]
- ◆ “...Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God”
 - This is one of the saddest moments in human history: God sought fellowship with the man He had made and man ***hid himself from God's presence!***
 - can you imagine a more beautiful moment than hearing the voice of God calling to you as He comes to visit you in the perfect garden paradise? Yet it was at this sound that they sought to hide themselves!



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Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Genesis 3:7-8

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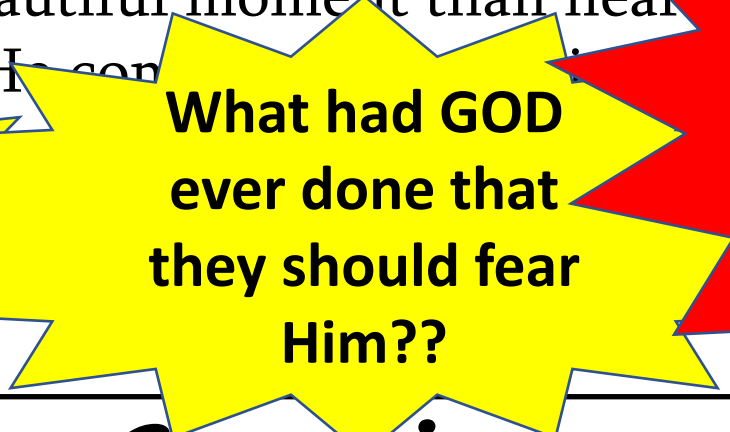
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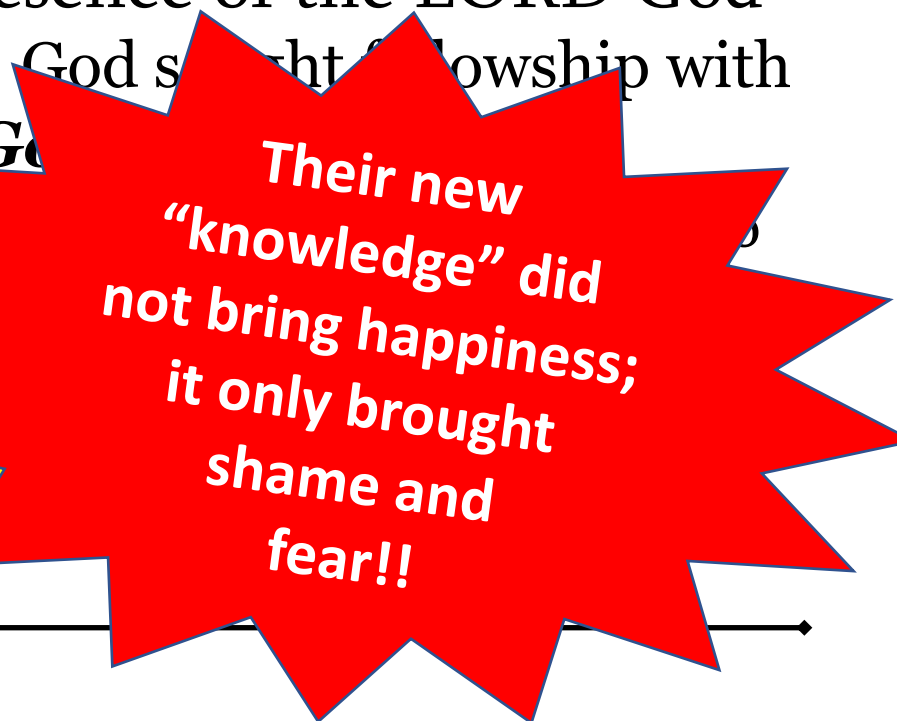
• can you imagine a more beautiful moment than hearing the voice of God?



Why would they hide from GOD?



What had GOD ever done that they should fear Him??



Their new “knowledge” did not bring happiness; it only brought shame and fear!!

Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

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- ◆ Later, we discover that the “sound” they heard was God’s voice [see 3:10]
- ◆ “...Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God”
 - This is one of the saddest moments in human history: God sought fellowship with the man He had made and man **hid himself from God's presence!**
 - Note that **they hid themselves** from God and not vice-versa; even with their sin,

God sought for them...

- they hid “among the trees of the Garden”; they had already made “coverings” for themselves from leaves, but when they perceived that they were **still naked**, they tried to use **the whole tree!**



Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part one)*

Genesis 3:9-11

“Where are you?”

“Then the LORD God called to Adam... ‘Where are you?’” [v9]

- ♦ Seeing that the man has hidden himself, God continues seeking fellowship
 - In asking, “Where are you?”, is it possible that God does not know where Adam is?
 - Of course God knows where Adam is. He wants the man to come back to Him, and in order for that to happen, there must first be a ***confession of wrongdoing***.
[cp Mark 1:4, 15; Luke 24:46-47; etc]



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Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

Genesis 3:9-11

“Where are you?”

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- ◆ Seeing that the man has hidden himself, God continues seeking fellowship
- ◆ “...he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself...’” [v10]
- Is it possible to be "dressed" (“coverings” of leaves) and yet still naked? The man admits that the “clothes” he made were insufficient to cover him...

We must develop the mind of God if we are to deal properly with the problems that the world presents us with. Genesis 3 will show later that these “clothes” were quite insufficient, and God will properly clothe them. In a world where sin is turned loose, we must dedicate ourselves to seek God’s perspective for a life that will please God in all areas and in every way...



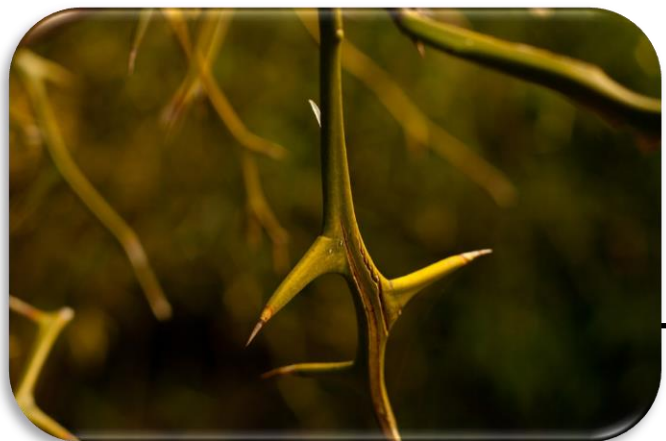
Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

Genesis 3:9-11

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- ◆ Seeing that the man has hidden himself, God continues seeking fellowship
 - ◆ “...he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself...’” [v10]
 - ◆ “...Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you...?” [v11]
 - Of course, God clearly knows the answer to this question as well. So why ask?



Confessing sin is a humbling act which puts us back on the path to fellowship with God. If we do not admit our sin, there is no way we can repent and therefore no way that we can be forgiven...

Confession, just like prayer, is not **for** God – He already knows what we have done (and what we need) before we ask [cp Mt 6:8]. Confession and prayer are for **OUR own good!**

Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ (part one)

Genesis 3:12-13

“Where are you?”

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

♦ Did Adam really ***confess*** his sin?



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Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

Genesis 3:12-13

“Where are you?”

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

♦ Did Adam really **confess** his sin?

No! He only shifted the blame to someone else!

“I'm sorry”; “I did wrong”; “I sinned” – that's the way a **humble** confession begins. In a false 'confession', which is really just a transfer of blame to another person or to some circumstance (a **justification**), the *last words* are: “...well, so then, because of all these other things, **I had to do it...**”

Adam placed the “I did wrong” at the end of his confession, justifying himself instead of accepting that he had truly done wrong



Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

Genesis 3:12-13

“Where are you?”

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom **You** gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

- ♦ Did Adam really **confess** his sin?
- ♦ **Whom** did Adam blame for his sin?
 - Did you catch that?! He blamed **GOD!** “It was YOU who gave this woman to be with me!”



————→
Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part one)*

Genesis 3:12-13

“Where are you?”

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom **You** gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

“The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ [v13]

♦ Did Eve confess her sin?

- Eve, like Adam before her, placed the “I ate” as a justification and not a confession



Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part one) —————→

Genesis 3:12-13

“Where are you?”

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom **You** gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

“The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ [v13]

- ♦ Did Eve confess her sin?
- ♦ **Whom** did Eve blame for her sin?

WHICH YOU CREATED!

- was she more “noble” than Adam in passing the blame to the serpent?

Did you catch that?! **She also** blamed **GOD!**



Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Order by decree

God the Creator;
Sovereign over
whole universe



Man; given
“dominion”
over all the
animals



Woman; his
“comparable
helper”



The “serpent”; a
creature made to
serve man



The disorder of sin

The “serpent”; gives
a new order/word
to the woman



Woman; instead of ‘help’
she gives the man
forbidden fruit



Man;
knowing God’s
orders, decides
to disobey Him



God the Creator;
is despised and
blamed by all



**Sin
completely
inverts the
order God
decreed at
creation:**

The Nature of Sin

(part one)

Order by decree

The disorder of sin

God the Creator
So
w

The correction that comes from God aims to restore the spiritual order that He decreed from the beginning, in place of the “natural” order resulting from disobedience...



The “serpent”; gives a new order/word to the woman

instead of ‘help’ she gives the man forbidden fruit



Man; knowing God’s orders, decides to disobey Him



The “serpent”; a creature made to serve man

God the Creator; is despised and blamed by all



Sin
comp
invert
ord
decre
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←———— The Nature of Sin (part two) —————→

Genesis 3:14-15

Consequence (pt 2)

“...God said to the serpent: ‘Because you have done this...’” [v14]

- ♦ While God allowed the man and the woman to answer for their actions (*even though they didn't answer well*), He goes straight to the serpent's punishment, allowing no defense
 - The book of Genesis emphasizes the **difference** between man and the rest of creation – God gives a place of special honor to human beings, offering us opportunity for repentance and forgiveness...



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Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part two) —————→

Genesis 3:14-15

Consequence (pt 2)

“...God said to the serpent: ‘Because you have done this...’” [v14]

- ♦ While God allowed the man and the woman to answer for their actions (*even though they didn't answer well*), He goes straight to the serpent's punishment, allowing no defense
- ♦ “...you are cursed more than all cattle...” [v14]
 - God **cursed** one of His creatures because it used its capacity for intelligence to lead others into evil: This curse has three aspects:

- (1) **crawl on its belly**. From its exalted position [*a serpent that speaks and walks (or flies)!*] to a posture of humiliation [v14];
- (2) **eat dust all its life**. Dust is carnal, earthly. It would no longer eat of the green and living herb [1:30]: its days would end [v14];
- (3) **enmity** with the woman's “Seed” [v15]



Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part two) →

“enmity between you and the woman...”

More than *fear of snakes*, God states the end from the beginning:

What we see in Genesis 3:15 is a ray of hope at the exact moment it appears that all hope is gone...

This “enmity” will bring to the serpent:

- the woman’s ***aversion***; the “friendship” that made Eve trust the serpent instead of God is over; now the serpent will need to be even more clever in the future!
- a war that will last for generations; in the end, the serpent will taste defeat by the woman’s ***descendant***



This is the ***first Messianic prophecy***; the Christ, who will come ***only*** of a woman (a virgin, daughter of Eve!), will hurt only His heel as He mortally stomps the head of His ancient enemy! With those words, God announces His plan to save man: a plan that He prepared even before He made the universe!

[cp 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:3-4; 1 Pet 1:19-20; Rev 13:8; etc]

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part two)*

Genesis 3:16

Consequence (pt 2)

“To the woman He said...”

- ◆ After hearing the woman's “confession” and ordering the serpent’s punishment, God decrees the woman's sentence:

Her sentence has two aspects:

(1) ***pain tied to the reproductive process.*** The promise of a descendant to stomp the head of the serpent will require a painful sacrifice from the woman – one which will be even more painful for God, who will deliver His own Son up to death!

(2) ***submission to her husband's rule.*** She was created as his “helper”; to restore order after sin (she gave him the fruit!), she will have to accept and fulfill her role well. [Perhaps this has more to do with man's weakness than with woman's; “Adam was not deceived” (but he ate when she offered the fruit!); cp 1 Tm 2:14-15]



Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part two)*

Genesis 3:17-19

Consequence (pt 2)

“Then to Adam He said...” [v17]

- ◆ After delivering the sentences to the serpent and to the woman, God deals with Adam's sin:

Adam's problem was that he listened to the voice of his wife



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Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ (part two)

Genesis 3:17-19

Consequence (pt 2)

“Then to Adam He said...” [v17]

- ◆ After delivering the sentences to the serpent and to the woman, God deals with Adam's sin: “cursed is *the ground* for your sake...” [v17]

Because of Adam's sin, God cursed the ground (the earth itself!), which then brought consequences on all of creation:



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Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part two)

Guilt or Consequence?

Does the Bible teach that we are born *guilty* in sin (so-called “original sin”) because of Adam?

What we can observe about this in Genesis 3:

- God pronounced punishment ***individually*** for each person who was ***guilty*** of sin [the serpent (3:14-15), woman (3:16), & man (3:17-19)].
 - If all are ***guilty because of*** Adam’s sin, then why are the serpent and the woman punished, if they sinned ***before Adam*** did?
- The curse which God pronounced on the earth because Adam sinned brought ***consequences*** to all of creation, including physical death; however, ***guilt*** for sin is only imputed to the one who actually sinned! [cp Ezekiel 18:4, 20; etc]



Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part two)*

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Consequence (pt 2)

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- ◆ After delivering the sentences to the serpent and to the woman, God deals with Adam's sin: “cursed is ***the ground*** for your sake...” [v17]

Because of Adam's sin, God cursed the ground (the earth itself!), which then brought consequences on all of creation:

-“***in toil*** you shall eat of it...”; this is the same phrase translated as “in pain” for the woman in Gen 3:16. The punishment is the same but is specifically related to the role that each one must fulfill...



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Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part two) —————→

Genesis 3:17-19

Consequence (pt 2)

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Because of Adam's sin, God cursed the ground (the earth itself!), which then brought consequences on all of creation:

-“**in toil** you shall eat of it **all the days** of your life...”; God said from the beginning that in the day they should eat of this tree, they would “surely die”; their days now will be counted and come to an end...



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Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part two)*

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◆ After delivering the sentences to the serpent and to the woman, God deals with Adam's sin: “cursed is ***the ground*** for your sake...” [v17]

Because of Adam's sin, God cursed the ground (the earth itself!), which then brought consequences on all of creation:

-“***in toil*** you shall eat of it ***all the days*** of your life...” [v17]

-“Both ***thorns and thistles*** it shall bring forth...”; one of the ways the curse would manifest itself would be the production of thorny growth where before there was only the beauty of green herbs and fruited plants and trees...



Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part two)

“thorns and thistles it shall bring forth...”

A symbol of God’s curse on the Earth, thorns call to mind the sadness of sin all throughout the Bible:

- Genesis 3:18: the Earth produces thorns, making man’s toil difficult



- Isaiah 34:13: “And thorns shall come up in its palaces, nettles and brambles in its fortresses...”



- Hosea 9:6: “...nettles shall possess their valuables of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.”

- 2 Cor 12:7: the apostle Paul speaks of a “thorn in the flesh...a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”



Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin (part two)

“thorns and thistles it shall bring forth...”

A symbol of God’s curse on the Earth, thorns call to mind the sadness of sin all throughout the Bible:

One image of thorns is more deeply moving than the others...



“Surely He has borne our *griefs* and carried our *sorrows*...”
[Isaiah 53:4]

“...who Himself bore our *sins* in His own body on the tree...
by whose stripes you were healed.” [1 Peter 2:24]

“And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a
crown of thorns, put it on his head.” [Mark 15:17]

Who placed this crown of thorns, *the ultimate biblical symbol for sin*, upon the head of *the one who bore the sins of the world*?
Roman soldiers, who *knew nothing of the Bible* or its symbolism!

Genesis 3



←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part two)*

Genesis 3:17-19

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Because of Adam's sin, God cursed the ground (the earth itself!), which then brought consequences on all of creation:

-“***in toil*** you shall eat of it ***all the days*** of your life...” [v17]

-“Both ***thorns and thistles*** it shall bring forth...” [v18]

-“In ***the sweat of your face*** you shall eat bread...”; because of the thorns, the man's work which had been just “to tend and keep” the Garden [2:15] would now be much more “toilsome”. He must now ***till, weed, plant, tend, cultivate*** and ***harvest***...



Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part two) →

Genesis 3:17-19

Consequence (pt 2)

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Because of Adam's sin, God cursed the ground (the earth itself!), which then brought consequences on all of creation:

-“**in toil** you shall eat of it **all the days** of your life...” [v17]

-“Both **thorns and thistles** it shall bring forth...” [v18]

-“In **the sweat of your face** you shall eat bread **till you return to the ground...** dust you are, and **to dust you shall return**”; these words are harsh sounding, but are also the part of the curse that God had already lovingly warned them about from the beginning...



God **had indeed** said, “***in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.***” [2:17]; however, they are ***still alive*** as they receive their sentence from God. So, ***did God lie?***

The Nature of Sin (part two)

“in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die...”

If, in fact, they did not die ‘in that day’, then God is a liar and the serpent can claim the victory:

After all, did they die, or didn't they?

James 2:26: “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Death is a *separation*:
body - spirit = dead
faith - works = dead

In the same way, *spiritual death* is described as being a *separation* from God

Isaiah 59:2: “...your *iniquities have separated* you from your God...”

Ephesians 2:5: “...when we were *dead in trespasses*, made us alive...”

The evidence in our text is clear that both the man and the woman *died in the day that they ate*

✓ They *disobeyed* God [3:7] ✓ They were *afraid of* God [3:10]

✓ They *hid themselves* from God [3:8] ✓ They *blamed* God [3:12-13]

All of these are clear signs of *separation* from God: ***they are dead!***



The Nature of Sin

(part two)

“in the day that you eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall surely die.”

If, in fact, they did not die,

a liar and the son of perdition,

After all, did he not

Jesus came precisely *to give life*, restoring the relationship between the fallen, dying man and his God!

[John 3:16; 5:24-29; 14:6; etc]

James 2:26: “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

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←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part two)*

Genesis 3:20-24

Consequence (pt 2)

“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve...” [v20]

- ◆ With this, Adam and Eve show that they have accepted their sentence: they will continue producing children, but now with a new hope that someday they will bring about **the** “Seed” [3:15; cp 1 Tim 2:15]
- ◆ The Bible declares that Eve “was the mother of **all** living”; there is no truth behind the myth of ‘Lilith’ (a ‘*first*’ wife of Adam) nor of the idea that Adam and Eve were only the progenitors of one “race”, with there being other “first couples” for the other “races”...
 - **All** of the first people (including Cain’s wife, later) were literally children (or grandchildren) of Adam and Eve...



Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part two) —————→

Genesis 3:20-24

Consequence (pt 2)

“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve...” [v20]

“...for Adam and his wife...God made tunics of skin” [v21]

- ♦ The man and his wife, though being “*clothed*” with aprons and hidden among the trees, are still nude: God once again deals with the problem
 - In providing clothes *made of skin(s)*, God performed the first animal sacrifice: innocent life poured out to “cover” the sin of guilty man. This act foreshadowed the basis for God’s plan of redemption, in which, at the proper time, the “Lamb of God” would pay the price of sin for all humanity by His own innocent life! [see *Lev 17:11; John 1:29*]



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Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part two) →

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- In providing clothes *made of skin(s)*, God performed the first animal sacrifice
- The “clothes” the man and woman had made were only adequate for covering their intimate parts. Even though there are only two people on Earth (a *married* couple!), God thought it necessary to cover their bodies with “tunics”, which hang from the shoulder or side and cover down to the thighs. Once sin has entered the world, only God can cover the body in a holy way...



Consider how God treats the concept of being “clothed”

- ✓ God ***clothed*** the priests for their service [Exodus 28:2-4, **42-43**]
- ✓ Job spoke of being ***clothed*** with righteousness [Job 29:14; cp Ps 132:9]
- ✓ God had ***clothed*** Israel with His glory [Ezekiel 16:8-14; etc]
- ✓ Christians are “***clothed***” in Christ [Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:20-24; Revelation 3:5, 18; 7:13-14; 19:7-8]

←———— The Nature of Sin (part two) —————→

Genesis 3:20-24

Consequence (pt 2)

“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve...” [v20]

“...for Adam and his wife...God made tunics of skin” [v21]

“God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us...’” [v22]

◆ Once again, the serpent was “right”: in that they now are aware of both good and evil, the man and his wife are “like God” [cp 3:5]

However, God had already made both the man and woman “in His own image” [Gn 1:27]; but with sin, they are no longer truly like God, even with all their new “knowledge”! ***Oh, the ironic deceitfulness of sin!***



—————→
Genesis 3

The Nature of Sin

(part two)

Many people still need to learn and understand: being truly like God means much more than just knowing the right information!
[cp 1 Cor 8:1; Eph 4:15]

... [v20]
"tunics of skin" [v21]
"become like one of Us..." [v22]
... that they now are aware of both
... wife are "like God" [cp 3:5]

... however, God had already made both the man and woman "in His own image" [Gn 1:27]; but with sin, they are no longer truly like God, even with all their new "knowledge"! **Oh, the ironic deceitfulness of sin!**



Genesis 3

←———— The Nature of Sin (part two) —————→

Genesis 3:20-24

Consequence (pt 2)

“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve...” [v20]

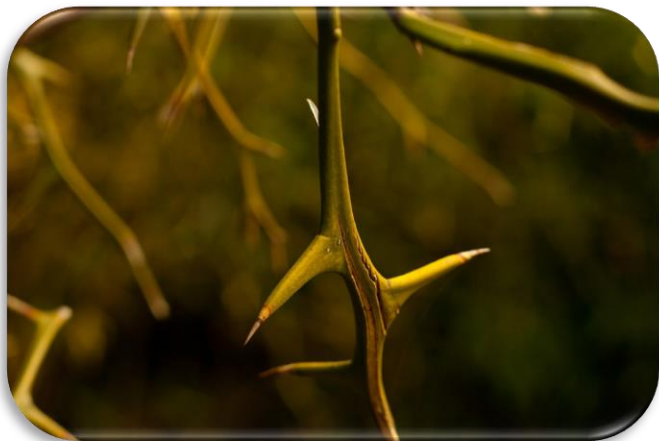
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◆ Once again, the serpent was “right”: in that they now are aware of both good and evil, the man and his wife are “like God” [cp 3:5]

◆ “...lest he...take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” [v22]

- A wanton sinner who can never die would eventually become a devil! God will not let that happen:



Fear of death is a great motivation for avoiding many sins and reckless acts! [“His own iniquities entrap the wicked man... He shall die for lack of instruction (*'discipline' ESV*)” (Prov 5:22-23)]

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Genesis 3

←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part two)*

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“...for Adam and his wife...God made tunics of skin” [v21]

“God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us...’” [v22]

“therefore...God sent him out of the garden of Eden...” [vv23-24]

♦ Because of his sin, man lost ***the privilege*** of simply maintaining Eden; he would now have to “***till*** the ground from which he was taken”



—————→
Genesis 3

← The Nature of Sin (part two) →

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“...for Adam and his wife...God made tunics of skin” [v21]

“God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us...’” [v22]

“therefore...God sent him out of the garden of Eden...” [v23]

“...He placed cherubim...to guard the way to the tree of life” [v24]

In God's place, ***WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?***

Why did God ***NOT JUST DESTROY THE TREE OF LIFE?***



GOD EXTENDED HOPE TO THE MAN AND HIS WIFE!!

He did not destroy the tree, but only blocked the way for a while...

We find the Tree of Life again in the paradise of God, to which we have access by means of Jesus Christ (the "Seed" who was promised!)...

[see Exodus 26:1, 31-33; Mark 15:37-38; Hebrews 10:19-22; Rev 22:14]

The Nature of Sin

(part two)

Do YOU wish to partake of that hope and the Tree of Life?

Jesus' words to a dying criminal offer hope to all who have sinned! There is still a hope of being in 'Paradise' [Lk 23:39-43; cp Rm 3:23!]

GOD EXTENDED HOPE TO THE MAN AND HIS WIFE!!

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