

Genesis Chapter 3 - Commentary By Mike Wells

Chapter 3 Overview:

The 3rd Chapter of Genesis records the entrance of sin into the human race. It documents the consequences of sin not only for Adam and Eve but for all their descendants as well. The devil is not mentioned specifically in this chapter but he is clearly implied in the form of the serpent. What is untold in Genesis is the origin of Satan, his fall, and when it happened. Most scholars agree that it took place during the creative week. Satan's rebellion against God took place at some point between the creative week and the events noted in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3 : 1 – *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

- The serpent is noted
- Eve apparently had had contact with a serpent before as she seemed at ease with it
- It is worthy to note that the serpent most likely stood upright at this time
- It is implied that Satan had entered the serpent and spoke through it
- Some have even questioned if animals could talk before the fall since Eve didn't seem surprised when the Serpent talked
- Satan may have also been cast to earth after his fall in the form of a serpent
- We see in Revelation that the devil is implied to have always been a serpent

Revelation 12 : 9 – *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Revelation 20 : 2 – *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

- Either way we know that Satan spoke to Eve through a creature called a serpent in the garden
- It is very significant that Satan's initial contact with Eve was sowing doubt.
- Satan has always been the author of doubt – “Did God really say you couldn't eat of every tree in the garden”
- God must be unfair to you, Can you really trust what God has said, implied Satan
- Satan hasn't changed to this day, he continues to try to sow doubt about God

Genesis 3 : 2-3 - *2And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die*

- Eve has already distorted what God has said (Satan was already having an effect)
- Eve said that not only are we not to eat from the tree, but we are not to even touch it.

- God didn't say anything about touching it, He just had forbidden eating from the tree
- She was basically agreeing with Satan that God was unfair and mean for denying them access to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Once again, Satan still uses the same tactics today

Genesis 3 : 4 - *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

- Satan has now moved to direct deception and outright lies
- He knew this was a blatant lie and he knew that this would cause death
- The devil continues to both instigate and directly deceive today

John 8 : 44 - *He is a liar and the father of it*

Genesis 3 : 5 - *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.*

- Satan appears to have sensed that Eve was following him and he tried to draw her deeper still
- He appealed to her with more deceit by implying the real reason God didn't want you to eat from the tree is that you will then become like Him.
- He was implying that God was selfish and unfair and didn't want Eve to be as smart as Him
- Adam and Eve knew no evil, for they had only experienced God's goodness to them before the fall, so the reference to "gods, knowing good and evil" seems ironic.
- However, In a strange way the devil was right, after they ate of the fruit of the tree, they then did come to know the difference between good and evil.

Genesis 3 : 6 - *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

- This is very much like 1 John 2 : 16 's description of the world.

1 John 2 : 16 - *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

- Eve saw that the tree was good for food – succumbing to the “Lust of the Flesh”
- She realized that it was pleasant to the eyes, succumbing to the “Lust of the Eyes”
- Finally, she that the tree would make her wise, succumbing to the “Pride of Life”
- The entire world's system of ungodliness, sin, and disobedience based on rebellion had it's roots in the Garden of Eden.
- Eve was tempted of her lust which brought forth sin

- The simple sin was that of disobedience, prompted by rebellion and enticed by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- The sin had nothing to do with Sex as the Roman Catholic church teaches
- Adam was not deceived, Eve was – 1 Timothy 2 : 14
1 Timothy 2 : 14 - *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*
- Adam's gets the blame because he willingly sinned, while Eve was tempted and deceived
- A new Dispensation had begun – no longer was the human race sinless, pure, and innocent

Genesis 3 : 7 - *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

- Their eyes were now open to evil and sin
- They had just participated in sin and guilt set in
- They had never given thought to being naked, but now they were self-conscious of it
- They made themselves aprons (**khagore**) – means loin cloth
- The exposure of their private parts now had become a source of shame and embarrassment.
- They were also ashamed to meet with God afterwards, even though they had regularly met with Him in the past.
- The guilt of sin had altered their lives

Genesis 3 : 8 - *And they heard the voice 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 amongst the trees of the garden.*

- The cool of the day literally meant breeze of the day
- God had created man to have a creature that would voluntarily fellowship with Him
- This fellowship was now ruined
- Even though they didn't die physically, their spiritual relationship with God died.
- Man was now altered physically causing death within slowly to take it's toll
- With guilt and shame, Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord.

Genesis 3 : 9 - *And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

- God knew what they had done and where they were, but he called Adam anyway

Genesis 3 : 10 - *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

- Adam's reply is actually pretty insightful if you think about it

- For the first time in his life, he knew fear, nakedness, guilt, and shame

Genesis 3 : 11 - *And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

- God began his investigation with a probing questions
- He knew the answers, however He let Adam and Even to incriminate themselves
- Their response was typical of sin even to this day
- They tried to cover up their sin, just like we do today
- God knows all things, so why do we and they try to cover us stuff from God?

Genesis 3 : 12 - *And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

- Adam immediately blamed his wife and tried to pass the buck
- He was being child like in that he was trying to deflect blame from himself to his wife like kids do .
- In fact he not only blamed the woman, but he blamed God as well “*The woman who thou gavest to be with me*”

Genesis 3 : 13 - *And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat*

- God turned to Eve and asked what have you done?
- She in turn blamed the serpent and his deceit.
- The word translated as beguiled (**nasha**) means “to deceive”
- In other words, Adam blamed Eve and Eve said the devil made me do it.
- God wasn’t amused with their excuses

Genesis 3 : 14 - *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

- God reacted by cursing the serpent and the devil
- There serpent was made to slither upon its belly from this point forward as if it stood upright prior to the fall.
- All the animals were cursed, but the serpent was cursed above them all

Genesis 3 : 15 - *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

- Women have a natural aversion to snakes to this day
- This is the first prophetic mention of God's redemptive plan
- Even as Adam and Eve had sinned, God was ready with prophecy that He would someday redeem them.
- The Hebrew word translated as bruise (**shuwph**) means "to crush" or "to strike"
- God would allow Eve to bear children and one of her children would crush the head of Satan
- However, first Satan would strike the saviors heel like a snake.
- Satan did strike Jesus with the venom of temporary death on the cross, but Jesus crushed the head of Satan defeating him forever by rising from the grave.

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

Galatians 3 : 16 - *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

Genesis 3 : 16 - *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

- God now pronounced a curse upon Even and women for her part in the sin making child birth painful
- The word translated as sorrow (**etseb**) refers to the pain of labor in child birth.
- Eve had not had kids yet, but it is implied that she wouldn't have had pain without sin
- God also put the man in charge of spiritual things and the home requiring Eve to submit to Him

Genesis 3 : 17 - *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened 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;*

- God pronounced a curse against Adam now for his part in the sin
- Where the land used to bring amazing crops with little or no effort on Adam's part
- Now the ground would not readily cooperate.

Genesis 3 : 18 - *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

- Weeds and infesting insects evidently are a result of the curse
- Many animals also became predators and carnivores as a result of the fall

Genesis 3 : 19 - *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

- Man would now have to toil “in the sweat of thy face” to eke out a living from the soil
- Even as God had created man from dust, he would return to dust
- Here is God ‘s pronouncement of death upon them for their sin

Genesis 3 : 20 - *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

- Adam’s name for his wife “Eve” literally means “life or a “life-giver”.
- Some believe that Adam called her this because he was taking God at His word because she would bring forth seed (children) according to Genesis 3:15
- The name Eve only appears four times in the entire Bible (Genesis 3:20, Genesis 4:1, II Corinthians 11:3, and 1 Timothy 2:13)

Genesis 3 : 21 - *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

- God responded to their sin
- He clothed them with coats made of skins
- It is implied is that innocent blood was shed to cover their nakedness and their sin

Genesis 3 : 22 - *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

- God took steps to keep them from partaking of the tree of life
- Adam and Eve had learned the knowledge of good and evil
- God understands sin from the perspective of holiness
- Adam, Eve, and we only understand it from the perspective of guilt
- It is implied that if they would have taken from the tree of life, then they would have incurred eternal life in a sinful, fallen body
- God in His mercy prevented this
- He had a better way, a new birth spiritually leading to a glorified perfect body living forever

Genesis 3 : 23 - *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

- God kicked them out of the Garden of Eden
- Sin caused them to lose the paradise of God had created for them
- Now the cost of sin was evident
- They lost their home, they had to struggle to live by raising crops with weeds and insects

Genesis 3 : 24 - *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

- God also placed cherubims (angelic creatures) at the entrance to Eden
- This is the first mention of angels in the Bible apart for the fallen angel Satan.
- The cherubims were to prevent Adam or his descendants from ever returning and getting access to the tree of life.
- Of course the Garden of Eden was later destroyed in the great flood of Noah.