

Torah Studies

Man's Fall into Sin Genesis 3

Genesis: In the Beginning



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Torah Studies

A Reminder from Paul

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A Reminder from Paul

- Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Man's Fall into Sin

Genesis 3

Introduction

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Genesis 3

Introduction

- Today's chapter gives us instruction regarding the origin of sin in us.
- It explains why the world is so bad while at the same time being created very good.
- It can also help us understand how temptation works.
- That is something we face every day.

Man's Fall into Sin

Genesis 3

Outline

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Genesis 3

Outline

- I. Temptation 3:1-6
- II. Fall 3:7-13
- III. Curse 3:14-24

I. Temptation

3:1-6

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- 3:1 serpent Apparently a beautiful creature before the curse.
- At least that would have to describe the devil before his rebellion.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- Ezekiel 28:12-14

12 ... You were the signet of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;
every precious stone was your covering,
sardius, topaz, and diamond,
beryl, onyx, and jasper ...

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- Ezekiel 28:12-14

... sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle;
and crafted in gold were your settings
and your engravings.

On the day that you were created
they were prepared ...

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- Ezekiel 28:12-14

14 You were an anointed guardian cherub.

I placed you;

you were on the holy mountain of God;

in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

I. Temptation

3:1-6



The serpent is a reference to both a literal serpent and to Satan, for Satan used a literal serpent by indwelling the serpent for the purpose of communicating with the woman.

– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- Paul seems to have taken this story at face value.
- 2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- Then later in Revelation, the identification of the devil with the serpent is confirmed.
- **Revelation 12:9**

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- Then later in Revelation, the identification of the devil with the serpent is confirmed.

- **Revelation 20:2**

And he [the angel] seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- 3:1 Did God actually say...?
- There was no need for dialog with the serpent.
- In 1:28 we saw that Mankind was to rule over animals

I. Temptation

3:1-6



The first question was intended to cast doubt upon the Word of God. God had said, but Satan asks if God had really spoken. Here is the first denial of divine revelation and divine inspiration.

*– Donald Grey Barnhouse
(1895 – 1960), Presbyterian pastor
and early radio Bible teacher*

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- 3:2 we may eat
- She left out freely, which might have been relevant in this conversation.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- 3:3 the tree ... in the midst
- There were two trees in the middle.
- One was the tree of life which she could have eaten freely from, but she fails to mention it.
- neither shall you touch it God never said this
- lest you die God said, “You shall surely die.”

I. Temptation

3:1-6

The Importance of Knowing God's Word

1. Eve lightened the privileges, leaving out the best one of all, the tree of life.
2. She added to the prohibition.
3. She weakened the penalty, leaving out the certainty of judgment.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- 3:4 You will not surely die
- This is the first lie in the Bible, and its results were fatal.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- 3:5 Interpretation:
- God is holding you back! You're missing out!

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- 3:6 We can compare the words of this verse with the categories of 1 John 2:16.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Good for food | lust of the flesh |
| • A delight to the eyes | lust of the eyes |
| • To be desired to make one wise | pride of life |

I. Temptation

3:1-6

- Paul makes an interesting comment to Timothy.

- 1 Timothy 2:14

... Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

- And throughout the New Testament, there is more of the blame for sin placed upon Adam.

II. Fall

3:7-13

II. Fall

3:7-13

- 3:7 This is the anticlimactic result of giving in to temptation.

II. Fall

3:7-13

- 3:8 hid themselves
- The man and woman now experience broken fellowship.
- From now on, they will be ill at ease with God and with one another

II. Fall

3:7-13

- 3:9 Where are you?
- The call of a loving Father.

II. Fall

3:7-13



Most people have a wrong concept of God. When they hear God calling out to Adam, “Where are you?” they hear the voice of an arresting officer ...

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

II. Fall

3:7-13



... But I think if we could have heard God's voice, we would have heard a sob, a cry of a heartbroken father whose child had just destroyed himself.

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

II. Fall

3:7-13

- 3:10 sound, also “voice”
- God’s word could have kept them from sin.
- Now their sin keeps them from God and His word.

II. Fall

3:7-13

- 3:11-12 Here we have the first example of blame-shifting in the Bible.
- He is almost blaming God.
- 3:13 Second Example of blame-shifting.
- The consequences of sin pile up quickly.

II. Fall

3:7-13

Vital point:

- The blame-shifting is not done with actual lies.
- The serpent did deceive the woman, and she gave the fruit to the man.
- And yet, despite these lessening factors, God holds each of us responsible for our own sins.

II. Fall

3:7-13

Another vital point:

- It takes our admitting our guilt to allow us to receive forgiveness.

II. Fall

3:7-13

- A Reminder: How Temptation Works
- James 1:13-15

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

III. Curse

3:14-24

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:14 Cursed are you
- First curse in the Bible.
- There were three blessings in Genesis 1-2.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:15 This is the first prophecy of Christ in the Bible.
- Sometimes called the *Protoevangelium*.
- It points to the virgin birth and Christ's ultimate victory over Satan.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:16 Two evident results of the curse on the woman:
- Pain in childbearing – Childbearing would have happened anyway, now it will hurt.
- Male domination – She would have simply helped him, now will they struggle for control.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:17 You have listened to the voice of your wife
- The woman did not have to listen to the serpent.
- The man was under no obligation to listen to the woman.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:18 The curse makes work difficult.
- Work itself was part of God's plan before the fall.

- Genesis 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:19 Physical death is the result of spiritual death.
- Ground is once again *adamah*
- Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:20 Eve = *chavvah* and means “living”.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:21 Garments of skins
- We can contrast with fig leaves.
- What is implied is the killing of an animal.
- God is setting the standard for covering our sins.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- Hebrews 9:22

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:22-24 Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil.
- Compare the serpent's words in 3:5,
For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:22-24 Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever
- What God does is an act of mercy.
- Perhaps eating of the tree would have given eternal life in a fallen state to the person who ate of it.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- 3:22-24 Probably the Garden of Eden was closed off up until the time of the Flood.
- But we know the tree of life will be available to us again someday in the future.

III. Curse

3:14-24

- Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

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Conclusion

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- Temptation is real for us too, but God has given us the resources we need to resist temptation.

- **1 Corinthians 10:13**

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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Conclusion

- And our temptation is not very different from that faced by Adam and Eve.

Man's Fall into Sin

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Conclusion

- 1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

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Conclusion



No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, ...

– C. S. Lewis, in Mere Christianity

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... You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness ...

– C. S. Lewis, in Mere Christianity

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Conclusion



... They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means.

– C. S. Lewis, in Mere Christianity

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Conclusion

- And so, we can draw near to the throne of grace.
- **Hebrews 4:15-16**

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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Conclusion

- Death came into the world through sin, but death is not the end of the story.
- **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.