

# Genesis Chapter 3

Probably the most important chapter in the whole Bible  
and all of literature!

1. Describes the beginning of the human drama,  
explains the present state of humanity and the world,  
and gives the first prophecy of God's salvation plan

2. Reveals the tactics of Satan

3. Gives the foundation for the central doctrines of our faith  
Shows the necessity of a blood sacrifice  
Reveals the coming mediator to restore things

# Genesis Chapter 3

It is important to remember this is a brief account. There are details about which we can speculate but which we cannot know for sure.

Perhaps the original author(s), Adam and Eve, didn't want to dwell too much on these sorry events.



Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.

the serpent ( snake – but not as we know it today)

**It was a real animal, created good by God**

was more “crafty”      Wise ? Intelligent ? (Hint of danger)



Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.

**Chosen by Satan as his best cover**  
his first time appearance



**Moses wrote up the account in Genesis 3 so:---**  
**Why doesn't he say it was the devil in disguise?**

**Why doesn't he say how an evil first appears?**  
– more information in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Revelation

### **Satan's plan :-**

**Intention** – Prevent/Separate from relationship with God  
– Replace God's rule with his own

**Method** – Subtle schemes (Ephesians 6)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman .....

**Surprise tactics – it spoke to her !**

Hello !



**Should her suspicions have been aroused ?**

He said to the woman, "Did God really say,

**Satan's method :-**

**He doesn't use the personal name of God, LORD**



**Get away from focus on a loving God**

He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

**Satan's method :-** He casts doubt on God's word  
(by means of an apparently innocent enquiry)

Subtle phrasing of statement – to suggest the possibility



**He employs the same tactics today :**  
behind past and present attacks on the Bible

**“Did God really say ...”**

The woman said to the serpent,

**1<sup>st</sup> mistake** – opening a conversation  
**(Did she know he was up to no good?)**

*We do know now!*

He is very clever with words !

Contrast Jesus' reply to Satan (Matthew 4:4)





The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will (possibly) die.'"

## **2<sup>nd</sup> mistake**

**– tampering with God's word**

adding to what God had said  
*(perhaps from 'good' motives)*

downgrading the command "surely die"

**It's easy to do and very dangerous**  
**It gives Satan an opening**

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman

**Satan's method** :- a big lie contradicting God's word  
He uses ½ truths ... Did they die ?

Who would you believe?

***Why do people find it so easy to believe his lies?***



"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**Satan's method :-** accusation against God - (gossip)

He calls into question God's goodness and motives

*"God is holding out on you, against your best interests.  
You'll be his equal so there's no real threat"*

Appealing to SELF interest (for his own selfish interest)



"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**½ truths:- eyes opened , like God , know good and evil**

**Satan's method :-** Big promise of great reward  
*You will be like God*



**Note:**  
**Big promise**  
**Bad delivery**

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom,

**Danger !!** wanting to know more than God allows at present.



**The way she is  
seeing things now  
has changed**

(it doesn't say it was an apple)

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

### **Satan's method :-**

**the temptation appeals to her whole nature**

**Body** Food – bodily appetites

**Soul** Pleasing – sensual pleasures, emotions

**Spirit** 'Wisdom' - intellect and spirit



**Satan's method :- unchanged !!**

**He tried the same with Jesus !**

**“if”** you are the Son of God  
(Doubt what Jesus had just heard )

Food – stones to bread (Jesus was hungry)



Trust – do you believe it (prove it – jump!)



Spiritual - worship me ..  
(big reward for you!)

She also gave some to her husband, who was with her,  
and he ate it.



**Where was he all this time ? (Satan's method)**  
**Why didn't he intervene?**  
**Why did he take it and eat it too?**



**Then** the eyes of **both** of them were opened,  
and they realized they were naked;

1

*It appears the reaction only occurred  
after they had both sinned – together.*

Opened eyes – **they realize something is wrong**  
Heart corrupted -They did “know good and evil” –  
**from the wrong side!**



Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

## **2** **Conscience begins** (God's built-in witness) – felt shame



Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**3** So instead of confessing ....  
**they try to hide it from themselves and each other**  
**“guilty”**



Fig leaf coverings for guilty conscience ...  
**What are the present day “fig leaves” ?**

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

- 4 Concealed themselves from God** (different reaction now)  
(foolish for several reasons)  
–this fear affected all their descendants



But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

# The first question God asks in the Bible



God takes the initiative  
Policeman or gracious call?  
**"Face up rather than hide away"**  
It still applies today

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

## **A straight question – will he confess ?**

A sort of explanation – but not a confession!  
He gives away the reasons for hiding! Afraid & Naked



The man said,  
"The woman you put here with me—  
she gave me some fruit from the tree,  
and I ate it."

**Excuses !!** - blame somebody else

1. It's her fault for giving it to me
2. It's your fault for putting her here
3. Only one word at the end 'I ate'



Then the LORD God said to the woman,  
"What is this you have done?"  
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Straight question ... 'this' .. The evidence in front of them

**Excuse!!**

**THE DEVIL  
MADE ME  
DO IT.**



# What we learn here

Adam and the woman were real persons :  
They are part of our story.



In Romans 5 Adam's actions contrasted directly with Jesus' work

# What we learn here

**This clearly contradicts the modern idea of  
Human Progress !!!**

Started from top ... down hill from then on !

More technology but people no different to past sinners



# What we learn here

It reveals the heart of sin



Why did they rebel and disobey?

God said ...



“Don’t ....

# **What we learn here**

**The First humans spoiled it for the rest of the human family**

**We are INFECTED**

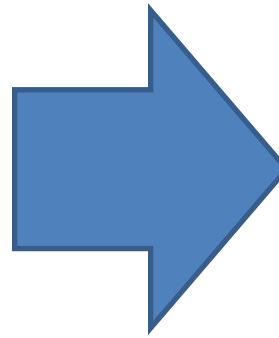
**Adam's Inherited Disobedience Sin-drome**



Theologians call it “Original Sin”

# What we learn here

**Humans were created as responsible creatures and will have to face the consequences**



**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

**1 John 1:8 -9**