



## **Anarchy in Eden**

Text: Genesis 3:1-24

3:1 <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that YHWH God had made. He said to the wife, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

"more crafty" – a Hebrew word play. "Crafty" and "naked (2:25)" are homophones

"you shall not eat of any tree in the garden" – compare to Genesis 2:16-17

+ Who was Genesis 2:16-17 spoken to?

+ Why might the serpent (understand- Satan) speak to the wife and not the man?

+ Doubt is sown over God's Word

3:2-3 <sup>2</sup>And the wife said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

+ How does this compare to Genesis 2:16-17?

+ Why the additional clause?

3:4-5 <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the wife, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when (lit. "in the day") you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

v. 4- "you will not surely die" - In v. 1 The serpent tries to cast doubt over God's Word, now he outright DENIES it!

v.5- "you will be like God, knowing good and evil"- after casting doubt and denial, now the serpent tempts the wife with POWER to establish herself as God

What can we learn about temptation in general from this exchange?

3:6-7 <sup>6</sup>So when the wife saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

v. 6- "to make one wise" –what is truly the source of wisdom according to Proverbs 1:7?  
"her husband who was with her"- he was willing and not deceived by the wife

v. 7- Guilt and shame immediately follow the act of rebellion

3:8-9 <sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of YHWH God walking in the garden in the breeze of the day, and the man (Hbr- adam) and his wife (Hbr- ishah) hid themselves from the presence of YHWH God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But YHWH God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

v. 8- "God walking in the garden" - anthropomorphism –describing the divine being in human terms.  
"hid themselves from the presence of YHWH God"- Why do they hide?

+ Dan 8:16-17, Is 6:5, Rev. 1:17

v.9- Does God not know where they are? Why does He have to ask? Why does he ask the Man?

3:10-12 <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The wife whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

v. 10- the Man can only admit that they have sought separation from God

v. 11- God continuously opens the door for confession of sin

v. 12- yet what is the man's reply? Who does he blame?

3:13 Then YHWH God said to the wife, "What is this that you have done?" The wife said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."  
How is the wife's response different than the man's?

3:14-15 <sup>14</sup>YHWH God said to the serpent,

*"Because you have done this, // cursed are you above all livestock // and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, // and dust you shall eat // all the days of your life. // <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the wife, and between your offspring and her offspring; // he shall bruise your head, // and you shall bruise his heel."*

- v. 14- "Dust you shall eat"- in ancient Near Eastern context, this is a sign of defeat;
- v.15- "enmity between you and the wife"- this is more than just a story about why humans fear snakes  
"your offspring and her offspring"- offspring is singular! It can refer to a group, thus we would see this as referring BOTH to all humans and specifically to Jesus Christ  
"he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."- The serpent *himself*, will be bruised, not just the offspring! This gives us greater perspective for the Gospel promise.  
+ bruise... bruise... though the same verb is used, the difference is in the part of the body which is injured- head vs. heel.

3:16 To the wife he said, *"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; // in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband (Hbr- Ish), // and he shall rule over you."*

The Wife receives what two-fold punishment?

3:17-19 <sup>17</sup>And to the man he said, *"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife // and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, // 'You shall not eat of it,' // cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; // <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. // <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face // you shall eat bread, // till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; // for you are dust, // and to dust you shall return."*

- v. 17 - "cursed is the ground because of you" – even creation suffers from man's sin  
- "in pain you shall eat of ... till you return to the ground" – whose punishment is the daily labor of producing for the family?
- v. 19 - "for you are dust and to dust you shall return"- Ps 103:14, Eccl 3:20, Rom 5:12  
- When is this said in the Church Year and why is that significant?

3:20-21 <sup>20</sup>The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And YHWH God made for the man and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- v. 20 - "the man called his wife's name Eve" – what did we say after 2:19- what does naming someone indicate? Yet this naming is RICH with the Gospel, it is a blessing!  
- How does the name "Eve" indicate that the man already trusts the promise of Gen 3:15?  
- Remember our Man – New Man, Wife – Church typology
- v. 21 -God continues to care for and provide for mankind even immediately after their sin

3:22-24 <sup>22</sup>Then YHWH God said, *"Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" <sup>23</sup>therefore YHWH God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup>He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

- v. 22 - Very little was said about the Tree of Life in 2:9, now we find out something VITAL!  
+ Not just life, life FOREVER! – Rev. 2:7, 22:1-5, 14, 18-19  
+ What other *tree* in Scripture produces *fruit* that when we take/eat, we receive *eternal life*? Cf. John 6:53-56; 15:1-8
- v. 23-24- YHWH sends the man and Eve out East of Eden. One final time, the Cosmic Temple  
+ Examine Tabernacle/Temple diagram. The Holy of Holies is always placed in the West, and the Israelite must enter from the East  
+ Coming to the Tabernacle/Temple is a reunion with God's presence, as in Eden!

## Psalm 51