

Genesis 3 | Fall

Genesis 3

Based on NLT

Genesis 3:1-5

The *snake* was the *most cunning* of all the wild animals...God had made. *One day, Satan entered the snake and he asked Eve*, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” *Eve* replied. “It’s only the fruit from the tree *that gives the understanding of good and evil* that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

“You won’t die!” the *snake* replied...“God knows that *when* you eat it...you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

Genesis 3:6-7

Eve was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to *Adam*, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment *something inside them changed*, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they *put* leaves together to cover *their nakedness*.

Genesis 3:8-13

When the cool evening breezes were blowing, *Adam and Eve* heard...God walking about in the garden. So they hid from...God among the trees.

Then...God called to *Adam*, “Where are you?” *Adam* replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” “Who told you that you were naked?”...God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?” The

man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” Then...God asked *Eve*, “What have you done?” “The *snake tricked* me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

Genesis 3:14-15

Then...God said to the *snake*, “Because you have done this, you *will be punished*...You will crawl on your belly...as *long as* you live. And I will cause hostility between *your descendants* and the *descendants of the woman*. *You will strike his heel, but he will strike your head.*”

Genesis 3:16a

Then *God* said to *Eve*, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth...”

Genesis 3:17-19a

And to *Adam* he said, “Since you...ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you,...*You will sweat to produce food*, until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

Genesis 3:21-24

And...God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

Then...God said, “*Now people know everything, both good and evil*. What if they...take fruit from the tree *that gives life*, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” So...God banished them from the Garden *and prevented them from returning to the tree that gave life*.

Introduction

Genesis 2:4-4:26 is a narrative of the creation of the first man and woman and how they were expelled from their idyllic paradise. The account of the first disobedience in Gen. 3 is the turning point for this section of Scripture. Genesis 2:4-25 set up the ideal world and is necessary for understanding the full extent of what Adam and Eve lost when they sinned. Genesis 4:1-26 show the aftermath of the disobedience.

Many scholars believe that Genesis 3 is solely etiological—that its purpose is to explain the origins of something—perhaps evil, how people and snakes came to hate each other, or how the snake came to crawl on its belly. However, this chapter would disappoint someone looking for answers to those questions—it doesn't really answer them in the satisfactory way that true etiological stories do. This chapter certainly does not answer the question of the origin of evil. It only makes it clear where it does not come from.

Because Genesis 2:4 is a traditional heading that indicates a historical account, we assume that Genesis 3 is meant to be understood as a historical narrative, with Adam and Eve being real individuals who sinned and suffered the consequences. However, their expulsion from the garden forever altered mankind's and the world's state.