**‘The Fall of Man’**

***3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?” 2The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” 4The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*** Genesis 3:1-7

In the blog ***‘What in the World Happened, Considering Genesis 3?’***,[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftn1) we asked questions regarding the origins of the devil. We looked to Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-16, and Revelation 12:3-4 for insight. We came to the conclusion that the devil originally was a beautiful angel. He was created by God. He was ***“the seal of perfection”*** (Ezekiel 28:12). He was ***“blameless until unrighteousness was found in [him]*** (Ezekiel 28:15). What brought this magnificent angel down? It was the thoughts and intentions of his heart. God knows all. He knows the words we will speak before they are even on our own tongues, and He revealed the following regarding the one who had been called ***“O star of the morning, son of the dawn!’*** (Isaiah 14:12), ***“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High’*** (Isaiah 14:13-14). This one wasn’t content with the role God had given him. He wanted to be like God. That sin got him cast from the mountain of God and thrown to the earth (Revelation 12:4).

Not to be deterred from his original plan to overthrow his Creator, this one we call satan[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftn2), the devil, the serpent, the deceiver, simply came up with a new plan. He’d try and take God down by going after man – the creature who had been made in the image and according to the likeness of God and who had been given dominion over the earth. Surely if he could take down the “crown” of God’s creation, God would be brought down, and he could take his place above ***“the stars of God”*** and ***“sit on the mount of assembly”*** (Isaiah 14:13). This is the likely scenario as we come to the Garden of Eden and the day the woman encounters the crafty serpent.

In the *Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament,* we find the interpretation we need for the question the serpent asks of the woman. The question was, ***“Hath God indeed said, Ye shall not eat of all the trees of the garden?”*** The Hebrew is written in such a way as to express surprise: ***“Is it really a fact that God has prohibited you from eating of all the trees of the garden?”***[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftn3) His question got the conversation going AND the woman thinking. Too bad she didn’t just respond with ***‘God said it, so that settles it.’***  But she didn’t. Instead she said to the serpent, ***“ 2From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”*** Actually, God never said that the man and the woman couldn’t “touch” the fruit on the forbidden tree. Maybe she assumed that since you have to “touch” the fruit in order to eat it, touching was included in the prohibition. Nevertheless, this was an addition and it is always wrong to add to or take away from what God has said.[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftn4) God has said what He has said and that needs to be good enough for us. Now that the woman is engaged in a conversation with this serpent, she hears from the serpent, ***4… “You surely will not die! 5For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*** The one we know as the father of lies has spoken – and he has lied. Death is going to come in a number of ways and not all at the same time.

There is another possible translation of verse 5 which needs to be considered. The translation I have included is from the New American Standard Version (NASB), however, there are a few translations that translated the phrase ***“and you will be like God”*** as ***“and you will be as gods.”*** Although both translations are entirely possible, the second one is the more likely one. The reason for suggesting this is simply that the devil wants to be like God. He wanted to raise his throne above the “stars of God,” that is “angels.” Since this was the desire he had for himself, he likely won’t offer such a “prize” to the woman. For him to tell the woman that the fruit of the tree of the knowledge and evil would enable her to be as the “gods,” is another thing altogether. But here too would be another lie. You see, there aren’t other “gods” even though the Hebrew for God in the text, ***elohim***, is plural. However, it would be in keeping with the devil’s deceitful ways to trick the woman into thinking there are other “gods” simply by omitting the word ***“bene”*** from the phrase ***“bene elohim.”*** ***“Bene elohim”*** means “sons of God.” The ***“bene elohim”*** were all of the creatures directly created by the action of God Himself. All of the heavenly creatures fall into this category, AS DO THE FIRST MAN AND WOMAN, but for the sake of deceiving the woman the devil simply omitted the word ***“bene.”***  All you are left with is the word ***“elohim”*** which is of course plural and it sounds quite lofty and something that might just entice the woman AND IT DID!

Some might wonder why the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” was off limits to the man and the woman. God isn’t anti-knowledge, BUT the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” was prohibited because it represented gaining knowledge **APART FROM GOD**. This is the problem. The man and the woman were created to live and function alongside God, NOT separate from Him. The devil’s deceit was to get the man and the woman to think that not only could they go it alone without God, but that they could go it alone so well that they could even become “as gods” themselves. This was a BIG FAT LIE! The man and the woman were created in the image and according to the likeness of God. They already had a beautiful relationship with their God and Creator. What more did they need? Absolutely nothing!

***6When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.***

The woman took the bait the devil held in front on her. She believed his lies. She looked with her eyes and her desires and ate of the forbidden fruit.

Maybe this next point could be left out, but it’s important. The woman and women in general, have taken a LOT of flack and blame throughout the millennia for being the first one to sin. That blame is a bit shortsighted. The man was with the woman throughout the entire conversation. Yes, the woman was deceived. But the man didn’t even so much as utter a word of objection. Hadn’t he been told to “tend” Eden? Didn’t that mean he was supposed to be watchful and prevent anything from gaining entry into the garden which didn’t belong there? Yes and yes! So, let’s stop blaming the woman. Both the woman and the man were to blame for sin entering into the earth. They BOTH ate of the fruit.

***7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.***

The devil is a master at telling half-truths. He said that should the woman and the man eat from the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” their eyes would be opened. That was true. The consequences for them, however, would not be good. The devil told them that they would know good and evil, but the only thing they noticed was their nakedness. Wait a minute. They had been naked all along and it hadn’t bothered them. Why does their nakedness bother them now?

This was addressed in the blog, ***‘Naked but Unashamed.’*** [[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftn5) The Hebrew word for naked in Genesis 2:25 is ***aw-rome*** but ***ey-rome*** in Genesis 3:7. Dick Reuben, in his ***Pattern for Revival Fire*** [[6]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftn6) teaching series, teaches that because mankind was created in the image and according to the likeness of God, that image and likeness likely included their being covered with the ***shekinah glory*** of God. But when the man and his wife sinned, God’s glory could no longer “cover” them, so it was removed. This left them with what they could see – which wasn’t much. This makes perfect sense. It would account not only for the subtle difference between the two words ***aw-rome*** and ***ey-rome***, but also for the lack of shame at being naked before their sin, yet having shame after they sinned.

Let’s not ignore the fact that a “death” took place immediately – a relational death. The lack of shame the man and the woman had felt between them though they were naked was gone. Now there was shame. Now they felt it necessary to hide their bodies from each other. Something had indeed gone terribly wrong and this was only the beginning of all that would go wrong in the earth.

A physical death would also take place in that same “day.” What do I mean? In Genesis 2:17 God told the man, ***17 “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*** The relational death was immediate, but the physically death also came ***“in the day”*** they ate of the forbidden fruit? The Apostle Peter wrote, ***“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”*** [[7]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftn7) The man Adam lived to be nine hundred and thirty years old. By God’s calculation, Adam did die physically ***“in the day”*** in which he ate the fruit. In fact, none of Adam’s descendants lived beyond one of God’s “days.” Methuselah lived the longest, but he died at the age of nine hundred and sixty-nine years old; the year of the Flood.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftnref1) http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/04/what-in-the-world-happened-considering-genesis-3/

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftnref2) satan is not capitalized throughout these blogs

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftnref3) http://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/genesis/3.htm

[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftnref4) Deuteronomy 12:32

[[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftnref5) http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/17/naked-but-unashamed/

[[6]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftnref6) http://store.dickreuben.org/collections/teaching/products/pattern-for-revival-fire-series

[[7]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/" \l "_ftnref7) 2 Peter 3:8