

THE FALL

Old Testament Lesson #3

The serpent was a crafty wild animal. He asked Eve if God had really said, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden."

She replied that God had given them permission to eat of any of the trees in the garden except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They were not to eat of it, or even touch it, or they would die.

The serpent said that Eve wouldn't die from eating the fruit, but would be like God, knowing good and evil. Eve saw the good fruit and wanted to gain wisdom, so she ate it. She gave some to Adam, and he ate, too. Their eyes were opened, and their new knowledge made them aware of their nakedness, so they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.

When they heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden, they were afraid and hid. God asked Adam and Eve if they had eaten from the forbidden tree. Adam blamed Eve, saying she gave him the fruit. Eve blamed the serpent, saying he deceived her.

God pronounced punishment on all the parties:

1. The serpent would crawl on his belly and eat dust. Eve's offspring would crush the serpent's head, and the serpent would strike the heel of the woman's child.
2. Eve would have pain in childbearing and be under the rule of her husband.
3. Adam would have to toil and sweat to reap food from the ground, which would now produce thorns and thistles and would no longer yield food as abundantly as before.

God made clothes of skins for Adam and Eve. They were expelled from the Garden of Eden, and God guarded the Tree of Life with cherubim and a flaming sword.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The word for "God (NIV)/gods (KJV)" in Genesis 3:5 is the Hebrew word *elohim*, which means "mighty ones" and is used of heavenly beings in Psalm 8:5.
- Genesis 3:15 contains God's first covenant with humankind. The picture presented is that the offspring of the woman would crush the head (inflict a fatal and permanent wound) of the offspring of the serpent. While this was happening, the offspring of the serpent would strike the heel (inflict a temporary wound) of the offspring of the woman.

The Fall

- I. The serpent spoke to Eve.
 - A. He asked Eve what God said about eating from the trees in the garden.
 - B. Eve truthfully answered that they weren't to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
 - C. The serpent said Eve could eat without dying and would gain wisdom.
- II. Eve ate from the forbidden tree.
 - A. She shared the fruit with Adam.
 - B. They became aware of their nakedness and made clothes for themselves.
 - C. They hid when they heard God in the garden.
- III. God spoke to Adam and Eve.
 - A. He asked them what they had done.
 - B. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent.
 - C. God told them they would be punished because they disobeyed him.

ANSWER KEY:

"The Serpent"

God gave them clothes made of animal skins to cover themselves. He sent them out of the garden. He made them grow their own food. God made the serpent crawl on his belly forever and eat dust.