

Doctrine of the Survey of the Bible

The Fall of Man

1. Question. “What is the significance of the Old Testament?”
2. A good answer would be, “The Old Testament is the self-disclosure of God.”
3. In the Old Testament God reveals His Law, His promises, and, most importantly, God reveals Himself.
4. The Old Testament is not irrelevant. It is a biography about God.
5. One of the greatest revelations about God is that He is holy.
 - *Psalms 99:9 Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.*
6. Because God is holy, He cannot look upon sin with approval.
 - *Habakkuk 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?*
7. Because God cannot look upon sin with approval, He is angry with the wicked.
 - *Psalms 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*
8. The wicked refer to those who violate the known will of the Lord.
9. Adam and Eve violated the known will of God.
10. They did not always violate the will of the Lord. Initially they were created in a state of innocence, though they were not confirmed in righteousness.
11. In that state of innocence, Adam and Eve were given a choice. They could obey the Lord, or disobey Him.
12. Obedience to the Lord brought continued life. Disobedience would bring death, spiritually, and then physically.
 - *Genesis 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Special Note.

The question arises why Adam was ultimately held accountable for original sin when Eve was the first one to disobey God. Part of the answer lies in the fact that, when the Divine prohibition was given not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, Eve had not yet been created. When Eve was created, she was created subject to Adam, which meant he was responsible for what she said and did. In the sight of God, Adam acted as a Federal Representative, not only for Eve, but for all of humanity that was to come. Therefore, "In Adam, we all fall."

- *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
- 13.** The action of Eve, to knowingly disobey God, is all the more poignant when it is remembered that she was created because God had pronounced His first malediction concerning creation against human loneliness.
- *Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*
- 14.** God did not create Adam or Eve for anything but His glory.
- 15.** Genesis 3 reveals that the glory for which Adam and Eve had, was lost. The opening words of Scripture are foreboding.
- *Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*
- 16.** Suddenly, and without warning, a new personality is introduced through a talking serpent. Later revelation will identify the personality as Satan, the Devil.
- *Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*
- 17.** Where the serpent came from, how Satan became a serpent, is not initially revealed in Genesis 3, only his existence is revealed, and his presence into the Garden of Eden.
- 18.** The Garden of Eden was especially planted for man. We read that the Lord brought Adam to the Garden.
- *Genesis 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*
 - *Genesis 2:15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

19. Adam was happy, and comfortable in the Garden of Eden, especially after Eve was brought to him after creating her.

- *Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*
- *Genesis 2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*
- *Genesis 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

20. The Garden of Eden, planted by God, designed for Adam and Eve to work in, and enjoy, was Paradise, almost. What Adam and Eve did not fully understand, was that an evil personality has been allowed in the Garden of Eden.

21. This evil personality was characterized by new words, and ideas unfamiliar, by personal experience, to Adam and Eve. They were not familiar with the concept of subtlety.

Special Note.

The Hebrew word for subtil, is, ‘aruwm (aw-room), and means, “to be cunning (usually in a bad sense).

22. The word “subtil”, suggests something dark, slippery, crafty, evil. The serpent is the quintessence of guile.

23. Because the serpent is who he is, he does not change. There are parallels to be made between the temptation in the Garden of Eden, and the temptation of the Last Adam in the Judea wilderness.

24. The serpent asked a question in the Garden.

- *Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*
- *Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (NIV)*

25. The question itself was inappropriate, for it was blatantly false. God never said that Adam and Eve could not eat the fruit of any tree in the Garden of Eden. Eve knew this, and became the first defender of the faith against the attempt of Satan to twist the word of God. That is to her eternal credit.

- *Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*
26. Eve knew that God said she and Adam could eat of all the trees in the garden, except for the one tree.
27. Here is the slyness of Satan. Since God said no to one item, eating the fruit of The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the question arises, “What else will God prohibit?”
28. The underlying argument is that if God takes away one liberty, and exercises His sovereignty, then he might just as well take away all liberties. He has reduced His creation to the status of a slave. Humanity is but a puppet on a string.
29. The point of attack by the Devil against God always His word. The Devil attacked the word of God in the Garden, and the Devil attacked the word of God in the Judean desert.
- *Matthew 4: 1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*
30. The temptation, the seductive suggestion to turn the stones into bread was based on a conditional statement. “If thou be the Son of God.”
31. Remember, that at the baptism of Jesus, the heavens opened and the voice of God said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:17).

Special Note.

There are three times in the New Testament where God is recorded as speaking audibly to Jesus.

- At His baptism. *Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*
- At His transfiguration. *Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*
- Prior to His crucifixion. *John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*

32. The next voice is heard saying, “If thou be the Son of God.” The word “if”, suggests doubt. The subtly of Satan is that if Jesus is really the Son of God, that concept should be tested by turning the stones into bread, or by jumping off a cliff.
33. Eve too heard the voice of God, saying in essence, “You may eat of all the trees in the Garden, but do not eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.” Then, Eve heard another voice questioning the word of God, and Eve moved to defend God’s word.
34. Following her defense of the word of God, Eve heard the voice of Evil a second time say, “You shall not surely die” (Gen. 3:3).
35. First doubt was cast upon the word of God, and then came the open denial of the word of God, followed by a rational as to why the divine prohibition was given, concluding with an alleged insight into the essence of God.
36. Satan was telling Eve that she would not die. He was telling her that she could commit cosmic treason without any negative repercussion.
37. Today, people are being told the same thing. The secular world says, “You will not die. Therefore, eat, drink, and be merry.” “You will be like God.” “You will know what God knows.”
38. All Satan had to do was to assert, with authority, something that was not true, but it was believable. Eve was given an invitation to autonomy.
39. Eve did not question the subtle serpent’s voice. Rather, she embraced what was said, and meditated upon it.
 - *Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*
40. By casting doubt upon the word of God, Satan was able to get Eve to rebel against the Lord, after she had defended the word of God.
41. Eve wanted to be like God more than she was in her original state of creation. She wanted to be equal with God. She wanted to be autonomous. So Eve took of the fruit and ate.
42. She gave to Adam, and he did eat. Suddenly they knew good and evil. But they did not escape from the sovereignty of God.
43. Their eyes were opened, and they saw their shame. Their eyes were opened, and they understood their act of rebellion. Their eyes were opened and they perceived they had been lied to. Their eyes were opened, and they comprehended their bankruptcy, their poverty.

- 44.** Suddenly, Adam and Eve, made to rush into the presence of God, made to fellowship with him, understood a barrier had been erected. Now, instead of rushing to embrace their Creator, they run from Him. They become fugitives from the face of God.
- 45.** The rest of Genesis, and the Bible, is not about Adam and Eve trying to find God, but of God pursuing fallen humanity.
- 46.** The Bible is the story of God, stooping to clothe the nakedness of His creation, and restore them to Paradise.