

Genesis 3 - Promise in Eden

CHAPTER 3.

¹ The serpent deceiveth Eve. ⁶ Man's shameful fall. ¹⁴ The serpent is cursed. ¹⁵ The promised seed. ¹⁶ Mankind's punishment, and loss of paradise.

NOW the ¹serpent was ²more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, ⁷Yea, **hath God said,** Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³ ^hBut 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.

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:**

⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* ³pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, ^mand did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

⁷ And ^othe eyes of them both were opened, ^pand they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves ^raprons.

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the

Serpent was subtle, a deceiver: **2 Cor 11:3.**

Serpent thinking is to challenge God's Word, ie. "Did God really say that?" The clear teachings of Scripture are discarded and replaced by the thinking of the flesh.

The first lie in Scripture. This is the great lie through the ages, particularly seen in the teaching of an immortal soul.

1 John 2:16 "the world"
Food = Lust of the flesh
Pleasant = Lust of the eyes
Make wise = Pride of life

Her husband was "with her". He should have shown spiritual leadership, but he failed.

A change in nature caused by their sin.

There are 2 opposing forces in the great struggle:

- 1. The seed of the serpent**, those ruled by the natural impulses of human nature, and
- 2. The seed of the woman**, those transformed by God's Word.

The seed of the woman was ultimately fulfilled in Christ - and by extension is a term which applies to all those who are **"in Christ"** by faith and baptism.

These have **faith in God's Word: Gal 3:6-9,26.**

Eve: "God hath said" **Gen 3:3.** Jesus: "it is written" **Luke 4:4,10.**

The seed of the serpent was fulfilled through the ages in faithless individuals who rejected God's Word. They **challenge God's Word: Gen 3:1.** They also **deny its truth: Gen 3:4.** See also **Luke 3:7; John 7:7; Rom 8:7.**

garden in the ²cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?

¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?

¹² And the man said, ^oThe woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

¹³ And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this that thou hast done? And the woman said, ^rThe serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and ^hdust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And ⁱI will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and ^hher seed; ^lit shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; ^mand thy desire *shall be* ³to thy husband, and he shall ⁿrule over thee.

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, ^oof which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: ^pcursed *is* the ground for thy sake; ^rin sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

When his sin is revealed, Adam blames the woman, and even God for providing the woman.

The woman then blames the serpent.

v15 Key Verse: Jesus Christ

Enmity = war, hatred
"thy seed" = serpent's seed
"her seed" = seed of the woman
Jesus Christ bruised the head of the serpent by defeating sin. The bruise on the heel is a temporary wound only: Jesus lay for 3 days in the grave.

v16 Curse on the woman

v17 Curse on the man

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/ judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (Israel & Return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation).

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The Great Controversy of the Ages:

Throughout history, the seed of the serpent has been the overwhelming majority. For the seed of the woman it has been a struggle for survival.

Cain and Abel: In **Genesis 4:6-8** Cain murders his brother Abel. This was a **type** of what was to unfold through history between these 2 powers.

Abel understood the principle of forgiveness - that **a covering** was required, and that a **Lamb** would be provided. This is Christ, the woman's seed, who would crush the serpent's head. When Cain murdered Abel he demonstrated this **ENMITY** between the 2 seeds.

The Kingdom of Men: Serpent antagonism has also been represented by many **systems** of rule through the ages. These are described in **Daniel 4:17** as the **Kingdom of Men.** In **Genesis 10:8-10; 11:1-6** the seed of the serpent is organised into a political system based on the thinking of the flesh. Abraham however was called out from Babylon: **Gen 12:1; Heb 11:8-10.**

In **Daniel 2** the seed of the serpent is organised into a **political** and **religious** system which is at **enmity** with the seed of the woman. Nebuchadnezzar's image is a **man** because it represents the Kingdom of Men and the thinking of the flesh. God says He will replace this Kingdom by an everlasting Kingdom ruled over by the Seed of the Woman: **Dan 2:44.**

The life of Christ: In Christ's day, the Jewish leaders were condemned as a 'generation of vipers' who sought 'by craft' (deceit) to put him to death: **Mark 14:1; Luke 3:7, 19:47.**

The whole essence of this controversy was seen in the life of Christ. He was the Word made flesh: **John 1:14.** He overcame **the serpent** within, even to death on the cross. He showed that true greatness is found in giving one's life for others: **Phil 2:4.** Christ's death was so extreme because it was **the ultimate clash** between the Seed of the Serpent and Seed of the Woman.

The war continued against Christ's brethren in the First Century: **1 Pet 5:8-9; Rev 12:15-17.**

The apostasy: Ironically, over time, the ecclesia actually merged with the Seed of the Serpent: **2 Thess 2:1-11.** Paul warned of a falling away from the Truth, characterised by serpent-like deceit, which then made war with the true believers. This Roman Catholic system will be destroyed by Christ and the Saints: **Rev 14-19.**