

Disaster in Paradise

(Genesis 3:1-24)

I. Satan's Plot (3:1-5) v. 1 - serpent was more cunning

- Satan's origin (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Rev. 12:7-9, v.4 – 1/3 of angels; Luke 10:18)
- Satan uses wiles (Eph. 6:10-11); snares (2 Timothy 2:26) and devices (2 Cor. 2:11)

Wiles – methodia (methodical) schemes, or methods

Devices – *noēma*, meaning "that which is thought out." Satan is a cunning player on the chessboard of life. He thinks out his moves. He brings to bear on our varying situations, the keenest created mind in the universe. He knows how to exploit our circumstances.

Snare – means "a trap" and refers to the allurements that the Devil uses to catch people.

Lie #1 – God is Holding Out on You - 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'

- Martin Luther said, "the serpent uses the expression *aphkr'* as though to turn up his nose and jeer and scoff."
- Some commentators see this approach as a questioning of **God's Word**— "Has God said?"
- Others point more to a questioning of **God's goodness**— "You don't mean to tell me that God has deprived you, do you?"

Lie #2 – There are No Harmful Consequences to Your Sin - You will not surely die.

Lie #3 – You're Better Off Without God - For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened

- You'll really see that God has been mistreating you.
- You can't trust Him.

Lie #4 – Take Matters into Your Own Hands - and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

- You won't NEED God.
- You can say what's right and wrong for yourself!

II. Sin's Progression (3:6) ¹

- A. "She looked" - turn the look into a lust.
- B. "She took" - turn the desire into a decision.
- C. She "did eat." - turn the choice into a chain.

"He that commits sin is the slave of sin." (John 8:34)

*Sin will take you further than you want to go.
Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay.
Sin will cost you more than you want to pay.*

- D. She "gave." turn the sinner into a seducer. (See Romans 1:16-32)

Romans 1:32 (Living) - They were fully aware of God's death penalty for these crimes, yet they went right ahead and did them anyway and **encouraged others to do them, too.**

II. Sin's Punishment (3:14-18) ²

- A. Upon the serpent (3:14-15): to be the most cursed of all creatures and to crawl on its belly, eating dust. Also, his head will be crushed by the offspring of the woman.
- B. Upon the woman (3:16): to suffer pain in childbirth and to be ruled by her husband.
- C. Upon the man (3:17-19): to endure wearisome labor as he grows food from unproductive soil and to eventually die physically.
- D. Upon nature (3:18): to be infested with thorns and thistles.

Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

III. Salvation's Promise (3:15)

This verse is known as the *protevangelium*, meaning "The First Gospel."

"seed of the woman" predicts the virgin birth of Christ. The seed naturally comes from man, not woman. Jesus was born without the aid of a human father (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:35).

God's grace shown to mankind even in sin (see also Ephesians 2:4 - "but God"):

v. 9 - God **calls** "Adam where are you?"

v. 11 - God **confronts** "Who told you that you were naked?"

v. 21 - God **covers** with animal skins (a blood sacrifice).

v. 22-24 - God **casts** them out of the Garden (refusing access to the Tree of Life so they would not live forever in their sins.)

¹ adapted from John Phillips Commentary on Genesis 3.

² taken from H. L. Willmington, The Outline Bible (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Genesis 3:14-18.