

GENESIS 2:4-3:7

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 2 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our last study we finished up looking at the story of creation. We spent some time looking at all that God created, and we saw the evidence for creation versus everything happening by random chance.

And the reason we spent so much time on this subject of creation is because it is foundational to our faith and thus, this is what is attacked.

You see, if you can't believe the creation story then how in the world can you believe anything else that the Bible says? You can't and thus, the attack against the foundation of our faith which leads us to Jesus!

So what we saw is that God created the heavens and the earth and all life that is in it in six literal days.

And then, as we moved into chapter 2 we saw the week of creation continue as God rested on the seventh day.

It was not that God was tired, but He was setting up a pattern for man to follow, to work six days and rest on the seventh, giving it to the Lord, spending time with Him and their family.

Now, keep in mind that chapter divisions and verses were added at a later date, they are not inspired, so the first three verses of Genesis chapter 2 belong to chapter 1, it just flows better and that is why we covered them last time.

Now, as we move into the fourth verse in Genesis chapter 2 this evening, we are still looking at the creation story but from a different vantage point.

Chapter 1 was more of a wide-angle lens from which we looked at creation and chapter 2 zooms in for us and gives us more details of the land and the creation of man.

Now there are some liberal theologians who believe that Genesis chapter 2 gives to us a conflicting creation account from Genesis chapter 1. They believe that a different writer than Moses put chapter 2 together.

Again, that is not true. Genesis chapter 2 has as its focus the creation of man, as I have said and that should just make sense. We are the story, and we move from perfection to sin to salvation and ultimately the final redemption of these bodies. That is what the Bible is all about, from Genesis through Revelation.

The paradise that was lost in Genesis is the paradise regained in Revelation. So we are now at the beginning and everything is perfect, sin has not entered the picture, not yet!

Warren Wiersbe expounds on this idea of conflicting stories from Genesis chapter 1 to Genesis chapter 2 as he wrote,

Some Old Testament scholars have claimed that this section of Genesis 2 is a second account of Creation written by a different author whose message conflicts with what's found in chapter 1.

That theory isn't widely promoted today; for in these verses, Moses tells the same Creation story but adds details that we need to know in order to understand events that happen later.

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT*, p. 20

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Genesis chapter 2, starting in verse 4 and let's see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study His Word!

GENESIS 2**VERSES 4-7**

This takes us back to Genesis 1:1 where God created the heavens and the earth.

And then, before He created man on the sixth day, God created all the vegetation on the third day.

It was a tropical environment all over the earth as we have evidence for this in the South Pole, where there is frozen vegetation, forests in the ice.

Also, there was no rain before the flood, but a mist came up from the ground and watered the earth in the evening. It was like a giant terrarium, and it was very beautiful.

Then we are told that God “**formed**” man or **YATSAR** in the Hebrew from the dust of the ground.

The idea here is that of a potter shaping an earthly vessel and that is exactly what God has done with us and He continues to mold and shape our lives.

We see this in Isaiah 64:8, this idea of the potter and the clay as Isaiah tells us, “**But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.**”

This is so important for us to understand, that He is the Potter, and we are the clay. We need to understand that apart from God we can do nothing.

And here in Isaiah, he is asking God, the Master Potter to mold and shape His people into vessels of honor to be used by the King of kings and Lord of lords.

And I think we all desire the same but we need to let Him mold and shape our lives and that is not always easy and sometimes the clay tries to harden itself so the Master Potter can't mold and shape it. Sounds foolish and it is because God has what is best for us.

In other words, when we come to the Potter, we need to surrender all to Him, all our imperfections and let Him be our Master. We need to let Him mold us and make us the vessel of honor that He wants us to be.

Here we see God mold into being Adam. One writer put it like this. He wrote, ***“All of life originated with God, but human life began with the personal breath of God. Without God, we simply would not live. The name Adam is directly from the Hebrew Adam, which literally means ‘man.’ This name reflects the dust from which we were formed: the Hebrew word for ground is adamah.”***

Now there are those that mock this idea that God formed us from the dust of the ground. But when you look at what we are made of, we find that what God has said, He did.

Let me share this with you. We are told,

And why is it scientific?

God made man from the dust; and when his body dies it decomposes and turns again to dust.

(Genesis 3:19) ***“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”***

What is the scientific proof that man's body came from the dust of the ground, as the Bible says?

The human body is made up of materials and minerals found on the surface of the ground, and not from the core of the earth.

Oxygen, being the most abundant element on the earth's crust or on the ground, makes up 65 percent of the human body, and carbon, also abundant on the topsoil of the ground, is 18 percent, and hydrogen is 10 percent.

The 59 elements found in the human body are all found on the earth's crust.

This is amazing because what the Bible says perfectly match the scientific composition of a human body.

- <https://bit.ly/3vLckt3>

After God put together Adam's body, we are told that He “**. . . breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.**” Genesis 2:7.

The word that is used for “**breath**” is *RUACH* and it is the same word that is used for Spirit.

So what is going on here?

God created man by putting His Spirit within him!

Boice tells us, “*The implication, readily seen by any Hebrew reader, [is] that man was specially created by God's breathing some of His own breath into him.*”

We see this in John 20:22, after the death and resurrection of Jesus He appeared to His men, “**And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’**”

Adam was born with a body, a soul or consciousness and God breathed in Him His Spirit. When Adam sinned that spirit died, and Adam will be controlled by his bodily appetites.

What we see here in John is that the spirit that was dead in them came alive as Jesus breathed on them, they were born again!

This is what separates man from the animal world, the spirit of God dwells in him or he has a spirit.

Plants are not living in the sense that they don't have a consciousness, animals do.

What separates Adam from the animal world is that he has a spirit, the spirit of God in Him!

What that means is man is created in the image of God, a triune being as God is!

Thus, man apart from God is like a wild animal and we do see that today. Like the animals he is controlled by his body appetites.

One more point before we move on.

In Genesis 2:7 we are told that the "**LORD God**" or *YAHWEH ELOHIM* formed man.

When you see "**LORD**" in capitals it is speaking of God's covenant relationship with man, *YAHWEH*. And the word "**God**" or *ELOHIM* speaks of the creator of all things.

It is this God that formed man out of the dust of the earth!

VERSES 8-9

Please understand that God created thousands of trees in the Garden of Eden, but here He only mentions two of them.

There is the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Can you imagine this garden that God prepared for Adam and Eve to live in. This garden was filled with beauty and goodness.

Now we can understand why the tree of life was there, but why did God put this tree of temptation in this beautiful garden, this tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

As we will see as we read on, I believe it was to give them a choice, to obey the Lord or to follow after their own desires.

You see, for there to be love there needs to be a choice. And think of all that was before them and God is warning them to stay away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, just the one tree, all the rest was theirs to partake of.

Sounds very easy, but as we will see in a few minutes, it was not easy!

Again, as some read this they like to say the events in Genesis chapter 1 is different than chapter 2.

In Genesis chapter 2 we see the story of recreation.

I disagree.

How can I be so sure, so certain?

Because of what Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:4-5, **“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”?’”**

In other words, these two chapters give to us a harmonious account of creation, they are not different stories, because Jesus is speaking of both of them and linking them together!

VERSES 10-14

Here we have a description of the rivers that flowed from Eden, some of what filled the land – the gold and precious stones.

Now we don't know exactly where the Garden of Eden was located though some of the names of these rivers are in existence today.

It was probably located somewhere in the area of Mesopotamia, an area that has been called the cradle of civilization!

Again, we are not sure, but it speaks of the Garden of Eden being eastward and the focus point is usually Jerusalem, so that would put it in the area of Mesopotamia.

Also, keep in mind that after the flood the landscape of the earth changed dramatically and so did these rivers.

I tend to believe that Noah and his children were familiar with these rivers and thus, in the post flood world they named rivers in that area the same name.

VERSES 15-17

God placed Adam in this garden to tend and keep it, but don't get the idea he had to weed and feed the garden.

He probably just had to pick the fruit, which was spectacular, but the labor is not what is spoken of here.

The toil we see comes after sin entered the picture!

And here in this Garden of Eden we see God tell Adam that all this is for him to eat except for that one tree.

Can you imagine all that was before Adam, all that was good for him to partake of, and God said to stay away from this one tree? All the others were his, except one.

Why did God do this?

To give Adam a free will to choose to serve God or to serve his own fleshly desires.

But, if he disobeyed the Lord, God warned him of the consequences, “**. . . for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**” Genesis 2:17.

Now we will see as we read on, Adam did not instantly die when he partook of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So what happened?

We will deal with this more as we read on but keep in mind that this verse can be literally translated, “**Dying, thou shalt die!**”

Here is what I believe the Lord is saying.

The moment Adam disobeyed God, his spirit died and now his body appetites controlled him. He lost that fellowship with God that he once had because sin separates us from God.

But there was also another aspect to keep in mind.

You see, the moment he sinned the death process started in Adam or the second law of thermodynamics. This law speaks of things wearing down, moving from order to disorder.

Prior to Adam’s sin he could live forever, but now, he would eventually go back to the dust of the earth from which he came from.

Also, his sin would infect the whole human race that was to come and all of life on the planet, even the planet itself!

So God was very clear in His warning to Adam.

Folks, God has also warned us today and has told us of the consequences of our rebellion against Him. And today there are many trees of temptation out there, but we do not have to partake of them, we do have a choice.

Paul put it like this in Galatians 5:16-18, **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”**

We also see here in Genesis 2:16 the first use of the verb, **“command”** and it deals with life and death, good and evil.

Again, God only has what is best for us, so He commands us what we need to do, but He doesn't force us to do it. But there are consequences to our actions if we disobey.

Who will you listen to, God who is life and there is no darkness in Him at all, or the Devil who is a liar, it is his natural tongue, and he brings about death and destruction to our lives?

It sounds so simple and yet we fall prey to his lies!

VERSE 18

Now this is interesting to me. As you read of the creation story everything was very good, but here God says it is not good for man to be alone.

So Adam joined a dating service that did not work out – there was no helpmate for him, not even one at this point. No, he did not do that.

What I love here, and it is what we should seek in our own lives, is that God saw the situation and God will be the one to intervene with the solution.

Folks, that works not only for marriage, but in all we do.

God knows the situations we face, and He will provide a way out, we need to trust in Him and obey Him!

Now when God speaks of a “**helper**” or “**helpmate**” He is not speaking of a slave or someone who was inferior to Adam, not at all.

The idea here is one of completion, Adam was not complete yet and thus, God would create someone who was suitable, someone he could share his life with.

We will see that played out as Adam names all the animals in a minute, that they had someone, but Adam did not.

VERSES 19-20

Keep in mind that Adam was not some neanderthal but probably the most brilliant man that ever lived because the effects of sin were not upon him yet.

Thus, he could give names to all the animals, birds and-so-on as God brought them before him. This was no big deal.

For me, I have a hard time remembering the name of our grandchildren!

Now we read this about Adam naming all these animals and birds and we really don't think much about it. But we should.

Think about it. Adam named all these creatures but how could he do that on day six of creation if the day was only twenty-four hours? That would be impossible, or would it?

Let me share this with you because we do need to understand that Adam did name these creatures. We are told,

There are several factors, which may not be immediately obvious to the casual reader, that need to be considered.

First, Adam did not have to go out and round up or track any of these animals. Genesis 2:19 clearly states that *God brought the animals to Adam*.

Second, although many objectors have claimed that the species Adam had to observe and name would have numbered in the millions, the actual number would almost certainly have been only a small fraction of this. . . .

There is no indication that Adam named the fish in the sea, or any other marine organisms, nor any of the insects, beetles or arachnids. In fact, of the two million known species, 98% are invertebrates, which include a variety of animals, from sponges, worms and jellyfish to mollusks and insects. The remaining 2% are vertebrates and number approximately 40,000 species.

This number is further reduced when the 25,000 marine vertebrates and four thousand amphibians are discounted, since they clearly do not fit into any of the categories of animals listed in Genesis 2:20. In addition, assuming that speciation has been an on-going occurrence since creation, the 11,000 vertebrate species in question would have most likely descended from a much smaller number of proto-species. . . . it is far more likely that Adam had to name only a couple of thousand of these proto-species - a task which could easily have been achieved in a few hours. (Assuming Adam had to name 2,500 proto-species (*genera*), and he named a single proto-species every five seconds, it would have taken him approximately three hours and 45 minutes to complete the task if we include a five-minute break every hour.)

It is important to note that God's purpose in parading all the animals before Adam was not merely so that he would give them names. It was also to reinforce the fact that he was different in kind from the rest of creation, so that none of these animals could ever serve as a physical, emotional, intellectual or spiritual companion. So God made from Adam's rib a companion who *was* suitable (Genesis 2:21-24).

So it is possible and he did name all these creatures as we have seen.

And, as Adam saw these creatures that God had created, he saw how they all had partners, except for him.

Why did God do this to Adam?

Maybe to show Adam that nothing else will satisfy, will fill that need in your life like a partner, a helpmate.

Creation is beautiful, but if there is no one to share that with, to share your life with, it will be lonely. Also, being single is not wrong, some are called to be single.

Folks don't take for granted that gift that God has given to you. Cherish the one God has brought into your life, the gift He has given you!

VERSES 21-22

Why did God put Adam to sleep to form Eve?

Some feel it was like an anesthetic effect so he would not feel it when He did this surgery.

I doubt that. It could be as simple as to get Adam out of the way so He could work!

How often do we get in the way of what God is trying to do to help Him out?

Adam did not say to God, ***“Now this woman, she needs to be so tall, weigh so much, have blonde hair, green eyes, good personality and-so-on.”***

No, he slept, and God worked and what God was creating was exceedingly abundantly above all Adam could ask or think!

God created a woman from the side of Adam, it could have been from his rib. But the idea here is that she was part of man and yet different.

Men, hear me out on this one.

His wife was taken from his side, not from his foot so he could step all over her.

She was not taken from his head so he could lord over her.

But she was taken from under his arm so he could protect her, close to his heart so he could love her!

And the Lord brought her to Adam just as I believe God does today, bringing our helpmate to us.

One more point here and that is related to another marriage and where this bride came from.

You see, the Church or the Bride of Christ came from another wound that pierced the side of the second Adam, Jesus Christ! And it was the Lord that brought us together!

VERSE 23

As Adam awakens and God presents Eve to him, he says, *“Wow!”* Okay, maybe not wow but he was pretty pleased with what God had done. He saw the oneness they had with each other and yet the differences – they completed each other they complimented each other!

VERSES 24-25

Here we see the institution of marriage established and what God had instituted here in Genesis we see how perverted man has made it. We don't even know what a marriage is any longer! Well, we do if we believe what God has said here in Genesis!

But here we see that in marriage there is a union between a husband and a wife, male and female, not male and male or female and female. That is what God has said. We also see here that there is a separation. You become one and thus, there needs to be a separation from parents.

Not that you disown them, but you have started a new family where your husband is the spiritual head of the family and you work and grow together, for you are one!

Many problems can arise because there is no separation, be wise and listen to what God is saying.

And this family unit is the foundation for our lives and thus, Satan attacks it and he is destroying it.

How important is the marriage relationship?

Jesus said in Matthew 19:4-6, **“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”**

Paul also quoted this verse out of Genesis back in Ephesians 5:31, **“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”**

God has glued two people together in a sense, and to pull them apart in divorce will cause splinters, rough areas, jagged edges and-so-on.

If you are not committed, if you can live without the other person, then don't get married in the first place!

You see, God instituted the marriage relationship, and He does take it very seriously.

I like what Henry Morris said regarding marriage, *“The institution of monogamous marriage, home, and family as the basic medium for the propagation of the race and the training of the young is so common to human history that people seldom pause to reflect on how or why such a custom came into being.”*

The reason is simple; God instituted the marriage relationship, one man to one woman!

And notice what Genesis 1:25 says, *“And they were both naked, the man his wife, and were not ashamed.”*

Now please don't go saying that Pastor Joe said we don't have to wear clothes, I did not say that. I did say that Adam and Eve were naked, and this was before sin entered the world and thus, they were not ashamed!

And when we think of nakedness, we think of a person not wearing any clothes.

Yes, that is what we see here, but I also think it goes beyond that. They were clothed in light but when sin entered the picture that light was gone and they were naked, they were totally open and exposed before each other and God.

Nothing was hidden, nothing was held back.

But prior to this, all was good, they loved each other just as they were, no facade, no trying to impress the other person. Oh, to live like that. They were one flesh, and they were naked, and they were not ashamed! I will deal more with this as we read on.

Also, as we read on, we will see the temptation and then the sin and from that time forward God has been working to save man from his sin and that was done as God became flesh and went to the cross of Calvary to pay in full the penalty for our sin!

GENESIS 3**VERSE 1**

Now some like to say that this Hebrew word that is used for “**serpent**” really means “*shinning one.*”

No, it really means serpent. And this serpent is none other than Satan, who was Lucifer before he sinned, the *day star* or *shinning one!*

But make no mistake about it, the devil is a deceiver, and he does that in many different ways. One of the ways is that he looks like the shinning one, not an evil one.

Paul said that in II Corinthians 11:14-15, “**And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.**”

And here we see that the Devil inhabited this serpent, not a snake at this time.

And he used this serpent as an instrument to deceive Eve.

We are told in II Corinthians 11:3, “**But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**”

Now some like to say that this is an allegory, it is a story to illustrate a point, but it never really happened. I disagree, I believe this happened or how did sin enter this world? Why do we then need a Savior?

You see, to start to doubt God’s Word the Devil gets us to doubt sin and if we are not sinners, then we do not need a Savior!

But we are sinners and we do need a Savior.

Also, the reason I said this is Satan is because we are told in Revelation 12:9, **“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”**

And in Revelation 20:2 we are told, **“He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”**

I think that is pretty clear, this serpent was Satan!

What I want you to notice here in Genesis 3:1 is that Satan attacks God’s Word and this is the first of his attacks and an important starting point for him.

Look at what he said to Eve, **“... ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’”** Genesis 3:1.

He has not changed his ways since he tempted Eve; it is the same old lies. He still tries to get people to doubt God’s Word, why?

In John 8:31-32 we are told, **“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”**

You see, in Christ, following His Word, which is truth, we have been set free from the bondage of sin and lies the Devil tries to ensnare us with.

But when you begin to doubt God’s Word, don’t believe God’s Word, the Devil has you in his sites and he is ready to take you down with his lies as he is doing here with Eve!

One writer put it like this, ***“And for the first time the most deadly spiritual force was covertly smuggled into the world - what was it? The assumption that what God has said is subject to human judgment.”*** How true that is, and it continues on today.

Here's the thing. If someone is telling you "*Has God really said . . .*" run away, turn off the radio or the television, don't listen to them!

For Eve, this will cause her to sin.

Now think about this for a minute. She lived in a perfect environment – the Garden of Eden. She had perfect parents – God. And yet, as we will see, she will blame the serpent and not take the responsibility for her own actions.

We do the same today. When people sin, they like to blame their parents, their environment for causing them to do it – **WRONG!**

Again, we see here the perfect parent – **GOD!**

They were in the perfect environment – **THE GARDEN OF EDEN!**

And yet, we see sin come forth.

Folks, before God can forgive you of your sins, you must first come to Him and admit that you are a sinner, and you are responsible for your actions!

Let's read on and see how this interaction with the devil proceeds.

VERSES 2-3

Here is Eve's first mistake and ours many times – carrying on a discussion with the Devil, who is a liar!

What we need to do is what Jude tells us and tell the Devil when he tries to mess with us, "**. . . 'The Lord rebuke you!'**" Jude 9. End of conversation!

Not only did Eve have this conversation with the Devil, but Eve also added to God's Word.

What did she add?

She added that they were not to touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That is not what God had said, she could have touched the tree, but she said that God forbid them from doing that!

That is a very dangerous thing to do, adding the doctrines of men to the Word of God!

It is as Jesus said in Matthew 15:7-9, **“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”**

And now, at this point, the Devil, Satan knows he has got her in the cross hairs, right where he wants her, and he is going to drop the subtleness and he will attack God directly!

VERSES 4-5

Once Satan has a foothold in your life, look out. Without that door being opened up to him, he can't do anything. But once he gets his foot in the door, look out. Adam and Eve, and humans throughout history don't fall all of a sudden, there must be a foundation that is first laid and then look out!

That is why we are called to never give the devil an opportunity in our lives, don't give him a place to work in our life. (Ephesians 4:27)

And look at this progression here.

First of all we see that Satan tells her that she can't trust God's Word. He does not have your best interest in mind.

And then he tells her that you won't die if you do this!

You see, Satan not only attacked God's Word, but got Eve to doubt the consequences of her rebellion against God, "... 'You will not surely die.' ..." Genesis 3:4.

And we see that played out over and over again today. That you can live your life the way you please, no boundaries. You don't need God's rules, His Laws to live by because there will not be a day of reckoning that is coming and thus, there are no consequences to our actions, our behavior, what we do! How wrong that is!

Satan loves to get us to see sin as good and not as evil and many times we buy into his lies and then find out when it is too late that we have been deceived!

Also, since many don't see the consequences of sin come quickly, for God is gracious, they negate the consequences for their actions, and that is a very dangerous thing to do.

Another thing that Satan does is to get Eve to believe that God was some kind of kill joy, holding something good back from her, "... For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4.

In other words, you are God and God is keeping that from you! This truly is the heart of the New Age movement, which is not new and is a lie of the Devil, you can be a god!

This lie that is found in many non-Christian faiths has now crept into the Christian church. We see it in many health, wealth and prosperity churches and we are seeing it in the Emergent Church movement!

And I will just tell you, it is a doctrine of demons and not of God.

Now that may offend some of you. Maybe you think I am being judgmental.

But folks, it is wrong; it is not of God, not because I have said it, but because God has said it.

In Isaiah 44:6 we are told, **“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.’”**

There is no other God’s, and thus, this lie that is still around needs to be put to rest! It is not true, it is of the Devil, it is a doctrine of demons! (I Timothy 4:1)

VERSE 6

Now this temptation for Eve is also given to us in the New Testament. John describes what Eve was tempted with. He tells us in I John 2:16, **“For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world.”**

First, it was good for food – *the lust of the flesh*.

Second, it was pleasant to the eyes – *the lust of the eyes*.

And third, it was desirable to make one wise – *the pride of life*.

Again, Satan has not changed his strategy, he doesn’t need to. May we be wise and not fall prey to his wicked schemes that are only there to bring us down, to destroy us!

And please understand that in her mind, Eve thought she was doing good, she was doing what was right. Even though what she was doing was contrary to what God had said.

Paul, in I Timothy 2:14 tells us, **“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”**

Then why was she wrong?

Because she did not listen to the Words of God, she doubted what God said in regard to the consequences of her actions, and she thought God was holding good back from her.

You see, just because she was deceived does not negate her responsibility, she had the information to do what was right, she just did not use it!

She should have fled from the Devil and into the arms of God. She should have run from this conversation to hear the voice of God! God does provide a way of escape; it is through Him and in Him! And we need to remember that the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit is our weapon to use against these attacks by Satan. Not our feelings or what we think is right or what someone else thinks is right! (Ephesians 6:17, II Corinthians 10:3-4)

Make no mistake about it, Adam was responsible for the fall of man, he was the spiritual leader of the family, and he did not do his job. And thus, because of Adam we see introduced into this world, both spiritual and physical death. Paul, in Romans 5:12 tells us, **“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”**

And in I Corinthians 15:22 Paul tells us, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”**

VERSE 7

God’s perfect creation, everything was very good. No sin, no evil at all. But God gave man a freewill to choose between what God had said or to ignore what God had said.

And Adam chose to partake of this fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He knew what he was doing.

And immediately after disobeying what God had said, they knew they were naked!

Barnhouse gives us this insight into what they were clothed with prior to their sin. He wrote, *“It is more than probable that they were clothed in light before the fall, and when they sinned the light went out.”*

The Scriptures do speak of light being a garment for righteousness.

We see this in Psalm 104:1-2 in speaking of God, **“Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.”**

And when Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration, we are told in Matthew 17:2, **“and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”**

So it is possible that Adam and Eve, when it speaks of them being naked, were clothed in God’s glorious light, which spoke of their righteousness.

Thus, when they sinned that righteousness was gone, and thus, the light of righteousness that covered them was also gone!

And that is what Jesus has done for us, we are clothed in His righteousness, not our own, which are like filthy rags before Him. Paul said that in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

Jesus took all of our sins and in exchange, He gave to us His righteousness and thus, as God the Father looks at us, in a positional sense, He sees us as white as snow, covered in the righteousness of Christ!

Also, in Isaiah 61:10 we are told, **“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”**

Think about a bride on her wedding day. She is dressed all in white, speaking of righteousness, purity. That is the picture that Isaiah is painting for us. That God has clothed us with His righteousness as a bride.

Apart from Christ, the garments we are wearing are filthy, dirty, and the only cleansing of those garments is Christ!

So in response to their nakedness, them seeing themselves as they really are, they gather some fig leaves and sewed them together and made clothes to cover their nakedness. No longer were they covered in the light of God but now by the efforts of man to cover his sin!

And thus, we see here the first man-made religion. I think the church they went to was called – ***The First Church of the Fig Leaves!***

It did not catch on, a little to itchy, but the concept did.

Again, what they did was try to cover their sin, atone for their sin with fig leaves.

I can't imagine how they felt every time they tried to walk, it was not comfortable, but maybe they thought that was an added benefit, to suffer for their sin.

And people continue to do that today!

In Christianity, self-flagellation is practiced in the context of the doctrine of the mortification of the flesh and is seen as a spiritual discipline. We see people put on crosses during that time of year when we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. They will afflict pain upon themselves. They will do all kinds of things and it is used as a form of penance. They feel that they are sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, atoning for their sin.

Just as what Adam and Eve did, trying to cover their sin or to atone for their sin, it does not work. We can't take away our sin, it must be paid for, and it was at the cross of Calvary by Jesus. And thus, the only solution for our sins is Jesus!

Now as we read this, we also see that when Adam and Eve saw their nakedness, they felt terrible about it.

That is important for us, as we will see, that we feel bad about doing wrong, we have a conscience that makes us have a sense of guilt or shame, remorse.

They knew the difference between good and evil and that means that when they sinned, their conscience let them know it.

How does evolution explain a conscience?

Let me share this with you to show you that they really have no idea and the foolishness of their answers. We are told,

Ever since Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, evolution has been the grand unifying theory of biology. Yet one of our most important biological traits, consciousness, is rarely studied in the context of evolution.

Theories of consciousness come from religion, from philosophy, from cognitive science, but not so much from evolutionary biology. Maybe that's why so few theories have been able to tackle basic questions such as: What is the adaptive value of consciousness? When did it evolve and what animals have it?

The Attention Schema Theory (AST), developed over the past five years, may be able to answer those questions. The theory suggests that consciousness arises as a solution to one of the most fundamental problems facing any nervous system: Too much information constantly flows in to be fully processed.

The brain evolved increasingly sophisticated mechanisms for deeply processing a few select signals at the expense of others, and in the AST, consciousness is the ultimate result of that evolutionary sequence.

If the theory is right - *and that has yet to be determined* - then consciousness evolved gradually over the past half billion years and is present in a range of vertebrate species.

- <https://bit.ly/3EQySwg>

So too much information told us what is right and what is wrong? I guess I don't get it, but I do get what God has given to us, a conscience to help us to know what is right and what is wrong!

The Bible says that God has written His Laws upon our hearts and then He gave us this warning system that will sound when we break the Laws of God! (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

And let's face it, when we break the Law of God, we don't feel good, we feel guilt, we are uncomfortable, we are anxious.

And thus, what some do is go to a therapist to make them feel better about doing wrong, they may even give you drugs to trick your mind into thinking you are doing good when you are not doing good, but evil!

Others sear their conscience like a hot iron and thus, they can do more and more evil and not feel anything, they are insensitive to the warning system that God had given them. (We see this in I Timothy 4:2)

The result of hardening your heart to the things of God, searing your conscience with a hot iron is what Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:1-5, **“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”**

And the only way you can do these things, like I have said, is by turning off your conscience, but it is not a good thing to do!

Let me show you what I mean.

In 1984, an Avianca Airlines jet crashed into the mountains in Spain.

One of the first things crash investigators do is try to locate the **“black box”** cockpit recorder, which, by the way, is not black but usually a bright yellow or orange, which makes it easier to spot.

When the box was found and the recording was played, the investigators made an eerie discovery. The recorder revealed that several minutes before the crash, a computer-synthesized voice from the plane's automatic warning system repeatedly told the flight crew in English, ***"Pull up, Pull up."***

The pilot must have thought the system was malfunctioning.

The black box recorded his voice saying, ***"Shut up, Gringo,"*** and then he apparently switched the system off.

Minutes later, the plane plowed into the side of a mountain and everyone on board died.

This is a tragic story, yet it's a perfect example of the way many people today are treating the warning messages that God has given to us in His Word.

What they are saying to God is basically, ***"Shut up, Gringo!"*** But there are consequences when we respond like that as we saw in this story!

And the way you switch off your conscience is to ignore it and justify why what you're doing is not wrong, I mean everybody's doing it and it feels so right so it can't be wrong.

And then comes the - ***CRASH!***

As I close this evening, Spurgeon said this, which will lead us to our study next time, ***"Their hearts must have been sorely perplexed within them while they were waiting to see what God would do to them as a punishment for the great sin they had committed."***

We will find out that there are consequences to their sin and our sin next time.