



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- Perspective - There has never been a day in your life that you did not face the effects of sin – not a single one.
- Sin has caused what we might call a “new norm” for the human race despite the fact that none of us have ever experienced God’s norm of “no sin”.
- As I said last week, it’s a big deal and one that we will examine further today.



In the Beginning

What kept Jesus free of a sin nature if
He was a human as you and I?



In the Beginning

- The foundation of this doctrine is that when Adam sinned, we all fell “IN” in Adam in the same way Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek before he was ever born because he was “IN” Abraham. (see Hebrews 7)
- Rom 5:12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, *so death spread to everyone*, for everyone sinned.
- Note that our inherited sin problem comes from Adam and not from Eve – Eve was deceived, Adam sinned with full awareness.



In the Beginning

- Gen 3:14 Then the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. 15 ***And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring.*** He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”
- Notice that the crushing of Satan is going to be between himself and the seed (genetic material) of the woman.



In the Beginning

- So why is there no mention of Adam in Genesis 3:15?
- Because the One God is foretelling of His Son, Jesus Christ, who would not be a son of Adam like the rest of us. (federalism)
- Luke 1:31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 **He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High.** The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. 33 And He will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” 34 Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” 35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, **and He will be called the Son of God.**



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- Again – Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek because he was “IN THE LOINS” of his father Abraham.
- He wasn’t actually born yet, and had no say in Abraham’s tithing to Melchizedek, but he was still credited with the act.
- It is the same for us being “IN THE LOINS” of Adam and when he sinned, it was credited to us.



In the Beginning

- Rom 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. 18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



In the Beginning

How much time passed between
creation and the fall?



In the Beginning

- Genesis 1 describes the first six days of this world's existence. In that time God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). He brought forth vegetation, animals, and finally, man and woman (Genesis 1:26). On the sixth day God saw that all He had made was "very good" (Genesis 1:31), and on the seventh day He rested "from all His work" and "blessed and sanctified it" (Genesis 2:2–3). These verses allow a couple of conclusions: **Adam could not have sinned on the sixth day because God declared all things good. Nor is it likely that the Fall occurred on Day Seven, for this day was consecrated.** How long, then? For several reasons, it seems likely that only a short time passed.



In the Beginning

- God created the man and woman with perfect bodies before the Fall. Some argue that this perfect state would have allowed conception to occur quickly and without hindrance, yet Eve's conception and birth of her first child, Cain, is not described until after the Fall (Genesis 4:1). One may speculate that, had much time elapsed between Creation and the Fall, the woman would have conceived children before falling victim to Satan's devices. Based on his pattern elsewhere, we would expect that the Great Deceiver probably wasted little time before seizing an opportunity to question and distort God's words.



In the Beginning

- Since God declared all things good in Genesis 1:31, Satan's rebellion probably occurred after the sixth day and certainly before the events of Genesis 3. Just as he challenged God's authority in heaven, he also challenged the authority of God's words on earth, and led the woman to doubt and disobey her Creator. Surely Satan sought to undermine God's work as early as possible, before man had time to grow in trust and obedience toward God. (www.answersingenesis.com)



In the Beginning

The Fall of Man



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” 2 “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. 3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’” 4 “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. 5 “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”



In the Beginning

- I want to assert from the start that Genesis 3 is God's eyewitness, historical account of the most destructive event in all of human history.
- All you need to do is enter "Is Genesis 3 Allegory?" into your web browser and you will find plenty of writings asserting that Genesis 3 is not history, but allegory.
- And what this proves, as I shall point out over the next two classes, is that the enemy's attacks on God never change much.



Genesis Chapter 3: The Allegory of the Serpent Ego

www.spiritofthescriture.com/id3393-genesis-chapter-3-the-allegory... ▼

Imagine a toddler being told by his parents that he can't eat candy. Then when the parents leave, another adult approaches that toddler and whips out a mouth-watering rainbow colored lollipop and flashes it in front of the poor innocent child's eyes.

Genesis As Allegory | My Jewish Learning

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/genesis-as-allegory> ▼

Genesis 1 describes the creation of the world in six days. The second account of creation is the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2). Several other accounts are found in poetic form in ...

Allegorical interpretations of Genesis - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegorical_interpretations_of_Genesis ▼

< Overview Contents Interpretation Ancient Christian interpretations Cor >

Allegorical interpretations of Genesis are readings of the biblical Book of Genesis that treat elements of the narrative as symbols or types, rather than viewing them literally as historical events. Either way, Genesis is canonical scripture for Judaism and most sects of Christianity, and believers generally regard it as being of spiritual significance. The opening chapter of Genesis tells a story of God's creation of the universe and humankind as being accomplished over the course of six succes

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Is Genesis allegory poetry - creation.com

<https://creation.com/is-genesis-allegory-poetry> ▼

Genesis is neither allegory nor poetry, but God's historic record of how, through Adam and Eve, sin entered the world that God created.



In the Beginning

- What, at the time was totally obvious, the entrance of sin into the race, eventually became so commonplace that many even deny that it is a “thing”.
- In our day, sin is so common that many don't even think of it as “thing” – it just is.
- Most never use the word, never think much about it, and some even spend energy suppressing the truth about it.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3 begins with a walking, talking serpent – something we've never seen, and perhaps something Eve had never seen.
- A walking serpent? This is inferred because we find later on in the chapter that God's judgment on the serpent was that it would have to crawl from that point on.
- We can debate as to whether the serpent walked or not, but what is indisputable is that it talked.



In the Beginning

- Why would Eve not be alarmed by the walking, talking serpent?
- Because it's the Garden of Eden where there was nothing to be alarmed about.
- There was no sin, no deceit, and nothing to rouse our suspicions – everything was very good.
- In retrospect, to encounter a talking serpent *who was questioning the goodness of God* should have set off alarms.



In the Beginning

- “The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made.” – some believe that “the serpent” should have been rendered “this serpent”.
- Why is “this serpent” so shrewd, so intelligent? Because “this serpent” is possessed by Lucifer, son of the morning, also known as Satan.
- Our enemy is shrewd, and he is always deceptive - **2nd Cor 11:14 But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**



In the Beginning

- Rev 12:7 Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. 8 And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. 9 *This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan*, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.
- The events of Genesis 3 occur sometime after the event described in Revelation 12 – rebellion, sin, expulsion and then Satan’s work as solicitor of sin begins.



In the Beginning

- Now this solicitor of sin, Satan, is very much like the politician that can't afford to tell you his real agenda for fear he will lose your vote, so he employs a strategy of deception.
- John 8:44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; **for he is a liar and the father of lies.**
- Satan is devoid of character and morals so he is free to employ a strategy that is not bound by truth – in fact, truth would necessarily bind his strategy.



In the Beginning

- Satan's strategy calls for an effort to question two things that are above questioning – the character of God and the Word of God.
- Gen 3:1 “One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”
- His first move is to ask Eve a question that might have seemed like an innocent and curious inquiry. “Eve, is it true that you are not allowed to eat from any of the trees?”



In the Beginning

- At this point Satan has isolated Eve and he asks a question he knew she could handle – this puts Eve in a position of provider of information.
- This lowly serpent is simply curious about what God had said and she will help him to understand – Eve is probably disarmed at this point thinking the serpent merely wants to understand what God said.
- But what the enemy has done is to begin a conversation with one he viewed as his prey.



In the Beginning

- The serpent's question could not have been seen as anything more than just a “seeking to understand” kind of inquiry.
- He didn't begin by questioning God, or the character of God – that probably would not have worked because he would have exposed his true intentions to be so bold at the start.
- He will get there, but he is a subtle and powerful adversary who just wants to open a dialogue with his target. Once you start debating with the enemy, you should exit quickly.



In the Beginning

- Applications – once you've determined you are speaking with one who has no interest in education or illumination; stop!
- Matt 7:6 "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you."
- Proverbs 26:8 Honoring a fool is as foolish as tying a stone to a slingshot.



In the Beginning

- Let's back up one step and look at the text closely, "One day he asked the woman" - so why does the enemy select the woman for his first attack on humanity?
- And why does he approach her when she is isolated from Adam?
- 1st Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, *live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman;* and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.



In the Beginning

- In our day, I feel obligated to state the obvious for fear that women may take offense when we read, “*as with someone weaker, since she is a woman*”.
- This is not an indictment of the intelligence or abilities of women – it is not to say that women are inferior, but it is to state the obvious, “women are weaker than men”.
- Despite what the progressive left in our culture may say, men and women are different way beyond the physical.



In the Beginning

- Women were designed genetically by God to be more sensitive, caring, nurturing, and tender than men. (duh)
- Women were not designed to be the warrior and protector of the family – that is how God designed and wired men to be.
- Women are naturally more trusting and more caring because those qualities will help her in her role of being a wife and a mother.



In the Beginning

- On the whole women are less cynical and less skeptical of others and far more willing to assume good intentions on the part of others.
- I am not claiming these qualities are in abundance in all women, but I am claiming women excel over men in these.
- So why did Satan choose Eve for his first attack? Probably because he thought his chances for success were greater with Eve than with Adam.



In the Beginning

- Now since it is 2018 and western culture wants to proclaim that men and women are not different beyond our sex organs, if Satan's selection of Eve had nothing to do with being female, then could it have been just happenstance?
- I might be able to entertain that approach were it not for what we've already been told about this serpent.
- Genesis 3:1 "The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made."



In the Beginning

- Now for the kicker – whatever you may believe, or not believe about if, or why Satan selected Eve as his target is not all that important.
- More damning than Eve falling for the enemy's deception is Adam's blatant, eyes wide open, choice to sin because he could.
- This too seems to be biology – that men possess a greater propensity to take unnecessary risks and weigh them later.



Questions

