**SDG Lesson#4**

**Genesis Chapter 3**

Chapters one and two have introduced us to the Almighty Creator who, by the power of His Word, brought the entire universe into existence. Given the enormity of the universe, the complexity of life and the phenomenal balance exhibited throughout the cosmos, this God can only be described with terms like:

* Omnipotent – Omni – All; Potent – Powerful
* Omniscience – Omni – All; Science – Knowledge
* Omnipresent – Omni – All’ Present – Present

The doctrine of Creation demands a God who is all-powerful, all knowing and present everywhere to create and put all creation into this intricate balance.

Chapter three will now focus on the epitome or kingpin of that which was created, man. Together with chapters one and two, the first three chapters of Genesis lay the foundation for the rest of the Bible. The Good News of the Gospel has its roots in these three chapters. Ravi Zacharias, the great Christian Apologist, has written a book titled, “Why Jesus?” The answer to that question is found in Genesis chapter three. Welcome to one of the most important chapters of the Bible. Take your time with this study and consider how it shapes your faith. Consider what it says about God and Man, life and death, sin and salvation. Ready? Here we go!

1. “Now the serpent…” What four things do we learn about the serpent?

The serpent was:

1. More crafty.
2. A beast of the field.
3. Created by God.
4. Able to speak.

2. What else can we learn about this serpent? (Revelation 12:9 & 20:2)

In Christ’s revelation to John, He identifies the serpent as Satan or the devil.

3. What is meant by the word “crafty?” (2nd Corinthians 11:3)

Crafty means cunning or deceitful. There is cognitive decision to twist truth and deceive.

4. The serpent spoke to Eve. Consider what your response would be if an animal spoke to you? Would you be shocked? Wary? Or simply check yourself into a spiritual hospital? Yet, Eve does not seem to exhibit any of the feelings or thoughts. How can we explain this? (Genesis 1:31 and logic – There are three potential answers)

The first explanation is that God had created everything and it was good. So, an animal speaking was just another part of a beautiful creation. Just as we continue to learn more and more about God’s creation, Adam and Eve probably experienced such revelations on a daily basis.

The second explanation is that some of the animals were originally created with the ability to speak.

The third explanation is that Adam and Eve were able to understand the language of the animals.

Finally, it could be a combination of #1 and #2 or #3. Eve had no reason to not initially trust the serpent; it was part of God’s perfect creation.

5. What was the first indication that the serpent was opposed to God and His will or way? (vs. 1)

God had instituted the man as the head of the household and the woman as the helper fit for him. According to the order God had created, the serpent should have spoken to Adam and not to Eve.

6. What did the serpent ask Eve? How is this crafty?

The serpent asked, “Did God actually say, you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?” The serpent intentionally misquotes God. God had said they could eat of any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The serpent’s question implies that God had forbidden eating from any or all of the trees in the garden. This would open a conversation with Eve. She would naturally want to correct the poor serpent who hadn’t understood what God had really said.

7. What was the second indication? (vs. 1)

Satan didn’t refer to Yahweh (LORD), he used the more generic Elohim.

8. Compare Eve’s response to the serpent in verses two and three to what God said in 2:16-17. What do you notice?

Eve was quite accurate in her response. However, she added that they couldn’t touch it lest they die.

9. An argument can be made that Eve’s first and biggest mistake was to actually respond to the serpent’s question. What was wrong with responding to the serpent’s question? (Ephesians 4:27)

Eve gave the serpent an opportunity to lead her astray.

10. How did the serpent respond to Eve’s explanation? (vs. 4b) Why?

The serpent responded with a statement that was in total opposition to what God said. He lied to Eve. Jesus points out that Satan is the Father of lies and lying is his natural character or native language.

11. Often times we diminish the significance of failing to tell truth by saying, “it is a white lie” or “it is insignificant.” Read Proverbs 6:16-19. What does this passage say about lying?

Both a lying tongue and a false witness are listed as two of the things that are an abomination before the Lord.

12. Satan lied and then appealed to a basic human emotion, pride. How did he use this to entice Eve to sin?

Satan told her that God didn’t want them to eat of the tree because if they did, they would become like Him.

13. Satan’s temptation is rather ironic. He said, “…you will be like God.” Read Genesis 1:27 and note the irony.

Satan tempted Eve with something she already had. Both she and Adam had been created in God’s image. In fact, they were given authority over all the earth, including the serpent. They already were like Him, but Eve wanted more. With this, greed was born.

14. After hearing the serpent’s lie Eve looked at the tree. What did she see?

Eve saw that the tree:

1. Was good for food.
2. Was delightful to the eye – it looked good.
3. Was desired for the wisdom it would bring.

Note: Eve noticed three desirable traits. Again there is a certain irony. Three is the number of God. She saw it as a godly tree.

15. A careful reading of verse six exposes us to a whole new layer of the account. Who else was present when this discussion took place?

In verse six we see that Adam was with Eve.

16. Eve gave Satan an opportunity by listening to him. She continued that opportunity by engaging in a discussion with him. What were the final two steps of her sin?

1) Eve took the fruit.

2) Eve ate the fruit.

17. Eve ate the fruit. What didn’t happen? What did happen?

Eve didn’t immediately die, and she offered the fruit to Adam. Perhaps Adam ate because he saw that Eve didn’t die.

18. What was Adam and Eve’s first reaction to the effect of eating the fruit? Why?

Their eyes were opened, they saw that they were naked and they tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. In 2:25 it is noted that they were naked and were not ashamed. With sin comes shame. Shame because they hadn’t followed God’s command. Perhaps shame because they had lustful hearts or emotions. It is hard to say what they experienced. They went from total purity and innocence to impurity and shame.

19. Why did Adam and Eve try to hide from the Lord? (Hebrew 10:31)

They knew they had sinned. It is a fearful thing to be found in the hands of the living God. With the Lord walking in the garden there was no doubt He was alive! It could be said that this was the first Judgment Day. Adam & Eve had to face The Just and Living God.

20. The dialog between God and Adam and Eve is most interesting. What was God’s first question?

“Where are you?”

21. Did Adam answer God or respond to God? Explain the difference.

Adam responded to God’s question, but he didn’t answer it. If he had answered God’s question, he would have told God where he was.

22. Think back to the description of the serpent. What trait of the serpent does Adam display?

Like the serpent, Adam is now crafty or deceptive.

23. What was God’s second and third questions?

2nd) Who told you that you were naked?

3rd) Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

24. What was Adam’s initial response to these questions? Why?

Knowing that he had done wrong, Adam blamed his transgression on Eve and ultimately on God because God had given Eve to him. We sin is beginning to run rampart. Instead of confessing Adam blames

25. What was God’s fourth question? How did Eve respond to it?

God asked, “What is this that you have done?” Like Adam, Eve doesn’t take responsibility. Instead, she blames the serpent.

**Doctrinal Study: Original Sin**

**Original Sin is a theological term that refers to:**

 **1) The Sin that Adam Committed.**

 **2) A consequence of this first sin. As a result of Adam’s sin we are born into sin. It is a hereditary stain that we have**

 **inherited and continue to pass on.**

**This is why King David wrote, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” (Psalm 51:5) David realized that we are born with a heart inclined toward sin. Original sin means that sinfulness marks every person from the point of conception.**

26. Not only does Genesis three introduce us to the concept and reality of original sin, it also reveals that God is a God of Justice and Judgment. After hearing Adam and Eve’s sinful defense He pronounces His Judgment. The first Judgment is against the serpent. What is the first penalty or punishment put on the serpent?

No longer would the serpent be a beast of the field. It would now be a snake that slithered on its belly. It was cursed to the lowest position.

27. Verse 15 is one of the most significant verses in the Bible. We have seen that God is the Omnipotent, Omniscience, and Omnipresent Creator. We have seen that He is a God of Justice and Judgment. With verse 15 we are shown that while God is Just and Judgmental, He is also a God of Mercy, Grace, and Love. How is God’s Judgment seen? His Mercy?

God continues His curse of the serpent. Yet, it now becomes a curse on Satan who had used the serpent. There would be enmity between the serpent and the woman. There would be enmity between Satan and his offspring of sin and the Messianic offspring of the woman. Satan and his work would be destroyed.

“**He** shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise **his** heel.”

28. This is considered to be the first promise of the Messiah. Immediately before this God mentioned “her offspring,” Eve is the mother of all mankind. Her offspring is numbered in the billions or trillions. How did God shift this numerical value in the second half of verse 15? God speaks in the singular when He say, “He” and “His.”

29. When we hear the word bruise we think of a purple mark left by a blunt force trauma. The Hebrew used in this situation speaks of a serious, terrible, potentially fatal blow. Both Satan and the promised singular offspring of the woman, the Messiah, would experience such a blow. What is the difference between the two?

Satan will be struck in the head. Such a blow is guaranteed death. The Messiah will be struck in the heel. Such a blow while potentially fatal will not destroy Him. We must be careful that we don’t diminish what Christ endured on the cross by thinking of it as a bruise. It was a fatal blow! However, He is God’s Son and able to overcome it.

30. The Judgment on Eve is three-fold. What are the three curses? What do they mean?

1. There would be pain in childbirth.

2. Women’s desire will be for their husband. They will want or desire to have the leadership that God had given Adam/man.

3. The perfect relationship of mutual respect will be gone. Adam/man will now want to exert power over Eve/woman instead of lovingly caring and leading.

31. What was God’s judgment on Adam?

Adam’s work would no longer be a joy. It would be hard and toilsome. All the earth was now cursed and would oppose Adam’s work. Ultimately, Adam would die and return to the ground he was made from.

32. Adam was originally given the job of naming all the creatures God had made. He even named his helper “Woman.” In verse 20 what name does he give the woman? Why?

Adam names the woman Eve which means “life-giver.”

**Interpretation Note: Eve and the garments**

**Some Bible scholars see a Messianic symbol in Eve’s name and the clothes that God provided for Adam & Eve. Eve, the “life-giver,” was going to be the first mother in the line of mothers to the Messiah. The garments made to cover Adam & Eve were made of animal skins. These could be seen as the first incomplete sacrifice to cover the sin of man. If nothing else it does parallel the Old Testament system for animal sacrifice and the Atoning Sacrifice of the Lamb of God in the Gospel.**

33. What was God’s final act of judgment in response to Adam and Eve’s sin? Why?

God removed them from the garden and placed the cherubim there to guard the tree of life. They had sinned and there had to be payment. They would die.