



Genesis 3:1-7

SIN

ACCORDING TO GOD

The third chapter in Genesis is one of the most important in all the Word of God. What has often been said of Genesis as a whole is particularly true of this chapter. It is the “seed-plot of the Bible.” Here are the foundations upon which rest many of the cardinal doctrines of our faith... Here we find the divine explanation of the present fallen and ruined condition of our human race. Here we learn of the subtle devices of our enemy, the Devil... Here we discover the spiritual effects of sin—man seeking to flee from God. Here we discern the attitude of God toward the guilty sinner. Here we mark the universal tendency of human nature to cover its own moral shame by a device of man’s own handiwork. Here we are taught of the gracious provision which God has made to meet our great need.

—A. W. Pink (1886-1952)

The first two chapters of Genesis introduce us to God and to His creation of the heavens, the earth, the animals, and humanity...us! We are unique in all of God’s creation, made in His image, crowned with glory and honor, designed to rule over the earth as His representatives. We are given both the responsibility to obey God and the opportunity to know Him, love Him, and enjoy Him forever. Genesis 3 tells us what went wrong.

WE HAVE A GOOD _____ WHO LOVES US.

- God is _____ (Ex. 33:19; 34:6; 1 Chron. 16:34; Ps. 34:8; 52:1; 69:16; 84:11; 86:5; 100:5; 106:1; 107:1,9; 118:1, 29; 135:3; 136:1; Jer. 33:11; Mark 10:18).
- God’s creation is very _____ (Gen. 1:31).
- God’s commands are for our _____ (Deut. 6:24).
- God places the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden because only a relationship built on love and trust is truly _____ in God’s eyes (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:36-38).

WE HAVE A DECEPTIVE _____ WHO SEEKS TO DESTROY US (cf. John 8:44; 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8).

- The serpent is described as _____.
- The serpent is identified as _____ (Rev. 12:9; cf. Isaiah 14:3-15; Ezek. 28:11-19; 2 Cor. 11:3, 14b; Rev. 20:2).

This is the true, genuine character of God; he is good, he is goodness, good in his very essence, good in the highest degree, possessing whatsoever is comely, excellent, desirable. ...The whole catalog of mercy, grace, longsuffering, abundance of truth, is summed up in this one word. All are streams from this fountain; he could be none of this, were he not first good.

—Stephen Charnock (1628-80)

Crafty. Hebrew, *arum*, “subtle, shrewd.” Related to Heb., *arom*, “naked; to expose or lay bare.”

The serpent stood erect like a reed, and it had legs.

—Hoshaiah Rabbah (~AD 200)

On that day the mouth of all the beasts and cattle and birds and whatever walked or moved was stopped from speaking because all of them used to speak to one another with one speech and one language. —Jubilees 3:28 (~150 BC)

The tempter was Satan who possessed and controlled a literal snake. Temptation came to Eve disguised, unexpectedly, and from a subordinate, as is still often true.

—Thomas Constable

THE DECEPTIVE STRATEGY OF THE SERPENT

Anyone you forgive, I also forgive... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.
—2 Corinthians 2:10a, 11



D _____ God's Word and His goodness.

E _____ the consequences of sin.

A _____ to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (cf. Matt. 4:1-11; 1 John 2:16).

T _____ the truth with half-truths.

H _____ a person in an area of vulnerability.

She saw... she took... she ate... she gave... he ate... (3:6)

WE HAVE A _____ PROBLEM THAT SEPARATES US FROM GOD AND ENSLAVES US TO SIN.

- Eve gave in to spiritual _____ (1 Tim. 2:14).
- Adam chose spiritual _____ (Rom. 5:12-21).
- We all are born into spiritual _____ (Eph. 2:1-3).
- We all need a spiritual _____ (Eph. 2:4-10)!

Satan's first words end in a question mark designed to cast doubt on God's veracity. "Did God really say?" This is the first question mark in the Bible. ...Satan changes this positive invitation to eat of every tree (with only one exception) into a negative prohibition designed to cast doubt on God's goodness.

—James Montgomery Boice

Don't put a question mark where God has put a period.

—Haddon Robinson

Satan, like a fisher, baits his hook according to the appetite of the fish. —Thomas Adams (1583-1652)

With remarkable brevity, the fatal steps are described in a series of eleven consecutive clauses that suggest the rapidity of the action.

—Gordon J. Wenham

There is a half-truth here. Satan's approach has often taken that form ever since. It is true that Eve is going to learn something. If she chooses to disobey and to rebel, she will have what she couldn't have otherwise—an experiential knowledge of evil and its results. So in a way Satan is telling her the truth. But what a useless, horrible knowledge! —Francis Schaeffer

The temptation once yielded to gains power. The crack in the embankment which lets a drop or two ooze through is soon a hole which lets out a flood.

—Alexander MacLaren

A thorough knowledge of the Word of God and an unwavering trust in the goodness of God are absolutely essential for spiritual victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

—Allen Ross