
Study 3 – The First Sin

In Genesis 1:1-2:3, we have seen God is powerful, purposeful, orderly and wise. The world was 'very good'. Man was made in God's image to govern and cultivate the earth in God's name. In chapter two the bible lists the details of how God provides for mankind and giving us responsibility, freedom and limit. Man's relationships with God, nature and other people are harmonious and fulfilling. Contrary to Genesis 1 & 2, our world today is full of violence, death and decay. Genesis 3 tells us how.

Read Genesis 3:1-13

1. Compare what the serpent said to the woman (Genesis 3:1) with what God has said (Genesis 2:16-17), what can you tell about the snake's character?
2. Compare the woman's reply (Genesis 3:2-3) with God's words (Genesis 2:9, 16-17), what can you say about the woman's attitude towards God's command? How has she been influenced by the serpent?
3. The serpent is now more direct (Genesis 3:4-5). What statement does he make? Is this statement true (cf. Genesis 2:22-24)?
4. What reasons does the woman weigh before sinning? What similar temptations may a modern person encounter? How should we overcome them?
5. What follows immediately after they consumed the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? How have their relationships towards themselves, each other and God changed (Genesis 3:7-13)?
6. In your own words, explain what mistakes man has made. Have any of these led you to disobey God's commands?
7. In this passage, how does God respond to Adam and Eve? What can you tell about God's character? How can this bring comfort to you?