

THE FALL

Genesis 3:6-13

INTRODUCTION

- In 1972, Miss Vesna Vulović fell 10,160 metres (33,333 feet) from an exploded aircraft and survived, giving her the record of the highest fall survived without a parachute
- Today we are studying another person's fall – this fall was from a much greater height, and resulted in far greater devastation
- It was not a physical fall, but a spiritual fall
- We are suffering the effects of it right now
- And many people will be suffering the effects of it for all eternity in hell
- So significant is this fall that we simply call it “The Fall”, and it is immediately understood
- The fall describes how the first man and woman, created by God in his own image and likeness, in a state of righteousness, innocence and happiness, transgressed God's prohibition and ate of the forbidden fruit, bringing them into a state of sin, guilt and misery
- *Hamartiology* is the doctrine of sin
- What is sin? “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4)
- Modern man believes he is the arbiter of what is right and wrong
- Many believe that right and wrong are decided by the majority; that if most want abortion, or gay marriage they are ‘right’;
- However, God has set forth his absolute standard of right and wrong which cannot be changed by man
- God gave man his law as the rule for man's obedience

- Man has been bestowed with an innate knowledge of good and evil, with the law being written in his heart (Romans 2:14-16)
- When we transgress God’s law, we sin
- “Sin is the great block and bar to our happiness, the procurer of all miseries to man, both here and hereafter: take away sin and nothing can hurt us: for death, temporal, spiritual, and eternal, is the wages of it.” (Bunyan)
- Our attitude towards sin is a good indicator of our spiritual condition
 - ✓ The ungodly treat sin lightly, they “make a mock at sin” (Proverbs 14:9) and “drink iniquity like water” (Job 15:16)
 - ✓ The godly abhor sin, most of all their own remaining sin (Romans 7:24)
- Here in Genesis 3 we have the account of how man, and the whole world, became corrupted and cursed by sin – it was by our father, Adam
- “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” (Romans 5:12)

I. THE CAUSE OF ADAM’S SIN

A. Eve gave the fruit to her husband

1. What precisely transpired between them is not revealed, but Eve persuaded Adam by her words – “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree” (v.17)
2. Eve, as Adam’s help meet, ought to have exhorted her husband to fear and obey the commands of God, but instead she led him into rebellion against God
3. We cannot overstate the power of human influence, for good or evil – one root of sin in one person can lead to many being defiled (Hebrews 12:15)

B. While both Adam and Eve sinned, the root of their sin is different

1. Eve was deceived by the serpent (2 Corinthians 11:3)
2. Adam was not deceived (1 Timothy 2:14)
3. He knowingly and wilfully sinned by eating the fruit
4. Paul uses this fact to teach the subordinate role of woman to the man (1 Timothy 2:9-15)
5. If Adam was not deceived, why did he then eat?
 - a. Some suggest that Adam ate the fruit out of love for his wife, who was now fallen and subject to death, choosing to join her in sin and death rather than leave her to suffer it alone
 - b. The Scripture however does not suggest this or any other mitigating motive for Adam's sin
 - c. When confronted by God, Adam did not cite his love for Eve, but rather blamed her for giving him the fruit (v.12)
 - d. Adam must bear the full responsibility of his wilful sin against God – he was created in perfect holiness with the full capacity to obey God's commands, yet he chose to sin

II. THE CHARACTER OF ADAM'S SIN

- A. Adam, by this one act, committed many sins against God
 1. He was guilty of rebellion against God (1 Samuel 15:23)
 2. He was guilty of treason against God
 - a. God was their king and they were his subjects, yet they took the devil's side.
 3. He was guilty of covetousness, desiring to be as God
 4. He was guilty of unbelief – God forbade it with threatenings, which they disregarded
 5. He was guilty of murder by bringing death upon himself and all his posterity (Romans 5:17)

6. He was guilty of pride
- B. Adam, in his sin, violated the Edenic Covenant that God made with him in Genesis 2:16-17
1. A covenant is a divine pronouncement by which God establishes a relationship involving responsibility
 2. There are eight covenants in Scripture
 - a. Edenic (Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-17)
 - b. Adamic (Genesis 3:14-19)
 - c. Noahic (Genesis 8:20-9:17)
 - d. Abrahamic (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - e. Mosaic (Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Leviticus 26:3-39)
 - f. Palestinian (Deuteronomy 30:1-10)
 - g. Davidic (2 Samuel 7:8-19; Psalms 89)
 - h. New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8)
 3. The Edenic Covenant made five requirements of Adam
 - a. To propagate the human race
 - b. To subdue the earth
 - c. To exercise dominion over the animals
 - d. To dress and keep the Garden of Eden
 - e. To abstain from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil
 4. The penalty for violating the covenant was death (2:17)

III. THE CONSEQUENCE OF ADAM'S SIN

- A. Adam and Eve brought death on themselves and all mankind
 - 1. In 2:17, God said they would die the day they ate of the tree
 - 2. It is literally, “in the day thou eatest thereof, dying, thou shalt die”
 - 3. Death is a separation, and Scripture speaks of three types of death
 - a. Spiritual death – the separation of the spirit from God – this is what happened to Adam and Eve the moment they ate from the tree (cf. Ephesians 2:1)
 - b. Physical death – the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26)
 - c. Eternal death – the final separation of the sinner from God in the lake of fire, called the second death (Revelation 20:14-15)

- B. Their conscience and heart became corrupted by sin (7)
 - 1. Their eyes were opened, even as Satan had said (v.5), but in the worst possible way – they were now cognizant of sin by their embrace of it and its bitter consequences
 - 2. Their innocence was lost, and they now saw themselves as being naked
 - 3. Far from becoming as God, who is holy, wise and powerful, they became defiled, corrupted slaves to sin (Ephesians 2:3)
 - 4. Many believe that Adam and Eve in their original state possessed a glorious light which emanated from them, similar to the angels or to the righteous in glory (Daniel 12:3), which they lost in their fall, but the text is silent on this
 - 5. Since the fall, nakedness in Scripture is always viewed negatively
 - a. God requires man to cover his nakedness, and women particularly are to take care to adorn themselves with modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9)

- b. The influence of the gospel in a society will be manifest in proper covering of the body; and the more godless a society becomes, the more nakedness will be accepted
 - 6. They vainly attempted to cover their sin by their own efforts – a picture of man’s inability to redeem himself by his own righteous or religious works (Isaiah 64:6)
 - 7. God himself would have to clothe them through the sacrifice of an innocent animal (v.21) – a picture of Christ’s atoning sacrifice for our redemption
- C. They became separated from God by their sin
- 1. They were afraid – they had a sense of shame, knowing they were guilty of sin against God
 - a. Guilt is the objective, legal reality that a person has committed sin, whether it is realised or not
 - b. Shame is the subjective, personal experience of knowing and feeling that guilt of sin against God
 - c. For a person to be saved, a sinner must come to a true sight and sense of their guilt before God, and this comes through the law of God (Romans 3:19-20)
 - d. Godly sorrow (shame) worketh repentance unto salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10)
 - 2. They attempted to hide from the Lord, even as men today think they can hide from the Lord
 - a. There is nowhere to hide from God (Psalm 69:5; 139:7; Matthew 10:26)
 - b. When God’s wrath is poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth, they will flee to the dens and rocks of the mountains to hide from the wrath of the Lamb, but all in vain (Revelation 6:15-17)
 - c. Rather than hide from the Lord, man is called to come unto him in repentance and humility because he is rich and mercy and ready to forgive (Psalm 86:5)

D. They had to give account to God for their sin

1. God appears in Eden, walking in the garden in the cool of the day
 - a. This description seems to indicate that this was usual, regular practice to meet with Adam and Eve and commune with them in Eden
 - b. This is the Second Person of the Godhead, the pre-incarnate Christ in human form, who is the *Logos*, the divine expression
 - c. Note that it was God who initiated this encounter, seeking out his rebellious children, judging them, and providing for their redemption
2. "Where art thou"
 - a. God, who is omniscient, never asks a question to gain knowledge to himself, but to provoke a response in man
 - b. This profound and probing question confronts Adam with the awful reality of his sin
 - c. "Where are you Adam? Look where your sin has taken you! See how far you have fallen!"
3. The subsequent questions God asks of Adam (v.11) are not concerned with the "why" (motives), but only the plain facts surrounding Adam's crime
4. Adam shifted the blame for his sin
 - a. He blamed Eve – "**The woman** whom thou gavest to be with me"
 - b. He blamed God – "The woman **whom thou gavest** to be with me"
5. Eve did not take full responsibility for her sin, but blamed the serpent

6. The proud heart of man does not want to own his sin, but rather seeks to justify it, passing the blame on others
 - a. Aaron (Exodus 32:22-24)
 - b. Saul (1 Samuel 15:15)

CONCLUSION

1. Even as God asked the question to Adam, "Where art thou?" so he asks the same question to each one of us
2. Where are you?
 - ✓ Are you yet lost in your sins, or have you come to Christ for forgiveness and life?
 - ✓ Are you living for the flesh or the Spirit? For the world or for Christ?
 - ✓ Are you on the broad way to destruction, or the narrow way to life?
3. As Adam and Eve attempted to cover their sins by their own efforts, so many today are trying to save themselves through their own self-righteous works
4. We are incapable of saving ourselves – the only means of salvation from sin, death and hell is by trusting in the blood of Jesus Christ alone for your justification before God
5. So many people are self-deceived, thinking they are righteous when they are in fact sinners (Revelation 3:17-19)
6. Have you acknowledged yourself to be a vile, wretched, hell-deserving sinner, and turned from your sin to Christ, trusting him alone for your salvation?
7. Eve influenced her husband to sin against God
8. How are you being influenced by others? For good or evil? (Proverbs 13:20; Psalm 119:63)
9. And how are you influencing others by your actions and words? For good or evil?