

# Seeing Only Jesus

## 2) The Minor Fall and the Major Lift

***'Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."***

**(Gen.3:1-5)**

- ✓ **The first thing that is said about Satan is that he is cunning. His major characteristic is deception. He came in the form of a serpent (Hebrew = shining one)**
- ✓ **God had given a command to Adam that he was not to take of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. To do so would result in death**
- ✓ **It was salvation by law - do this and live**
- ✓ **Some argue that God knew they would disobey, so shouldn't have given this law. That's like saying God knew we would sin so shouldn't give us commandments, etc.**

**First, Satan sought out the woman  
because she had close access to Adam**

**Eve was deceived; Adam was disobedient**

***'Adam was not deceived, but the woman  
being deceived, fell into transgression'***

**(1 Tim.2:14)**

***'...through one man sin entered the world,  
and death through sin'***

**(Rom.5:15)**

✓ **Then, he questioned God's Word, sowing doubt in her mind (Gen.3:1)**

✓ **Next, he denied His Word (Gen.3:4)**

✓ **Finally, he cast doubt upon God's goodness. God was keeping something good from them (Gen.3:5)**

✓ **The temptation was to be like God, which was the original sin in heaven**

✓ **Satan's primary aim is to get us to rebel against God, and come over to his side**

- ✓ **Why didn't God want Adam to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?**
- ✓ **How does God know good and evil? By relating everything to Himself. Only God can properly test good and evil**
- ✓ **God intended for us to discover the knowledge of good and evil by relating everything to Himself. But they coveted omniscience**
- ✓ **The moment man ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he began to regard himself as the point of reference for all things, and to regard himself as God**

## **What is sin?**

**It is not a weakness, a fault, a failing**

***'...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'***

**(Rom.3:23)**

***'Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man'***

**(Rom.1:22-23)**

**There is no neutrality**

**We are either for God or against Him**



**God must judge sin because of who He is  
He must remain true to Himself**

***'He cannot deny Himself'***  
**(2 Tim.2:13)**

***'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven  
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness  
of men, who suppress the truth in  
unrighteousness'***  
**(Rom.1:18)**

## **Adam's sin is called *original* sin because...**

- ✓ **It is where sin originated in the human race**
- ✓ **It is present in every human being at birth**
- ✓ **It is responsible for actual sins**

**Adam and Eve were aware of their nakedness,  
i.e. that through their procreation their sin  
would be passed on to the entire human race**

***'...through one man sin entered the world, and  
death through sin'***

**(Rom.5:12)**

***'Who can bring a clean thing out of  
an unclean? No one!'***

**(Job 14:4)**

**That's why their guilt focused on their  
procreative organs**

## Consequences of the Fall

- **These include a sin nature, resulting in bondage to sinful behaviour**

***'This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness'***

**(Eph.4:17-19)**

**Loss of communion with God, the true source  
of life, resulting in spiritual and physical death**

***'And you He made alive, who were dead in  
trespasses and sins'***

**(Eph.2:1)**

## Negative emotions. For example:

- ✓ **Guilt.** *Man received a conscience, 'Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked...' (Gen.3:7)*
- ✓ **Shame.** *'...and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings' (Gen.3:7)*
- ✓ **Fear.** *'And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden' (Gen.3:8)*

## **Divine love was replaced by self-love**

- ✓ **Instead of caring for one another, each looked to meet his/her own needs through the other person and was even prepared to hurt the other one in the process**
- ✓ **They experienced the 'desire for'/'rule over' syndrome. The woman would look to the man to meet her deepest need, even though he would never be able to fully satisfy her. In return the man would be tempted to rule over the woman to his own advantage**

## The Major Lift

- ✓ **God has no plan of redemption for the fallen angels, yet He has redemption for mankind**
- ✓ **He sought out Adam (Gen.3:9)**
- ✓ **He drew out a confession from Adam and Eve (Gen.3:11-13). Once they confessed their sin God asked them no more questions**
- ✓ **God then promised a Saviour. He said to the serpent, *'And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel'* (Gen.3:15). This is known as the *protevangelium*, (the 'first gospel')**

- ✓ **There would be enmity between the woman's Seed and the seed of the serpent But the woman's Seed would bruise the head of Satan**
- ✓ **Satan's seed are those who set themselves to oppose the Seed of the woman. This will culminate in the Antichrist, 2 Thes.2:3; Rev.13:2**
- ✓ **The term 'Seed of the woman' is a unique concept. Throughout the scriptures, generational descent is reckoned through the male line. In all of history only one person could fulfill this prophecy as the seed of the woman - Jesus Christ. He alone was born of a virgin. But Satan didn't know this so sought to kill all the descendants in the line through genocide**

- ✓ **God is His wisdom has dealt with the whole of humanity on the basis of a representative. If He did this once, He can do it again. And He did,**
- ✓ **Jesus is referred to as the second man and the last Adam, 'And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven' (1 Cor.15:45-47)**
- ✓ **'For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many' (Rom.5:15)**

- ✓ **The Second Adam came and was tempted with the same 3 basic temptations as Adam and Eve**
- ✓ **These are the basic temptations we are all subject to, *'For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world'* (1 John 2:16)**
- ✓ **Jesus, our representative, succeeded where Adam and we failed, *'For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin'* (Heb.4:15)**

**We have much more in Christ than we ever had,  
or could have, in Adam. For example:**

**Adam possessed mortality  
But in Christ we have immortality**

***'For if by the one man's offense death reigned  
through the one, much more those who receive  
abundance of grace and of the gift of  
righteousness will reign in life through the One,  
Jesus Christ'  
(Romans 5:17)***

**In Adam, sin led to condemnation  
But in Christ there is no condemnation,  
only justification**

***'Therefore, as through one man's offense  
judgment came to all men, resulting in  
condemnation, even so through one Man's  
righteous act the free gift came to all men,  
resulting in justification of life'***

**(Romans 5:18)**

**Adam was innocent until he sinned  
But in Christ we are righteous even when we sin**

***'For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous'***

**(Romans 5:19)**

**□ God provided garments for Adam and Eve. These were made from skins of animals that, no doubt, had been sacrificed and whose blood was shed.**

**This is a picture of the righteousness of God through Christ's shed blood (Lk.15:22; Isa.61:10)**

**Adam did not overcome sin by the law  
But under grace sin does not have dominion over  
us, and we reign in life through Jesus Christ**

***'Moreover the law entered that the offense might  
abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded  
much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even  
so grace might reign through righteousness to  
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord'***

**(Romans 5:20-21)**