GENESIS

FOUNDATIONS

Chapter 3
Study Guide

February 8, 2004

Genesis 3

I. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

What is exegesis? The careful investigation of the original meaning of a text in its historical and literary contexts; the word comes from a Greek verb meaning "to lead out of" (Greek "ex" = "out"; "ago" = "to lead/go/draw"); the opposite is Eisegesis, which means "reading [your own opinions] into" the text (not a good idea in biblical studies!)

Some would argue that Genesis is the most important book in the Bible!

When contemplating how Eve could communicate with a serpent, remember that this event took place before the fall. It is impossible for us to comprehend anything prior to the Flood of Noah – everything changed after that including the environment.

Serpent = Nachash in Hebrew; "The Shining One" – perfect in beauty; the anointed cherub (see Ezekiel 28). This word in Hebrew can also be translated to hiss, mutter, whisper, or enchanter.

Wiles of the devil – He creates doubt, and when Eve supplements (see Proverbs 30:6) then he contradicts and then three different times he misrepresents God.

Eve was deceived by the serpent, but Adam willfully transgressed when he ate the fruit. What are the implications of this?

1. 1 Timothy 2
   14And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.
2. Romans 5:14
   14Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. – Note Adam was a pattern (or a figure) of things to come.
3. Thus Adam like Christ was "made sin" for her –
   2 Corinthians 5:21
   21God made him who had no sin to be sin [1] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

In other words Adam loved Eve so much that he was willing to be separated from God. He could have said, "Hey babe – what happened? You are in lots of trouble,

not me; I am still clothed in light. Boy, when the big guy finds out … well, let's just say I wouldn't want to be you!" Now Adam could have responded that way but he didn't – he WILLFULLY became sin (just like JESUS!) because of his love for her.

*In **Genesis 3:15** we have the declaration of war!*
Here is a partial list of the Devils' Specific Attacks against God and Man

1. Fallen angels corrupt the seed (Genesis 6)
2. Abraham is called and the seed is attacked
   - The destruction of the chosen family by famine. (Genesis 50:20)
   - The destruction of the male line in Israel. (Exodus 1:10; 2:5)
   - The destruction of the entire nation in Pharaoh's pursuit. (Exodus 14)
3. David's line singled out. (2 Samuel 7)
4. Haman's attempted destruction of the entire nation. (Esther 3)
5. Joseph's fear for Mary. (Deuteronomy 24:1)
6. Herod's slaughter of the babes. (Matthew 2)
7. Satan's tempting of Christ. (Luke 4)
8. Two storms on the Sea of Galilee
9. Gethsemane
10. And it goes on in the modern era … Hitler, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad etc.

*The first sacrifice is found in **Genesis 3:21***

The Coats of Skin introduces the sacrificial system. Only by the shedding of innocent blood could they (Adam and Eve) be covered.

Leviticus 17:11

11 "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life." Adam attempted to cover himself up with a fig leaf; this is religion in a nutshell. It is nothing more than man's attempt to reach God. It's not that there was anything wrong with the fig leaf, but God needed to provide a picture or type of atonement and so life was shed, indicating that sin always has a tremendous cost.

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First,that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It is here that the initial step is taken for man's

redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

3. Theology

The Rock Church has made it abundantly clear that we stand on the opinion that God created the universe in six, twenty-four hour periods. With that in mind, we should then look at how this belief affects us in theological ways probably unnoticed by the average churchgoers. We will look at three things that this understanding of God's creation tells us about our Father, His Son, and how we are to relate to them.

First, this understanding of creation leads us to an understanding of Jesus as Creator. In John 1:1-3, we read, "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that has been made*." This has major Trinitarian implications as well, as we read that Jesus has been with God since the beginning and He is not a creation of God as some cults would say. Many times we wrongly think of Jesus only in His human form, but in the grand scheme of history, Jesus was human for only 33 or so years, while his Divinity extends throughout eternity.

Second, we learn from scripture that God is inherently good. Repeatedly throughout the Genesis 1 account of creation that God calls the work of His hands "good". We can assume therefore that because no good thing can find its origin in evil, that God too is good. The creation of the world is the first of the majestic and gracious acts of the triune God. It is God's calling "*into existence the things that do not exist*" (Romans 4:17). Though the overarching theme of the Bible is God's redemption plan for his creation, the recounting of its beginnings gives us a preview of the goal that God has in mind. We read in Revelation 21:5 that God desires to make "*all things new*", but we can see a snapshot of the new in Genesis' portrait of Eden. In the future we will come to the end of God's redemptive cycle that was begun in Eden, made necessary at the Tree, was manifested in Christ and will be finished at Armageddon.

Finally we can know of God's true sovereignty. This may seem like a moot point, too obvious for consideration, but many of us doubt his power and sovereign choice every day. Every time we become anxious about our futures, worry over relationships, or stress out over situations at work, we tell God that we don't trust his sovereignty. David writes so eloquently in Psalms 104 that God has all things in his hands saying, *"O Lord how manifold are Your works! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions -- This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living both small and great…these all wait for You, that*

You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand and they are filled with good. You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and You renew the face of the earth."

4. ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

God is the creator (Genesis 3:1)
God gives specific commands (Genesis 3:1, 3)
God knows good and evil (Genesis 3:5)
God walked in the garden with man (Genesis 3:8)
God knows our names (Genesis 3:9)
God gave man a chance to repent. (Genesis 3:11)
God is God over all (Genesis 3:14-19)
God can create enmity between people/ animals (Genesis 3:15)
God can multiply sorrows (Genesis 3:16)
God will punish disobedience. (Genesis 3:14-24)
God will kick you out of your blessings if you aren't obedient. (Genesis 3:23-24)
God can multiply or control pain in childbearing (Genesis 3:16)
God can change our desires (Genesis 3:16)
God is in control of the ground (Genesis 3:17-18)
God uses struggle & hard work to punish us. (Genesis 3:17-19)
God made the first clothes (Genesis 3:21)

5. WORD STUDIES

Genesis 3:15 Strong's 02233

Word "Seed" zera` {zeh'-rah) seed, sowing, offspring, descendants, posterity, children

Genesis 3:15 is known as the "protoevangelium" or "first Gospel". The first promise of Jesus as the Messiah (Jesus, is the seed of the woman (Mary), the virgin birth and the destruction of Satan.

Luther said of this verse: "This text embraces and comprehends within itself everything noble and glorious that is to be found anywhere in the Scriptures."

To "bruise his heel", Jesus would suffer a temporary wound (three days on Cross).To "crush your head", Satan will suffer a final destruction (Cast into Hell).

God prophecies that the battle is between Jesus (the Woman's seed, not man's) and Satan.

6. PROPHECIES OF CHRIST – GOSPEL COMPONENT

1. Genesis 3:15 – First promise of the Messiah, we also have a declaration of war.
   Promise of victory!
   Seed of the woman also proclaims a virgin birth

2. The concept of cursing and Jesus (Genesis 3)

Ground cursed (3:17)	Jesus made a curse	Galatians 3:13
Man: eat sorrow (3:17)	Man of Sorrows	Isaiah 53:3
Thorns & Thistles (3:18)	Crown of Thorns	John 18:8
Sweat of brow (3:19)	Sweat as blood	Luke 22:44
Dust to Return (3:19)	Dust of death	Psalm 22:15

3. Why was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil placed in the garden?

   Genesis 2:16-17 reads: The Lord God commanded the man, saying, *"From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."*

   This command is basically the same as that which is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and Matthew 22:36-38: The first law for man is to love God with all his heart and all his soul and all his mind. To love includes obeying.

   Love and obedience in Genesis 3 are placed in the context of a commandment concerning a tree-the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is important to note that the test that Adam faces does not involve a choice between an evil tree that God has made and a good tree that God has made. God has made no evil thing. If he had or if God had programmed man so that man must disobey Him, then we would have a concept that is like the Hindu idea that both good and evil, cruelty and non-cruelty, both spring from God and are finally equal. Again, God has not made a bad tree, He has simply made a tree and given man the choice to either partake from it in disobedience, or in loving obedience forsake it.

   All love, man to woman, and woman to man, or friend to friend, is concluded with choice. Without choice the word *love* is meaningless. God has indeed made the possibility of man's choosing, including the possibility of choosing wrongly. What we see in the garden is simply choice. When God finished creating, there was nothing made which was contrary to His character Gen. 1:31, *"God saw **all** that he had made, and behold, it was very good."*

The tree that they were commanded NOT to eat from was a tree of *knowledge,* not simply knowledge but a specific kind of *knowledge,* the knowledge of good and evil. It was not an evil thing to have knowledge, if it were this would contradict the giving of dominion to man. In knowledge from God they knew the possibility of evil and its results: DEATH. It was not knowledge as knowledge that was wrong, but the choice made against God's loving warning and command.

Without choice there is no true ability to love. For Adam and Eve to truly love God, they had to be given a choice to do so. The tree signifies that choice.

7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

Why guard the Tree of Life and why use a cherubim?

No doubt if the purpose was to keep Adam and Eve away from the Tree any angel would do. Remember in the book of Isaiah we read about one angel taking care of 185,000 Assyrians after dinner one night, with this kind of firepower, one angel could have kept Adam and Eve away. But if on the other hand the goal was to keep another cherub from the tree (Lucifer) then the best way to fight cherubim would be with another cherub.

Now as to why? If Adam were to have partaken from the Tree of Life in his fallen state then there would be no hope for a new heaven and a new earth, a time that we still wait when Garden Life will be reestablished.

8. SOUL WINNERS SO WHAT

Listen to Gods commands, follow them and live an incredible life in whatever "Garden of Eden" that God has for you. Don't follow Gods commands…and struggle through life hiding from God and living in sin.

Satan is our enemy. He will do whatever it takes to try to get us to believe that God doesn't want what's best for us.
God blesses us with everything we need. As a people, we need to focus on that instead of listening to Satan try to get our eyes on the "fruit" we can't eat.

We see in Genesis 3 that we have been stained by sin from the very beginning of creation. We learn later in Romans that the only way to eliminate the stain of sin is to have faith in Jesus Christ.

This chapter explains the struggle of humanity, the presence of evil, the presence of sin and death, and the anxiety of the heart. To me it explains 50% of everything we see everyday in the news and world. As Chuck Colson said, "It is our most verifiable doctrine (paraphrase)." How does the non-believer explain these things in overarching terms?

In the beginning, God assures us of the end of the story. He has already won! This verse is the bottom line and basic theme of all scriptures. God has the ultimate authority, Satan is defeated. All Scripture points to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Who's the Man?

God is a communicative God. He expresses this in the creation of the Universe. God has given us clear instructions on how to live our lives, which is why it is vital that we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, surrender our lives so we can be directed by the Holy Spirit to make wise Godly decisions, and learn the word of GOD.

The Devil's tricks have not changed, and whether you believe it or not he knows the Bible very well. Just think: one word changed everything (Gen 3:4). If you changed 1 number on your soc. #, or one # in your Ph. # it's someone else's. He is the master disguiser, still making the ways of the world seem better than what GOD has for you.

(Prov. 14:12) There are ways that seem right to a man, but in the end they lead to death.

The Devil's goal is to kill and destroy you and send you to Hell. But he's not going to come right out and tell you, just like a fisherman doesn't just throw an empty hook in the water. He disguises what will lead to death for that fish with something it likes, (like a worm). It's the same with Satan. He disguises what will lead to death and separation from God with stuff that our flesh likes (the ways of the world). Don't take the bait, trust, follow, and wait ON the LORD, because God's going to hook you up!