

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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Man: His Fall

- Introduction
 - As we have already studied, sin first entered the universe when Satan led an angelic rebellion against God.
 - As recorded in Genesis, Satan was also involved in the events surrounding the fall into sin by Adam and Eve.
 - The fall of man into sin will be considered from three aspects.
 - ✦ Adam before the fall.
 - ✦ Adam after the fall.
 - ✦ The effect of Adam's fall upon the human race.
- Adam Before the Fall
 - At the time of the fall Adam and Eve constituted the entire human race with Adam as its corporate head.
 - Before the fall Adam and Eve were free from sin and were pleasing to their Creator (Gen 1:31), although the innocence of Adam and Eve should not be confused with the perfect holiness of God who is utterly incapable of committing sin.
 - Scripture does not tell us how long they remained in their original state of innocence, but Adam had time to name the animals and Adam and Eve had become accustomed to their situation in which they enjoyed daily fellowship with God.
 - In Gen 3:1-6 we read the account of Satan appearing to Adam and Eve as a serpent – a beautiful creature at that time.
 - Adam and Eve had only one prohibition in the garden – they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and disobedience would yield immediate death (Gen 2:17).
 - This single prohibition was given by God to test Adam and Eve to see whether or not they would choose to obey Him.
 - Satan began his conversation with Eve by questioning what God had commanded them (Gen 3:1).
 - When Eve responded to Satan's question she made several important mistakes that show her lack of understanding of God's actual command (Gen 2:16-17 cp. Gen 3:2-3).
 - ✦ She omitted the emphasis God had made that they may "freely" eat of any other tree in the garden.

- ✦ She omitted the emphasis God had made that they would “surely” die the day they ate of the forbidden tree.
- ✦ She added a stipulation to God’s command by saying that they could not “touch” the forbidden tree.
- This calls into question Adam’s headship in the garden.
- Hearing these errors in Eve’s response, Satan seized his opportunity and used partial truths to mislead Eve regarding the consequences of disobedience (Gen 3:4-5).
 - ✦ It was true that they would not die physically on the day they ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, but they did die spiritually.
 - ✦ It was true that they would gain knowledge of (human) good and evil when they ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, but this was a not a good thing even though Satan made it sound that way.
 - ✦ It was true that God knew about good and evil, but knowing these thing would not make them “like God” as Satan had implied.
- In these verses Satan’s character as the ultimate deceiver is on full display as he denied the Word of God and twisted the truth to enhance the plausibility of his lies.
- In Gen 3:6 we see that Satan’s ploy was effective as first Eve and then Adam disobeyed God’s express command.
 - ✦ Eve was deceived, but Adam knew better (1 Tim 2:14).
 - ✦ It is important to note that it was not until Adam ate of the fruit that their eyes were opened because the fall of man was not complete until Adam as the head of the human race fell into sin.
- The description of Eve succumbing to temptation follows the pattern given in 1 John 2:16.
 - ✦ The tree being good for food -> the lust of the flesh.
 - ✦ The tree being a delight to the eyes -> the lust of the eyes.
 - ✦ The power of the fruit to make them wise -> the boastful pride of life.
- A similar pattern was used by Satan in his temptation of Jesus Christ (Luke 4:1-13).
 - ✦ Turning stone to bread -> the lust of the flesh.
 - ✦ Seeing the kingdoms of the world -> the lust of the eyes.
 - ✦ Leaping to see if the Father would save Him -> the boastful pride of life.

- Adam After the Fall
 - When Adam and Eve sinned they lost their blessed estate in which they had been created and became subject to changes.
 - ✦ They became subject to both spiritual and physical death.
 - They passed immediately into a state of spiritual death, being spiritually separated from God for the first time in their lives.
 - Their bodies began to age and decay which would eventually lead to physical death – separation of the soul from the body.
 - ✦ Adam was assigned to hard labor in bringing forth food to eat from an earth that had been cursed (Gen 3:17-19; 5:29; Rom 8:22).
 - ✦ Eve was assigned to hard labor in bringing forth children as they had been instructed to do before the fall (Gen 3:16 cp. Gen 1:28).
 - ✦ They were removed from the garden (Gen 3:22-24).
 - If God allowed then access to the tree of life, they could have lived on forever physically in their fallen bodies.
 - Their restored spiritual life came through salvation by faith in God’s promise of the seed of the woman (Gen 3:15).
 - For his part in inducing the fall of man, Satan was cursed and his ultimate demise was foretold by God right in front of Adam and Eve (Gen 3:14-15).
- The Effect of Adam’s Sin upon the Human Race
 - The human nature was now depraved resulting in slavery to sin apart from God’s redeeming grace (Gal 3:13; Titus 2:14).
 - God, in His infinite grace and wisdom, imputed Adam’s sin to the entire human race (Rom 5:12-14).
 - ✦ This brilliant act enabled God to provide one means of salvation to all mankind by imputing the sins of all mankind to His Son Jesus Christ (Isa 53:5; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 2:2).
 - ✦ God is then perfectly just in imputing His righteousness to everyone who believes in His Son (Gen 15:6; Rom 3:21-22) resulting in their justification (Rom 4:2-5).
 - Because Adam’s sin is imputed to every member of the human race, we are all born in the estate of sin – in Adam.
 - ✦ We do not become sinners when we commit our first sin as Adam and Eve did – we are born sinners and sin because it is our nature.
 - ✦ Just as the imputation of God’s righteousness is sufficient grounds for the justification of the believer, the imputation of Adam’s sin is sufficient grounds for the condemnation of the unbeliever.
 - ✦ God is perfectly just in all His dealings with mankind and provides for those individuals who never have the opportunity to accept or reject Jesus Christ (2 Sam 12:23).

- Questions
 - How does the Bible explain the origin of sin in the universe and the human race?

 - What was the state of man before he sinned?

 - How did Satan tempt Eve?

 - How did Eve misstate God's prohibition?

 - How did Satan lie to Eve and expressly deny the word of God?

 - How did Satan misrepresent the desirability of knowing good and evil?

 - What was the effect upon Adam and Eve after they had sinned?

 - What was the effect upon their descendants because Adam had sinned?

 - State the three imputations mentioned in Scripture.

 - Why is it true that every man since Adam and Eve does not become sinful by sinning?

 - Why is salvation in Christ the only hope for man in his fallen estate?

 - Why do God's holy judgments rest upon everyone who is not in Christ?