



ADAM AND EVE SINNED

Genesis 2:15-17; 3

God placed man in the garden, but not without purpose. Adam was given the responsibility to work the garden and care for it. The garden provided a place of rest for Adam and, while his “work” involved some physical exertion, the idea of the Hebrew word *work* in a pre-sin world can be described as spiritual service to God Himself. While Adam worked, he communed with and worshiped God. Work in a world unmarred by sin was pleasant and easy. For Adam to continue to enjoy this work and worship relationship with God, Adam had but one rule: eat from any tree in the garden except for the one in the middle, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

So that Adam would enjoy companionship, God also created a helpmate for Adam whom Adam named Eve. Together the two would work the garden and care for it and bring forth more humans on the earth.

Enter the serpent, described in Genesis 3:1 as “the most cunning of all the wild animals.” Oddly, this serpent had the ability to communicate with humans through speech. The serpent posed a question which caused Eve to question God’s word and perhaps planted doubt in her mind about what God had truly said. Twisting God’s words, the serpent asked Eve if God had truly forbidden her and Adam to eat the fruit of any tree in the garden. Eve responded that God did allow them to eat from the trees, except the one. For from that tree, Eve said, they could not eat, nor touch its fruit, if they did, they would die. Again, the serpent deceived Eve by assuring her that physical death would not occur.

Enticed with the serpent’s response, Eve took the fruit, ate it, and gave some to Adam to eat. Immediately, sin caused the humans’ eyes to be opened. The pristine, easy, and pleasant environment in which Adam and Eve lived changed forever. No more would Adam and Eve look forward to community with God; instead, they hid. Work, once a worship experience, now became difficult. Yes, sin had come, but God had a plan for redemption.