

The Fall of Man

Introduction:

The historical fact and implications of the fall of man is one of the most rejected of all Biblical accounts. No one naturally admits to being a sinner — Proverbs 16:2; 20:6 — or desires to reveal the darker side of his nature. In fact, a common delusion is that man kind is steadily improving.

Little wonder then that Satan seeks to have men reject the first 12 chapters of the book of Genesis — after all, the simplest way to keep meant from being saved is to convince them they don't need to be saved.

Let us look at mankind's fall into sin and the consequences resulting from that fall.

I. The Period of Probation

Man was created in a state of innocence. By this we simply mean he had no knowledge of sin. We do not mean to was created with a neutral moral nature; rather, man was created with a holy nature.

Man was created a free moral agent. This is seen in the fact that he had a will, and this free will of man meant that he had the ability to choose between God and evil.

A. The Necessity of Probation

It was essential for God to place the simple test recorded in Genesis 2:16, 17 before Adam. If man were given no opportunity to exercise his will, then he would be as one without a will! Thus no better than an animal. (If a child is born with a great talent to play the trumpet, what good is that if he is never give a trumpet?)

A fellowship-seeking God did not desire slavish, instinctive devotion from man. He was looking for a "want to" type of fellowship. Man had to be give the opportunity to choose.

(Which is the better marriage: one that is pre-arranged by the parents for the political or social expediency, or one in which both partners fall in love and decide to unite as one in the bonds of marriage?)

Through his creation, man had a holy nature, but not a holy character. Character is developed through the exercise of the will, as man chooses to do right.

B. The Test of Probation

This was a simple test. See: Genesis 2:16, 17.

It involved a simple choice — OBEY, or DISOBEY, but notice that God had clearly stated beforehand all the consequences of either action:

1. Adam had experienced Ultimate Fellowship.

For a period of time, Adam had direct fellowship with his Maker. He had received all the blessings of this fellowship. He KNEW the consequences of obedience.

2. Adan was told of the Results of Disobedience.

Disobedience meant DEATH (separation.)

Such death would involve "spiritual death" immediately, "physical death" eventually, and "eternal death" ultimately (without a Savior.)

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II. The Fall of Man

A. The Tempter Genesis 3:1

The serpent was the natural agent through which Satan, the one who would “be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:14) sought the allegiance of God’s crowning creation.

See also: II Corinthians 11:3

B. The Temptation Genesis 3:1-5

Notice Satan’s approach:

1. Subtlety.

Genesis 3:1. Satan rarely attacks “head on” — he is a masterful “back-door” operator.

Satan approached man indirectly through the woman. Eve was the “weaker vessel,” I Timothy 2:14, and evidently she had not directly heard God speak concerning the test.

2. Suggestiveness.

Genesis 3:1. “Yea, hath God said?”

Satan seeks to create doubt in God’s Word.

3. Selectiveness.

Satan did not approach Adam and Eve together. He worked separately. We are always vulnerable when separated from divine authority — e.g. in cases of marital separation, parent-child breakdown, failure to attend church meeting, etc.

4. Sight.

Genesis 3:6. “...when the woman saw...”

Satan’s basic approach to man is through the eye gate. (God’s approach is through the ear gate — Romans 10:17.)

a) This approach is evident throughout the Word of God.

For example:

Achan — Joshua 7:21

Sampson — Judges 14:1-2; 16:1

David — II Samuel 11:2

b) Satan works from without to within

Compare Genesis 3:6 with I John 2:16:

Physical — “good for food” — lust of the flesh

Emotional — “pleasant to the eyes” — lust of the eyes

Intellectual — “to make one wise” — pride of life

Compare the temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 4:

Physical — stones to bread — vs. 3

Emotional — “cast thyself down” — vs. 6

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Spiritual — power and glory — vs. 9

C. The Fall Genesis 3:6-7.

The woman was deceived by Satan, but Adam sinned willfully and deliberately. See: Romans 5:12-19.

III. The Results of the Fall of Man

A. Upon Adam and Eve

1. Sense — An Awakened Conscience. — Genesis 3:7
2. Shame — Guilt — Genesis 3:7
3. Separation — All fellowship with God was broken — Genesis 3:8
4. Self-Righteousness — Evidenced by the covering of fig leaves, the work of the hands — Genesis 3:7
5. Selfishness — Adam and Eve blamed others — Genesis 3:12-13
6. Sentence of Death — Sin brings forth its wages — Romans 6:23
 - a) Spiritual Death — “Where art thou?” — Genesis 3:9
 - b) Physical Death — “till thou return unto the ground” — Genesis 3:19
7. Sorrow and Suffering — Genesis 3:16-19
8. Subjection — Genesis 3:16
9. Sentinels

Adam and Eve were expelled from the place of blessing. They could never again experience the blessing of Eden’s garden. Additionally, their separation from the Tree of Life assured physical death. — Genesis 3:23-24

B. Upon all the Participants in the Temptation and Fall

1. The Serpent — Genesis 3:14
2. The Devil — Genesis 3:15
3. The Woman — Genesis 3:16
4. The Man — Genesis 3:17-19. See also: Job 5:7; Ecclesiastes 2:22-23
5. The Earth -- Genesis 3:18

C. Upon the human race in General.

Adam is the FEDERAL HEAD of mankind. This means he was the representative of all future men and women at the tree.

Adam is the SEMINAL HEAD of mankind. This means he was the progenitor of all men. i.e. we all descended from him.

I Corinthians 15:22. “For as in Adam, all die...”

1. All men are born sinful. — Romans 5:12; 3:9-10, 22-23
2. All men are under the curse. — Romans 3:19; John 3:18, 36; Galatians 3:10
3. All unsaved men are children of Satan. — John 8:44; I John 3:8-10; 5:19
4. The whole race is in captivity to sin and Satan. — John 8:31-36; Ephesians 2:3
5. The entire nature of man is corrupted.
 - a) The Understanding is Darkened. — Ephesians 4:18; I Corinthians 2:14
 - b) The Heart is Deceitful. — Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - c) The Mind and Conscience are Defiled. — Genesis 6:5; Titus 1:15
 - d) The Flesh and Spirit Defiled. — II Corinthians 7:5
 - e) The Will is made Feeble. — Romans 7:18
6. All men are subject to Death. — Romans 5:12-14