

International Conversation Cafe

Topics from a Biblical Perspective:

The First Temptation, Genesis 3

God created man in His image!

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, with the living and non-living things on the earth, including humans (Adam and Eve), it was perfect. There was no bad thing in it. In fact, Genesis one records, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

People were made in His image, according to Genesis 1, and were given authority to rule over the earth. God wanted to have a good relationship with mankind and Adam and Eve were able to approach Him and communicate with Him directly.

But there was one thing forbidden.

There was only one rule the humans had to obey. There were two trees in the center of the Garden of Eden where God has placed them, namely the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve were commanded not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

16 The Lord God told the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden. 17 But do not eat from the tree of learning of good and bad. For the day you eat from it you will die for sure." Genesis 2:16-17

Summarize the story thus far.

In the next section you will read about a "serpent," which is a snake. However, from other parts of the Bible we see that Satan, is an evil spiritual being who spoke through the snake.

Satan came to tempt. Genesis 3:1-6

1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Discuss unfamiliar words.

Summarize this second part of the story... how did the serpent tempt Eve? How did her thinking change so that she eventually ate the fruit?

What does this story teach about temptation?

What other questions does this story bring to your mind?

How Did Adam and Eve Die? Genesis 2:16,17

And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

This Scripture says that Adam and Eve would die when they ate the fruit. But they did not die at that moment. What is going on?

Usually when we think about dying, we think about our bodies. Our soul and spirit, the real part of us are separated from our bodies. Because Adam and Eve did not die physically when they ate the fruit, something else began to occur; their bodies began the process of decay which would eventually lead to death.

Death can be more than a physical phenomenon. When there is a complete breakdown in a relationship, we experience a kind of death, full of loss and grief. Adam and Eve experienced this loss of relationship after they ate the forbidden fruit. They no longer sought God's companionship, but hid.

God Confronts Adam and Eve Genesis 3:8-13

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Retell this last part in your own words.

What do you think this story teaches about God?

What does this story teach about people?