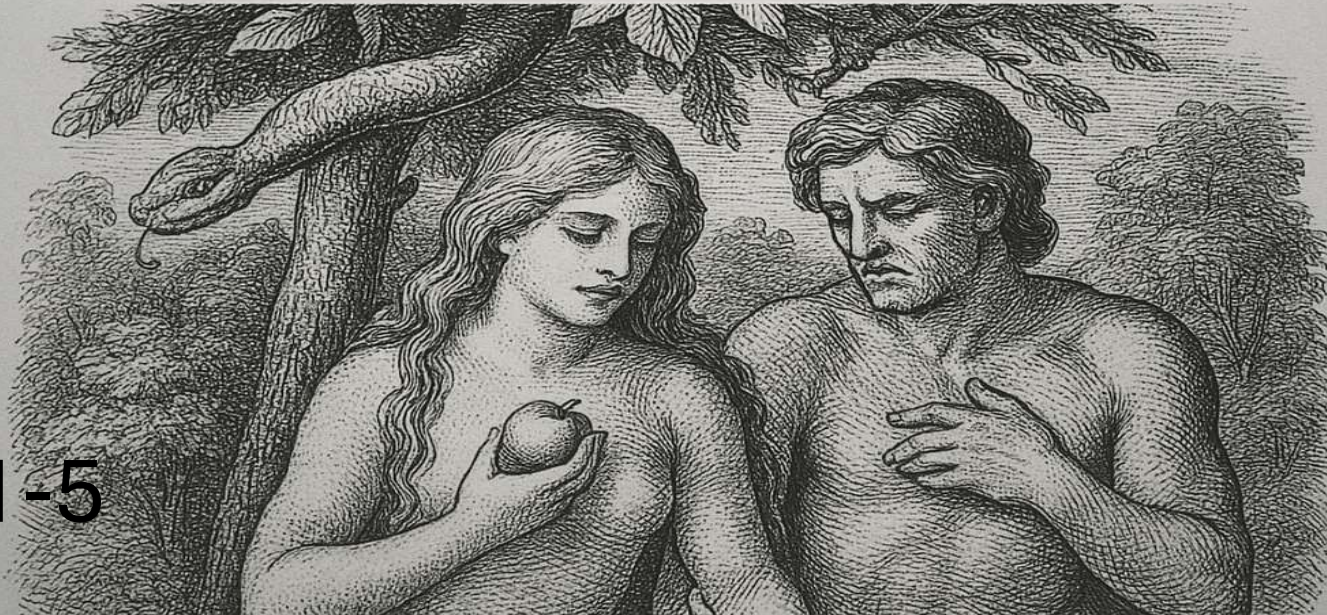


Genesis 3

The Fall of Adam

Verses 1-5



Genesis 3 — “The Fall of Man”

- I. The Temptation of Man (Genesis 3:1–5)
- II. The Fall of Man (Genesis 3:6–8)
- III. The Confrontation (Genesis 3:9–13)
- IV. The Curse (Genesis 3:14–19)
- V. The Covering and the Expulsion (Genesis 3:20–24)

The Temptation of Man (Genesis 3:1–5)

- In Genesis 2:15 Adam was told to “*tend and keep*” the garden.
- Hebrew: *‘ābad* (עָבַד – *ah-vahd*) = to serve, minister.
- Hebrew: *shāmar* (שָׁמַר – *shah-mar*) = to guard, watch, protect.
- Adam’s calling: not only gardener but priest (minister before God) and king (guardian over creation).
- Allowing the serpent into the garden without rebuke = Adam’s first failure.
- The serpent’s access reveals Adam was not guarding his domain.
- Adam’s silence at Eve’s conversation = abdication of authority.

The Serpent

- (Hebrew: *nāḥāš* – נָחָשׁ, pronounced *nah-khahsh*)

- More than animal instinct. Spiritual being speaking through a creature.

The serpent originally upright and radiant, later cursed.

- The “Nachash” often associated with shining or divination.

- **Divine/Spiritual Being, Not Mere Animal**

- **The Hebrew *nāḥāš* (נָחָשׁ) in Genesis 3 is not simply a snake, but a **divine or spiritual being** manifested in serpentine form.**

- It is akin to other divine beings or angelic entities

- This helps reconcile the serpent’s ability to speak, reason, and deceive in a way animals normally do not.

- The motif of luminescence or radiance (a “shining one”) — similar to how some angelic beings are depicted with light.

- One thing to consider, Adam and Eve knew who or what this was.

Cunning

- The Hebrew word is **‘ārûm** (עָרוּם).
- Meaning: It conveys shrewdness, craftiness, prudence, or skill in achieving aims. It is not primarily about raw intelligence but about clever, strategic manipulation.
- Positive use elsewhere: Proverbs 12:16 — the prudent (‘ārûm) person overlooks an insult.
- Negative use here: The serpent uses this ability deceptively, twisting God’s word.

“More cunning”

So this means the serpent had heightened skill in subtlety and persuasion. It implies greater ability to scheme and deceive than the other creatures.

Genesis 3 sets the pattern for Satan’s tactic throughout Scripture, and it directly ties into end-time deception.

How it functions in Genesis 3

- The serpent twists God’s word: *“Has God indeed said...?”* (Gen 3:1).
- He mixes truth with lies, creating doubt and appealing to pride.
- His method is not brute force but subtle suggestion.

Repeated tactic through Scripture

- **2 Corinthians 11:3** — Paul warns that as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, believers' minds can be corrupted from simplicity in Christ.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:9–10** — the man of sin (Antichrist) comes with lying signs and wonders, deceiving those who do not love the truth.
- **Revelation 12:9** — Satan is called the deceiver of the whole world.
- Last Days tie-in
- Satan's cunning escalates from Eden's whisper to global deception.
- Jesus warns in **Matthew 24:24** that false christs and prophets will show great signs and wonders to deceive, *if possible, even the elect*.
- Revelation portrays deception as Satan's main weapon until his final judgment (Rev 20:10).

So Genesis 3:1 is more than history. It's the template: Satan uses cunning subtlety to question God, twist truth, appeal to desire, and lead into rebellion. The same tactic will climax in the end times when deception, not brute power, defines his last stand.

Eden's cunning whisper → false teachers in Paul's day → full-blown worldwide deception in the last days.

The same pattern he used in Eden.

- **Questioning God's Word**
- Today: undermines Scripture with “Did God really say?”
- Example: liberal theology, deconstruction, redefining sin, relativism.
- **Twisting Truth**
- Half-truths packaged as wisdom.
- Example: prosperity gospel, New Age spirituality, mixing Scripture with false philosophy.
- **Appealing to Desire**
- Genesis 3:6 — “pleasant to the eyes, desirable to make one wise.”
- Today: materialism, sexual immorality, self-exaltation.
- **Counterfeiting Signs**
- 2 Thessalonians 2:9 — lying wonders.
- Today: false miracles, manipulative experiences, occult practices disguised as light.
- **Targeting the Mind**
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 — blinds minds of unbelievers.
- Example: media saturation, ideologies, education without God, distraction so truth is drowned out.
- **Using Religion**
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 — Satan masquerades as an angel of light.
- Today: false teachers, cults, religions that deny Christ's deity or sufficiency.
- **Global Deception Build-up**
- Revelation 13 — worship of Antichrist through economic, political, and spiritual deception.
- Today: conditioning people to accept control systems (surveillance, digital currency, unity without truth).

- **Genesis 3 model:** The serpent quoted God’s words, but altered them — “Has God indeed said...?” (Gen 3:1).
- **Satan with Jesus:** He quoted Psalm 91 in Matthew 4:6, but twisted the context to tempt Christ.
- **False teachers today:** They do the same — quote Scripture, but distort meaning to fit an agenda.

The ways they do this today

- **Selective Quoting** — leaving out context. Example: “Judge not” (Matt 7:1) used to silence correction, ignoring the rest of the passage.
- **Redefining Terms** — shifting biblical words into modern cultural meanings (love = tolerance of sin, grace = license).
- **Mixing Truth and Error** — teaching 90% truth with 10% heresy so it sounds biblical.
- **Prosperity Gospel** — twisting promises to guarantee health/wealth while ignoring suffering passages.
- **Legalism** — adding rules God never gave, binding consciences under man’s authority.
- **End-Time Setup** — priming people to accept counterfeit Christs, false revivals, and unity movements not centered in Christ.

• It is Here!

- **2 Peter 2:1–3** — false teachers secretly bring in destructive heresies, exploiting with deceptive words.
- **2 Timothy 4:3–4** — people will not endure sound doctrine but heap teachers to suit desires.
- **Matthew 7:15** — wolves in sheep's clothing.

What Adam should have done

- **Guard the boundary**

- He should not have allowed the serpent access to influence Eve. His duty was to keep out what threatened God's holiness.

- **Exercise authority**

- God gave Adam dominion (Gen 1:28). He had the right and responsibility to command the serpent to be silent and to drive it out.

- **Lead spiritually**

- As priest of the garden, Adam should have reminded Eve of God's word, affirming truth instead of letting doubt grow.

- **Confront deception**

- Instead of standing passive, he should have crushed the lie by declaring God's command directly and rebuking the serpent.

- **Foreshadow Christ's obedience**

- Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. In the wilderness He answered Satan's twisting of Scripture with **"It is written"** (Matt 4:4, 7, 10). That is the model Adam should have followed.

What should you do?

- Believers now are told to resist the devil (James 4:7).
- Pastors and fathers are charged to guard the flock and the home from false doctrine (Acts 20:28–31).
- The call is active resistance, not passive silence.
- Ephesians 4:27 Do not give place (opportunities) to the Devil.

Eve misquotes God.

- Eve says "don't touch" when God said "don't eat."

- **Secondhand reception**

- The command was given to Adam (Gen 2:16–17) before Eve was created. She may have received it through Adam, and it was expanded.

- **Protective instinct**

- Adding “don't touch” could have been meant as a safeguard: if you never touch, you'll never eat. But it shifted the focus from obedience to exaggeration.

- **Subtle influence of the serpent**

- Under pressure of Satan's question, she altered the command slightly. Misquoting showed doubt already working in her heart.

- **Human tendency**

- It reflects the age-old problem: people either **add to God's Word** (legalism, man-made rules) or **subtract from it** (license, compromise). Both distort His truth.

Why this matters

- By making God sound more restrictive, Eve made His command seem unreasonable. That made Satan's lie ("God is holding out on you") more believable.
- Misquoting set the stage for deception. Accuracy in God's Word is the only safeguard (cf. Jesus in Matt 4: "It is written...").

Adding to God's Word (Legalism)

- Making rules God never gave.
- Examples:
 - Requiring certain dress, rituals, or traditions as if they were salvation issues.
 - Binding consciences with man-made restrictions (Colossians 2:20–23).
- Outcome: God appears harsh, and people are pushed away.

•Taking away from God's Word (License)

- Softening or ignoring what God clearly said.
- Examples:
 - Redefining sin as "personal preference."
 - Preaching God's love without God's holiness.
- Outcome: God's commands seem optional, leaving room for deception.

Twisting by Misquoting

- Using verses out of context.
- Examples:
 - “Judge not” (Matt 7:1) to forbid discernment.
 - “God is love” (1 John 4:8) to excuse immorality.
- Outcome: People believe they are following Scripture when they are not.

The Common Thread

Eve misquoted because the serpent planted doubt, and humanity still does it: misquote, add, subtract, twist. The danger is the same—distorting God’s truth to make it either too heavy or too light.

Adam and Eve did not physically die that day.

Immediate Spiritual Death (Separation)

- They were cut off from fellowship with God.
- Evidence: they hid from His presence (Gen 3:8–10).
- Paul explains this in **Ephesians 2:1** — “dead in trespasses and sins.”

Eventual Physical Death

- Mortality entered. From that point, decay began and Adam later died physically (Gen 5:5).
- Romans 5:12 — “through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin.”

Eternal Death (if unreconciled)

- Without redemption, sin leads to eternal separation (Rev 20:14–15, the “second death”).

So in Genesis 3, “*you shall surely die*” is layered:

- Immediate spiritual separation,
- Future physical death,
- Ultimate eternal death if no Savior intervenes.

This is why the gospel centers on Christ restoring life: “*As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive*” (1 Cor 15:22).

The Temptation

Was not about gaining moral awareness (they already knew right from wrong because God gave a clear command). It was about **wanting to be like God in deciding good and evil for themselves.**

- Genesis 3:5 — *“you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*
- Hebrew *yada* ‘ (“to know”) means experiential mastery, not just intellectual awareness.
- The serpent tempted them to seize the right to define morality apart from God.

- **Judges 21:25** — “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
- This reflects humanity rejecting God’s authority and setting themselves up as their own moral authority, just as Eve and Adam did.

The pattern

- Eden — Adam and Eve chose self-rule, redefining good and evil.
- Israel in Judges — Without God’s Word and king, people lived by subjective morality.
- Today — Modern culture: “my truth, your truth.”

End-time link

- 2 Timothy 4:3–4 — people will not endure sound doctrine but will turn to teachers who say what they want to hear.
- Matthew 24:12 — lawlessness will abound, love will grow cold.
- This is Eden’s rebellion matured into global rebellion: a world where “man is the measure” instead of God.

- Pride

- The lure was self-exaltation: to be independent, self-ruling, no longer under God's authority.
- This mirrors Satan's own fall (Isaiah 14:13–14 — “I will ascend...I will be like the Most High”).

Counterfeit Wisdom

- Eve saw the tree as “desirable to make one wise” (Gen 3:6). But it was a false shortcut — wisdom without obedience, enlightenment without submission.
- True wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Prov 9:10).

The Core of Sin

- Sin is not just doing wrong things; it is the attempt to replace God as the moral standard.
- Romans 1:22 — “professing to be wise, they became fools.”

- Sin begins by questioning God's Word.
- The progression: Doubt → Distortion → Denial → Desire to be God.
- Modern parallels: relativism ("did God really say?"), denying consequences ("no judgment"), exalting self ("you can be your own god").

So this is the problem

- 3:22 Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.”
- This was not a compliment.
- It meant humanity seized the privilege of deciding morality, something that belongs only to God.

The reality of fallen man as “like gods”

- **Self-rule**
 - Fallen man assumes authority to define truth and morality.
 - Example: culture declares what marriage, gender, or justice mean apart from God.
- **Illusion of divinity**
 - People act as if sovereign over life and death (abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering).
 - Psalm 82:6–7 — God says to human rulers, “*You are gods... but you shall die like men.*” They wield authority but remain mortal.
- **False freedom**
 - What looks like independence is really bondage. Romans 6:16 — “you are slaves of the one you obey.”
 - Satan promises godlike autonomy, but delivers slavery to sin.

End-time connection

- Antichrist embodies this impulse: “*exalts himself above all that is called God*” (2 Thess 2:4).
- Humanity joins him, worshiping self, technology, and power — the climax of the Edenic temptation.
- Fallen man has “become like gods,” but not in glory, holiness, or true wisdom. Instead, it is a tragic parody: trying to sit in God’s place, while separated from His life.

The core problem today is the same as in Eden:
fallen man acting as his own god.

- Moral Relativism — truth reduced to “my truth” vs “your truth.”
- Self-Worship — people define identity, morality, and purpose apart from God.
- Rejection of Authority — Scripture, family, church, and government are undermined because man wants no king but self.
- Global Systems — technology, politics, and culture elevating man’s power while cutting God out.

How to Recognize It

- Check your source of truth
- Do I filter decisions through Scripture or feelings/culture?
- Hebrews 4:12 — the Word discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Check your view of sin
- Do I redefine sin to make it acceptable?
- Isaiah 5:20 — calling evil good and good evil.
- Check your desires
- Am I choosing what pleases me or what glorifies God?
- Galatians 5:17 — flesh vs Spirit.
- Check your authority structure
- Do I resist godly counsel, accountability, and discipline?
- Proverbs 12:15 — the way of a fool is right in his own eyes.

Why Self-Governing Becomes Sinful

- We are finite and fallen
 - Jeremiah 17:9 — “The heart is deceitful above all things.”
 - Left to ourselves, we misjudge good and evil.
- We weren't designed for autonomy
 - Genesis 2 shows man created to walk in fellowship with God.
 - True freedom is under His rule, not outside it.
- Self-rule = idolatry of self
 - Romans 1:25 — they worshiped the creature rather than the Creator.
 - Man makes himself the god, but only God has wisdom, holiness, and life.

Consequences of Self-Rule

- Chaos — Judges 21:25, “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
- Bondage — What feels like freedom is slavery to sin (Romans 6:16).
- Death — Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”
- **The Biblical Alternative**
- Godly self-governance = living disciplined under His Word (Galatians 5:22–23).
- True liberty is not independence from God but alignment with His Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17).

How to Battle It

- Submit to God's Word daily
 - Like Jesus in Matthew 4, answer deception with "*It is written.*"
- Walk in the Spirit
 - Galatians 5:16 — "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
- Crucify the self-god
 - Luke 9:23 — deny yourself, take up the cross daily.
- Stay in fellowship
 - Hebrews 10:24–25 — community keeps us accountable and sharp.
- Pray for discernment
 - James 1:5 — God gives wisdom generously.
 - The Core Posture
 - James 4:7 sums it: "*Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*"
- Recognition = see where self is on the throne.
- Battle = surrender to God, resist Satan with truth.

Final take-away

- **Adam's silence = failure:** The serpent had no right to speak unchecked in God's sanctuary. The priest-king stood by.
- **The pattern of deception:**
 - Access allowed.
 - God's Word questioned.
 - God's Word distorted.
 - God's Word denied.
 - Humanity exalted to self-government.
- Revelation 12:9 — “the serpent of old” links Genesis 3 to the end-times dragon.
- Believers today are priests (1 Peter 2:9). We must guard our “gardens” (homes, churches, hearts) against subtle compromise.