

Introduction

“Theologians use the term ‘The Fall’ to describe the events of Genesis 3, but this term is an understatement. ‘Colossal Collapse’ would be more appropriate. The avalanche of sin and death down the mountain of human history had its origin here.”

Stephen Dempster

What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About, p. 67

This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week’s verses are Isaiah 40:3...

“A voice is calling, Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.”

Day One

Read Genesis 3, focusing on verses 1–6; **The First Question in History**

1. Last week as you read the familiar account of creation in Genesis 1–2, what did you find particularly notable, and what did that teach you about God?
2. In Genesis 3:1, who is introduced and how is he described?
 - a. From Isaiah 14:12–14, Ezekiel 28:11–15, and Revelation 12:9, what other information is given for background on what may have taken place before the events in Genesis 3?
3. From verses 1–5, what was Satan’s strategy to deceive Eve, and how did that subvert God’s created order?
4. From Psalm 19:7–11 and Proverbs 30:5–6, list ways God’s Word benefits believers.
 - a. What warnings about Scripture do these passages include?
 - b. What more could *you* do to accurately handle and share the Word of God? Be specific.

Day Two

Read Genesis 3, focusing on verses 1–10; **The Choice to Sin**

1. In your own words, summarize briefly the progression of the serpent’s deceit in verses 1–5.
 - a. What can be learned from Eve’s response?
 - b. What practical steps can you take in your own life to know what you believe and stand firm in your faith?
2. How did Adam fail in his responsibilities?
3. Describe briefly the immediate impact of sin on the relationship between God and man, as well as on the relationship between Adam and Eve.

- a. How do Deuteronomy 12:32 and Jeremiah 23:23–24 deepen your understanding of man’s relationship to God and His commands in Genesis 3?
4. In verse 9, what do you think God meant when He asked “Where are you?” Does this suggest that God is not omniscient? Explain your answer.

Day Three

Read Genesis 3, focusing on verses 9–19; **The Consequence of Sin**

1. In verses 9–19, what is the order of God’s interactions with those in the garden? Do you think there is significance in this order?
2. In verses 11–12, how does Adam respond to God’s question?
 - a. In verse 13, what similarity is there in Eve’s response to God’s question?
 - b. What does this teach about a common manifestation of sin?
3. In verses 14–15, God addresses the serpent. What does their interaction teach about their relationship?
 - a. What are the implications for the serpent in particular, and for all of God’s creation?
4. What transition takes place in verse 15, and how does the curse progress?

Day Four

Read Genesis 3, focusing on verses 15–19; **The Curse of Sin**

1. Bible scholars sometimes refer to verse 15 as the “first gospel.” What elements of that message do you think are present in this verse?
 - a. What is the difference in the two wounds that are inflicted at the end of verse 15, and why is this important?
 - b. How does the promise of bruising the serpent’s head fit into the ‘big picture’ of the Bible?
 - c. How does this affect the lives of believers today?
2. From verse 16, what are the elements of the woman’s curse?
 - a. How does 1 Timothy 2:13–15 relate to the account in Genesis 3?

3. In verse 17, what reason does God give for the man's curses?
 - a. According to verses 17–19, what are the consequences of the Fall for the man?
 - b. What are some ways in which this part of the curse is manifest today?

Day Five

Read Genesis 3; Overview of The Fall of Man

1. How does the evidence of sin and its consequences in Genesis 3 relate to the account of creation in Genesis 1–2?
2. In your own words, summarize briefly the events in Genesis 3 and the author's main point.
3. Of what specific sin was Eve guilty? Of what specific sin was Adam guilty?
 - a. As you consider the sin of Adam and Eve, take a moment to consider the sin in your life. What specific sin has God brought to your mind from which you need to repent? (This will not be shared in your group.)
 - b. What specific changes can you make today to avoid temptation and sin?
4. Write a brief prayer of thanks for the promises God gave mankind at the Fall and how they bless you today.