"The ancient man approached God (or even the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man, the roles are quite reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock. He is quite a kindly judge; if God should have a reasonable defense for being the god who permits war, poverty, and disease, he is ready to listen to it. The trial may even end in God’s acquittal. But the important thing is that man is on the bench and God is in the dock.”

C. S. Lewis, *God In The Dock: Essays On Theology and Ethics*

V. The Consequences of the Fall (Genesis 3).

We are just like Eve today falling into the same temptation and sin…

Cornelius Van Til: "The second attribute of Scripture the Reformers spoke of is that of authority. This authority is involved in the idea of necessity. Scripture is necessary because an authoritative revelation is necessary. We have seen that the sinner will not of himself recognize that he is abnormal in his interpretation of life. Hence he also refuses to recognize that God is the ultimate while he himself should be nothing but the immediate starting point in the knowledge situation. The sinner seeks to be autonomous. He will, therefore, seek to set himself up as a judge over that which presents itself to him as revelation. Now if the revelation of God came to men in such a way as to recognize the sinner as autonomous and able to judge about the truth of revelation of himself, it is certain that the sinner would never escape his position of autonomy. There would then be no one to challenge it. God himself would be strengthening man in his self-conceit. Accordingly we find that revelation comes to the sinner with a claim of absolute authority over man. It asks man to submit his thought captive-to it in obedience. Thus the concepts of necessity and authority are involved in one another. There would be no necessity for anything but for an authoritative revelation while, on the other hand, there was an absolute necessity for an authoritative revelation."[[1]](#footnote-1)

When Adam and Eve succumbed to the temptation of the serpent and defiantly sinned against God, everything changed. The "very good" world that God had created was now tarnished and polluted. It is important to understand what was going on in Eve's mind, though, when she listened to the counsel of the serpent. She was not intending to substitute her worship and devotion to God with a worship and devotion to Satan.[[2]](#footnote-2) In other words, she did not want to dismiss one Lord over her life only to submit to another. The temptation she gave into was the desire to "be like God, knowing good and evil" (v. 5). She wanted independence to determine things for herself without having to submit to some authority over her. The prospect of freeing herself from the lordship of God in order to elevate herself as supreme proved to be too enticing. She, thus, ate of the fruit and gave some to Adam and they sinned against God by disobeying His command.

As such, God held them accountable for the sin they committed. He had promised that in the day they ate of the fruit, they would surely die (a truth that the serpent directly challenged!). Although they did not immediately fall physically lifeless at God's feet, His word was vindicated in the consequences of the Fall.

1. Satan had promised Eve that if she ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, her eyes would be opened. According to Genesis 3:7, what immediately happened when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit?

John Davis: "The tempter promised that eating the fruit would open Adam's and Eve's eyes, but he did not say what they would see. They saw themselves as sinners devoid of their original beauty. They saw good and evil only from the standpoint of sinners, from the rock-bottom level of corruption. They became like God in that their natures were fixed, but God was confirmed in holiness while they were confirmed in sinfulness."[[3]](#footnote-3)

2. What did Adam and Eve do to cover their nakedness (v. 7-8)? What was their reaction to hearing God walking in the garden (v. 8)?

3. Notice that it is God who calls out for Adam (v. 9). Certainly God knows all things, and He knew where Adam and Eve were cowering in the trees. Why do you think God asked Adam where he was?

4. How does Adam respond to God's question (v. 10)? How does this differ from the relationship Adam and Eve enjoyed with God before the Fall?

5. When Adam and Eve are confronted about their sin, they pass the blame rather than accepting responsibility. Who does each blame for their sin?

6. Read Genesis 3:14-19. How did the curse of sin directly affect each of those involved?

a. The serpent.

b. The woman.

c. The man.

7. In Genesis 3:15, we get the first crude expression of the gospel. This passage is commonly referred to as the *protevangelium* or "First Gospel." The seed of the woman is a reference to Christ (cf. Rev. 12:1-5; Gal. 3:16, 19). Read Hebrews 2:14 and 1 John 3:8. How did Satan bruise Christ's heel? How did Jesus bruise Satan's head?

8. God promised Adam that in the day that he ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, death would enter the world. The ultimate idea behind the term death is separation. Physical death is really a separation of a person's soul from the body. Considering this how did Adam and Eve "die" in each of the following areas?

a. Physically (Sin's Effect on the Body).

b. Spiritually (Man's Relationship with God).

c. Relationally (Man's Relationship with Man).

d. Emotionally (Sin's Effect on the Emotions).

e. Cognitively (Sin's Affect on the Mind).

f. Cosmologically (Man's Relationship with the Earth).

9. What is significant about God's providing clothing for Adam and Eve (v. 21)? What is the difference between the clothing Adam and Eve made for themselves and the clothing God provided?

10. Why did God expel Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden? What is significant about God's keeping Adam and Eve from the tree of life (vv. 22-24)?

**"Amazing Grace"**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound –

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found,

Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,

His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures.

Thru many dangers, toils and snares,

I have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we'd first begun.

Thoughts for Application:

1. When Adam and Eve fell into sin, they attempted to cover up their guilt and shame. In what ways do people still do this today? Try to think of at least five examples.

2. Adam and Eve certainly experienced death when they sinned, though not in the way they might have expected. In what ways do we experience the effects of the curse today? Think of ten specific examples.

3. How significant is it that when Adam and Eve were hiding God called out to them? Consider Romans 3:10-11.

4. Rather than accepting responsibility for their actions, Adam and Eve shifted the blame (Gen. 3:11-13). Do you struggle with this in your own life? How?

5. Think about the devastating effects brought about by the curse of sin. In this context, Genesis 3:15 gives us the first promise of the gospel. What does it communicate about God that He would make this promise?

1. Cornelius Van Til, *An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company: Phillipsburg, NJ, 1979), 134-35. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It is correct to say, though, that in listening to the devil to sin against God, man essentially joined Satan in his rebellion against God. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. John Davis, *Paradise to Prison*, 91. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)