

THE WAGES OF SIN

Genesis 3:1-24

When God made the first people Adam and Eve. He made them perfect, without any sin. He gave them the beautiful Garden of Eden for their home. He filled the garden with everything they could possibly want to keep them happy. God only gave Adam and Eve one thing that they couldn't have. Now you would think that if you could have absolutely everything that you want in the whole world except for one, that a person would be content.

As we learned before, the serpent was more clever than any other beast of the field that God had made. One day he came to the woman, Eve, and said, "Did God really say, "You can't eat of every tree in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of all the trees in the garden except of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said that we shouldn't eat of it or even touch it or we will die!"

When the serpent heard Eve add to the words of the Lord, he knew that she would more easily fall to this temptation, for she had already committed one sin, adding to God's word. So he said to her, "you won't really die. God knows that on the that you eat that fruit, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil." At this point Eve should certainly run from the serpent, for he was calling God a liar. The serpent was telling Eve that God was keeping wonderful knowledge and power from her and Adam. Eve needed to look at all that God had done for her and Adam. She needed to be thankful and show her love for God by obeying Him. Eve had to make a choice, would she believe God or the serpent.

Eve made the wrong choice. Instead of looking to God, she looked to the tree. She let it be a temptation to her. She looked at it and longed for it. It looked so good to her, so she took and ate it. Then to make things worse, she got Adam to eat it too. Now they had both disobeyed God. And the minute they did, they were changed forever. They knew that they were naked, and because of the sin they felt shame. They felt the need to be clothed, so they sewed together fig leaves to make themselves a covering. From this we can learn a very important lesson. The very minute that you are tempted to do what is wrong, get away from what is tempting you. Don't stay there and look at the temptation. Don't discuss the temptation with the tempter or yourself. The Bible says to flee or run away from temptation. God knows that we are weak and will fall. Don't play with sin!

Well not long after this Adam and Eve heard God in the garden. He was calling them, "Adam where are you?" It wasn't that God did not know where they were, for God knows everything. He knew that they had disobeyed Him.

But because their sin against God, Adam and Eve hid from Him. Sin always makes us hide from God. Finally Adam answered God from behind the trees, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked. So I hid myself."

God said, "How did you know that you were naked? Did you eat of the tree that I told you not to?" Adam answered by blaming God. He said, "That you gave me, gave me there grit and I ate it."

The LORD said to the woman, "What have you done?" Eve answered by blaming the serpent. She said, "The serpent tricked me and I ate."

The LORD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed above every animal. You will crawl on your belly, and eat dust all your life. I will put hatred between you and the woman, between your offspring and her offspring, it shall bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel."

To the woman the LORD said, "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and pain in childbearing and your husband shall rule over you."

To Adam the LORD said, "Because you listened to the voice of your wife and ate of the forbidden tree, which I told you not to eat of the ground will be cursed for you. The ground will now bring forth thorns and thistles. To make food grow, you will have to work till the sweat pours from your body. You will have to work like this till you die. Then your body will return back to the dust from which it was made.

Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Then the LORD made Adam and Eve coats from animal skins, and clothed them. Because of their sin the first animal had to die so that they could have a covering. So God made the first sacrifice for the covering of sin on their behalf. He showed them that blood had to be shed to cover sin, because sin is such a terrible thing. The price paid to cover it was very great!

Then the LORD said, "Behold, the man has come as one of us, to know good and evil, Now, we don't want him to eat of the tree of life and live forever in his sinful state." So God sent Adam and Eve out of the beautiful garden. He placed Cherubim with flaming swords which turned every direction to keep them from the tree of life.

So ended the man's life in the beautiful garden. The price of sin is very high. It caused mankind the loss of the Garden, the loss of innocence. God had created him with only knowledge of good. Now he would also experience evil.

Whenever you see thorns and thistles, whenever you feel pain or see someone else suffer, whenever you see a snake crawling on his belly, whenever you see something die, remember; that is a price of sin. PRAISE GOD! He has Amed a way to cover that sin, but the price was very high. Jesus, God's Son paid it by shedding his blood on the cross so that we could be freed from the curse of sin.

Learn:

“But every man is tempted,

When he is drawn away of his own lust,

And enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived,

It bringeth forth sin: and sin,

When it is finished,

Bringeth forth death.”

James 1:14,15