GENESIS 3

Fallen Humanity

1 Now the serpent[i] was more cunning[ii] than any beast of the field that Yahveh Elohim had made.

He[iii] said to the woman, "Did Elohim really say,

'You must not eat from every tree in the garden?' "

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We can eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. **3** But of the fruit of the tree, which is in the middle of the garden, Elohim has said,

'You must not eat from it or touch it.[iv] Otherwise, you will[v] die.' "

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not really die! **5** For Elohim knows that when you eat of that tree, your eyes will open. You will be as gods, knowing good and evil."[vi]

6 Now the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasant to the eyes. She also saw that it was a desirable tree that could make one wise.[vii] So she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.[viii] **7** Then both of their eyes opened. They both knew that they were naked.[ix] So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.[x]

8 Then they heard the voice of Yahveh Elohim as He was walking in the garden in the breeze of the day. So Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahveh Elohim among the trees of the garden.

9 Then Yahveh Elohim called to Adam. He said, "Where are you?"

10 And Adam said, "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid myself." **11** Then Elohim said, "Who told you that you[xi] were naked? Have you eaten of the tree that I commanded you not to eat?"

12 And the man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then Yahveh Elohim said to the woman, "What covenant disobedience[xii] have you done?"

And the woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate it."

Elohim's Declaration of War

14 Then Yahveh Elohim said to the serpent, "Because you have broken My covenant,[xiii] I will curse you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field. You will crawl on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. **15** I will put hatred and hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed.[xiv, xv] Her Seed will crush your head, but you will only bite His heel."[xvi]

16 Then He told the woman, "I will greatly increase[xvii] your sorrow in childbirth. You will give birth to children in pain. You will desire to control[xviii] your husband, but he will rule over you."

17 Then He told Adam, "You have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you,

'Do not eat of it.'

"Therefore, I will curse[xix] the ground because of you. You will eat from it in sorrow all the days of your life. **18** You will eat the herbs of the field, even as thorns and thistles grow in the ground. **19** You will eat

bread by the sweat of your face. Then you will return to the ground, for I took you out of the ground. You are dust, and to dust you will return."

20 Adam called his wife's name "Eve" because she was the mother of all living. **21** Yahveh Elohim also made coats of skins for Adam and his wife and dressed them.[xx] **22** Then Yahveh Elohim said, "Look! They have become like one of Us.[xxi] They know good and evil. Now we must not allow them to reach out and take some fruit from the 'Tree of Life.' If[xxii] they eat that fruit, they will[xxiii] live forever."[xxiv]

23 Therefore, Yahveh Elohim sent them out[xxv] of the garden of Eden. They had to till the ground from which God made them. **24** After He drove them out of the garden, He also placed Cherubim[xxvi] and a flaming sword[xxvii] (which turned every way) at the east side of the garden of Eden. This kept anyone from getting to the "Tree of Life."

---

i The Hebrew נָחָשׁ means serpent. In the Companion Bible, E.W. Bullinger wrote that the root Nachash means "to shine." The word *Nehustan* is a shining piece of brass in 2 Kings 18:4. The serpent before Eve was stunningly beautiful. This passage is more than zoology or evolution. The serpent was really Lucifer (Isa 14, Ezek 28) in rebellion against God trying to cause the human family to join him in rebellion against God.

ii The Hebrew עָרוּם (*aw-room*) means shrewd, clever, or prudent. It can describe thoughtful foresight and cautious action, but it can also imply cunning or deceptive craftiness. The word's moral weight depends on context — either as wise prudence or as manipulative trickery.

iii The Hebrew is וַיֹּאמֶר (and he/she/it said). The pronoun for a snake is usually neuter. However, we know from Scripture that the Satan is the force behind the serpent. So, most translations use "he." Remember, "Satan" is a title — NOT a name. We capitalize the word "Satan" just like we capitalize "President Washington."

iv What?? God never said anything about touching. It reminds me of the injunctions in Rev 22:18. Woe to those who add to God's Word. Eve's first mistake was talking to the serpent.

v The Hebrew particle פֶּן (*peyn*), when joined with the imperfect verb form, normally signals a preventative warning — what may or might happen if no restraint is shown. Yet in some contexts, the seriousness of the consequence requires the stronger sense of will. Here, death is not a mere possibility but a certain result if the command is broken. Thus, the English "will" best conveys the weight of the warning.

vi First add doubt. When that works, go for open denial!

vii The Hebrew שָׂכַל (*saw-chahl*) means to act with insight, to understand, or to succeed through wise action. It emphasizes thoughtful discernment that leads to practical success or skillful conduct. *Saw-chahl* often overlaps with wisdom (חָכְמָה, *chawch-mawh*) and understanding (*been*), highlighting wisdom in motion — insight applied to real-life situations.

viii Paul tells us that Adam was not deceived (1 Tim 2:14). He knew what he was doing. When Eve sinned, she lost her radiant glory. Adam knew something bad had happened. But as a figure of Jesus, Adam so loved Eve that he chose to join her in her predicament rather than live without her. Whatever trouble she was in, Adam decided to join her. Jesus did the same for us — and more! Had Adam not done that, there would be no redemption because Jesus is the Seed of the woman (Gen 3:15). Jesus became sin for us that we might be the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21).

ix Jesus, at the Transfiguration and as the Second Adam, showed us what unfallen Adam and Eve looked like in the Garden of Eden. Now that Adam and Eve had sinned, they no longer had that dazzling glory surrounding them.

x We typically describe this event as "The Fall." It is the first of three major rebellions that changed the course of world history. The second major rebellion was when the sons of God had sex with women (Gen 6). The third major rebellion was the Tower of Babel (Gen 11).

xi The spelling of the Hebrew אָתָּה begins with the **Aleph**-**Tav**. Many pronouns are spelled with the **Aleph**-**Tav**. This is not coincidental as this word occurs 1,135 times. Humans are created in the image of Elohim and in the image of Jesus, the **Aleph**-**Tav**. Therefore, it is not surprising that God directed Moses to spell many pronouns in a different non-standard way using the **Aleph**-**Tav**. This translation only addresses a few of these occurrences.

xii The Hebrew זֹאת is a Zayin-**Aleph**-**Tav**. Its basic meaning is to cut, either as a blessing or a judgment. This translation routinely renders this 3-letter word in terms of covenant. See the article "The **Aleph**-**Tav**." Here it refers to the breaking of the covenant.

xiii The Hebrew זֹאת is a Zayin-**Aleph**-**Tav**. Its basic meaning is to cut, either as a blessing or a judgment. This translation routinely renders this 3-letter word in terms of covenant. See the article "The **Aleph**-**Tav**." Here it refers to the breaking of the covenant.

xiv First, "Her Seed" is a biological absurdity. The seed is of the man, not the woman. This is the first hint of the Virgin Birth confirmed in Isaiah 7:14. Second, the word "Seed" carries layered meaning. It includes all of Eve's descendants generally, yet it marks God's declaration of war against the devil and finds its primary fulfillment in Jesus — the conquering King and Savior.

xv Blessings are discussed in Gen 12:3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14; Acts 3:25; Gal 3:8.

xvi The entire Bible records this unfolding spiritual warfare. At the cross, Satan appeared to achieve victory in the death of Jesus. Yet this moment was the means by which Jesus defeated sin and death. As Paul teaches, had the rulers of this age understood God's wisdom, they would not have brought about the crucifixion (1 Cor 2:8). What seemed to be Satan's triumph was, in fact, his defeat. Jesus is the final and decisive victor. All who are in Jesus share in His victory.

xvii The Hebrew רָבָה (*raw-vawh*) usually means "to multiply" or "to increase." In certain contexts, especially covenant blessings or promises, it carries a broader sense of flourishing, prospering, or thriving, encompassing well-being, success, and abundance, not only numerical growth.

xviii Genesis 4:7 involves the same construct. After God did not honor Cain's offering of his labors from the cursed earth, Cain became angry. But God told Cain that sin "was crouching at the door. It wants to ***control*** you, but you must rule over it."

The English word "desire" is from the Hebrew "תְּשׁוּקָתְךָ," which can also mean "longing" or "craving" in either a positive or negative sense.

The English words "to control" come from the Hebrew word אֶל. We can translate this as "according to" (with a sense of rule or standard), "into" (with the idea of a limit), "contrary to" (with the idea of hostility), "in addition to," or "toward" (as in physical motion).

In either case, whether the idea is positive or negative, God has set marital authority with the husband.

xix Just as an ideal environment once mirrored man's ideal relationships, so now a disordered environment reflects our disordered relationships. (Righteousness by Faith (Part 2): Chapter 4, The Relation of Righteousness and Salvation, *Present Truth*, https://www.presenttruthmag.com/archive/XXXIII/index.htm).

xx In verse 7, Adam and Eve made aprons out of leaves. It was a failure. Religion is our futile attempt to cover ourselves. God discarded their attempts to cover themselves. He made coats of skins. That means that some animals had to die. God was teaching them that only the shedding of blood would rightly cover them.

xxi Yahveh God is plural.

xxii The Hebrew particle פֶּן (*peyn*) with the imperfect verb form introduces a preventative warning about what could happen if no restraint is shown. The English "if," "lest," or "otherwise" convey this warning. See also Gen 26:7, Exo 19:22, Deut 4:19, and Psa 2:12 for other examples.

xxiii The Hebrew particle פֶּן (*peyn*), when joined with the imperfect verb form, normally signals a preventative warning — what may or might happen if no restraint is shown. Yet in some contexts, the seriousness of the consequence requires the stronger sense of will. Here, eternal physical life is not a mere possibility but a certain result if there is no restraint. Thus, the English "will" best conveys the weight of the warning.

xxiv God doesn't want us to live forever in this fallen condition. He wants us to live forever with Him in perfect righteousness. Physical death brings an end to our present corrupted state and makes eternal, physical life possible. Spiritual death brings an end to the old, depraved nature and makes eternal, spiritual life possible. Physical death comes to all. Everyone will live forever. However, where will you live forever?

If you will not believe in what God has done for you through Jesus, you will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. God gives the blessings of eternal, spiritual life with Him only to those who believe in Jesus.

xxv The Hebrew שָׁלַח means to send away. Synonyms include banish, bring on the way, cast out, escort, expel, reach out, set, and shoot out.

xxvi The Hebrew is אֶת־הַכְּרֻבִים. A maqqeph joins the **Aleph**-**Tav** with "Cherubim." These divine creatures belong to Yahveh. They have at least three roles: they guard Yahveh's Tree of Life, they support God's chariot (Psa 18:11, 2 Sam 22:11), and they guard God's throne (1 Kings 6:23; Ezek 28:14, 16).

xxvii Cherubim is plural. Why the highest rank of angels? Why more than one? The weakest angel could guard the Tree of Life against any number of humans. God chose Cherubim to guard "The Tree" so that the devil couldn't do any foolishness with it. Even then, the cherubim were no match for the devil. So, God provided them with a unique, high-tech, flaming sword to enable them to guard the Tree against the devil and preserve it for the redeemed.