

**God's Eternal Plan #7**  
**From Innocence to Sinner**  
Genesis 2:15-25

**Man's existence on this Planet began under the most favorable circumstances.** The earth had been restored to its preexistent glory. The waters swarmed with fish and fowl. **The land was one mass of lush green vegetation, and hills and valleys and plains were covered with flocks and herds of sheep and cattle, and all kinds of beasts and animals.** The air was alive with bird life, and filled with fragrance from fruits and flowers. There were no storms to terrify and destroy, for the earth was watered by a mist, and the beauty of the day and night must have been unspeakably grand. Everything must have been perfect of its kind, for we read that God saw everything He had made and behold, it was "very good."

**To make life even better for His crowning creation, God prepared a "Garden" eastward in Eden.** A garden in which God caused to grow every tree that was pleasant to the sight and good for food, and in the midst of the garden He planted the "Tree of Life," and the tree of the "Knowledge of Good and Evil."

**The garden was watered with a beautiful river, and when it was ready God placed Adam in it.** In this garden of matchless delights, and amid scenes of indescribable loveliness, with God for his counselor, and angelic beings as visitors, with a sinless nature and environment most favorable for a pure and holy life, was home for the Head of the human race. The conditions were ideal, but there was a warning, as seen in verses 16-17, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

**In that beautiful setting God gave Adam authority and responsibility.** But there was something missing - Adam had no companion for which he could love and be loved in return. Genesis 2:18 records God's response, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Genesis 2:21-25 gives us this insight, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his

wife, and were not ashamed.” Whether Adam slept until his side was healed, or whether the Lord God healed it at once we are not told. But one thing we do know, when Adam awoke and saw God’s gift to him he was ecstatic. I mean, here is a guy who had spent his entire life looking at donkeys and monkeys. By revelation or by observation, it is clear from Adam’s statement this beautiful creature was a part of himself, as seen in Genesis 2:23, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

The first couple must have been happy in their sweet companionship, and doubtless believed that it would last forever. Being surrounded by the lush growth of the renewed earth, they knew nothing of the past catastrophe. Neither did they know that the heavens above them swarmed with fallen beings under the leadership of Satan, and that their happiness was to end in a "Fall" that would necessitate their expulsion from that "Garden of Delights," and that sooner or later they should taste of physical death.

You see, if God had forewarned Adam of his danger his disobedience, then Adam would have obeyed God out of a heart of fear instead of a heart of love. True obedience is always based on loving trust. Jesus said this in John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

How long after Adam was created Eve was given to him we do not know. It must have been some time, for Adam required time to name all the living creatures that were brought to him, of cattle, of fowl, and of the beasts of the field. Neither are we told how long after Eve was given to Adam before the Temptation. It is highly unlikely that Satan would have immediately attacked Eve, because she needed time to focus her attention on the one thing that God had forbidden she and her husband to experience.

Satan's, purpose in the "Temptation" was to thwart God's purpose in the creation of man (the peopling of the earth with a holy race of beings), and to regain the earth, which he had lost by his rebellion. He planned his move with precision: he would make himself known to the woman and then he would wait until she would be alone as she admired the beauty of the “tree.” Satan knew that together they might withstand him as they drew strength from each other. Therefore, he patiently waited until the time was right!

There are seven things that seem to be obvious from the scriptures.

First, if Eve had avoided the vicinity of the Tree, she would not have been able to dwell on its beauty and deliciously looking fruit. To understand Satan’s approach we have to understand how he operates, and the answer is found

in 1 John 2:16, “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” Therefore, Satan used the beauty of the tree to get Eve’s attention and the desire for the fruit to break her will.

**Second, it is possible that Eve is disgruntled about something.** I am convinced this is not the first time Eve had made a trip to the tree. Our clue is in Genesis 3:3, “God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” **But that is not what God said!** Genesis 2:17 says, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” God said nothing about *touching*! Obviously Adam and Eve had had an earlier conversation about her involvement with the “tree.”

**Third, the fact that Eve was not afraid to talk with the Serpent is an indication that she was familiar with him.** Therefore, the indication here is that he was not a loathsome or scary creature. In fact, he just might have been rather attractive. Remember, Satan does not make his move on the life of an individual until he has first prepared the way.

**Four, seeing that Eve’s senses had been aroused Satan made his move.** He began by casting doubt on the Word of God, as seen in Genesis 3:1-5, “The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden? Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die. You won’t die! the serpent replied to the woman. God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” Now watch this – if Satan can get you to doubt the *Word* of God, he will cause you to doubt the *love* of God.

**Five, causing Eve to doubt the *Word* and the *love* of God, Satan openly declares that God is a liar.** Therefore, he flatly declares in verse 4, “You won’t die!” The world’s religious systems are cunningly designed to cause one to doubt the validity of the Person, love, and Word of the true and living God!

**Six, Satan sealed the deal by appealing to Eve’s desire to be something she really wasn’t.** Look at verse 5, “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” The inducement that Satan held out to Eve, was simply that the acquisition of knowledge would put her and Adam on the same plane with God,

**Seven, Satan had dealt with Eve’s total being.** Look at Genesis 3:6, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also

gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” The Greek says, “The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it.”

Go back with me to 1 John 2:16, “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” Here is Satan’s appeal: “She saw that the tree was beautiful (the lust of the eye) and its fruit looked delicious (the lust of the flesh), and she wanted the wisdom it would give here (the pride of life). So she took some of the fruit and ate it.”

**The moment Eve ate the fruit the days of her innocence were ended and she became a fallen sinner.** The result was she then became the *tempter* and turned her attention to her husband. The Bible simply says, “She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” **And with that act, Adam and Eve caused humanity to plunge into the depths of despair.** I promise you, your sin will not just have an effect on you and you alone, it will always cause someone else heartache and pain!

**The Scriptures indicate the immediate effect of Adam and Eve’s disobedience was self-consciousness.** Genesis 3:7 says, “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked...” When Adam and Eve sinned they immediately saw themselves in a different light. Their innocence was now gone. **And what was once two people basking in the light of God’s glory now found themselves scrambling to find “make-shift” clothing to cover their nakedness.** Therefore, we are told, “...they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

**But the greater result of their disgust with themselves was their fear of God.** Genesis 3:8-13 gives us insight, “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? So he said, I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat? Then the man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. And the Lord God said to the woman, What is this you have done? The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

**What once was their greatest joy now becomes their greatest fear.** From the Garden of Eden to today sin always destroys our intimacy with holy God. And, just like today, Adam and Eve played the “blame game.”

**Adam blamed his fall on Eve, she blamed her fall on the Serpent.** God patiently listened to them and gave them an opportunity to justify their conduct, then, He passed judgment on them. But to the Serpent He gave no opportunity for justification, but said, “So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” In these verses we have the very first prophecy of the Person and ministry of Christ!

In that same manner, God, in His grace, took His first step of redemption, as seen in verse 21, “Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.” Thus began the revelation of God’s redemption of humanity that actually began long before there was ever a Garden of Eden, as seen in 1 Peter 18-20, “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”