

A Worldview in Touch with Reality: Part Three
(Genesis 3)

In Genesis chapter three, God asked a series of questions to elicit a confession from Adam:

The first question was “Where art thou?” (3:9); the second question was “Who told thee that thou wast naked?” (3:11); and the third question was “Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” (3:11).

Adam immediately went into action to cover his guilt. Therefore, Adam blamed God and his wife: “The ‘woman’ whom ‘thou’ gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (3:12). Then God turned to Eve and Eve blamed the serpent: “And the woman said, The ‘serpent’ beguiled me, and I did eat” (3:13). Of course, God saw right through the blame shifting and punished the serpent, the woman, and the man each according to their deed (3:14-19).

The serpent would go about on its belly and would be completely humiliated (3:14). The woman was cursed with pain in childbirth and given a subordinate role to her husband (3:16). The man on the other-hand, is condemned to exhausting labor with a life of hard toil as he worked the soil and fought the weeds (3:17, 18). Life for both man and woman would end in death and a return of the body to the soil from which it had been taken (3:19).

But on the darkest day of human history, we see the light of God’s grace shine through. God promised that the woman would give birth, though in pain, and that the human race would continue (3:16). God promised that the man would have food to eat, although he would fight the weeds to get it (3:18, 19). God also made clothing of animal skins – which was far superior to the clothing Adam and Eve had made out of the fig leaves (compare 3:21 with 3:7). Yet, the greatest of all that God did for Adam and Eve was the fact that He protected them from the tree of life. And He did this to prevent them from living forever in sin and in separation from Him (3:22, 23, 24).

In those three verses we see four acts of God: punishment, grace, love, and mercy. Driving Adam and Eve from the garden was both a punishment, an act of grace, an act of love, and an act of mercy. For if God had not acted in this fashion, they would have eat of the tree of life and lived forever in a state of death and alienation.

But one of the most noteworthy verses in Genesis 3 is verse 15. And in this verse the Lord God is speaking to Satan: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

Now there is a very important two letter word in this verse, “it.” That little word refers to Christ who would deal a mortal blow to Satan. Well, all of that took place at Calvary! At Calvary Satan inflicted a “heel” wound on Jesus, but Jesus hit Satan with a mortal blow – a death blow – a “head” wound from which he can never recover.

Genesis 3:15 provides the earliest indication of God’s redemptive work. The human race was plunged into sin by Adam, so death spread throughout the entire race (Romans 5:12). Therefore, just as many are sinners in Adam, so also many are declared righteous in Jesus Christ (Romans 5:18, 19).

Everyone who by faith accepts the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ is made righteous. Although Jesus suffered at His crucifixion, He rose victorious from the grave and offers salvation to anyone who believes in Him. In this way, Jesus has triumphed over Satan by rescuing sinners from Satan’s dominion.

There is only one way to God, and that way is Jesus (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:4-6).

Jerry Arnold
All Rights Reserved