

Text: Genesis 3.1-24

Today we come to the story of the Fall. It is one that raises lots of questions. Did this really happen just as it recorded in Genesis? Can snakes talk? What really happened?

Other passages in the Bible assume these events really happened:

² Cor 11.3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of *devotion* to Christ.

¹ Tim 2.13-14 For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve. ¹⁴ And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Despite the puzzling things, this story really happened. Let's read the Bible then talk about it.

I. The crafty serpent (1-5)

A. What about the snake?

1. Literal snake (some evangelicals)
2. Satan described as a snake (other evangelicals)
3. Probably Satan used a snake to deceive Eve

B. Man was to have dominion over the animals, but here an animal gained dominion over man

1. First the serpent got Eve to question God's word
2. Then the serpent appealed to Eve's curiosity

II. The sin of mankind (6-7)

A. The woman saw things in a new light (deceived light)

1. She saw the benefit
2. She took pleasure in the object
3. She desired the fruit for wisdom

These terms describe temptation, not sin

- B. The woman gave the fruit to her husband, and he ate (but according to the NT, was not deceived)

III. The consequences of sin (8-19)

- A. Shame and guilt: they hid themselves (8-11)
- B. The second sin: blame-shifting (12-13)
- C. The curse on the serpent (14-15)
- D. The curse on the woman (16)
- E. The curse on the man (17-19)

IV. The expulsion from the garden (20-24)

- A. Adam and Eve accepted God's judgement (20)

Constable thinks this represents faith: "Eve" is linked to the word for life, he has faith life will continue, he is looking forward, not back.

- B. God clothed their nakedness (21)
- C. God drove man out of the garden (22-24)

Conclusion:

We often refer to this story. It is one of the central stories of our history and explains why bad things happen in our world.

There are a few hints of redemption in this story, the promise to the woman and the faith of Adam.

We need faith in God to overcome our sin nature, inherited from Adam.