

## CHAPTER 3

### *Agony in the Garden*



**I**MAGINE ADAM AND EVE'S THOUGHTS! Their feelings! What will God say? What will God do? Questions hang like rotting fruit in the gathering gloom of the garden. And they know an answer must be forthcoming from a jilted God.

The day began like any other, filled with promise. But by midday the human couple lay fallen from perfection. And now the cool of the evening steals upon them.

*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day... Genesis 3:8*

At other times when sensing God's presence in the garden, Adam and Eve hurried with delight to meet Him. But this time ...*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?' Genesis 3:8-9*

Could this mean God does not know they have sinned? Does he really not know where they are? The truth is ...*there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.' Hebrews 4:13*

God knows the moment sin occurs. And He knows the circumstances surrounding every ordeal. Then could the all-seeing God have prevented Adam's and Eve's untimely disaster? No, for the test was Adam's and Eve's, not God's.

Even so, God is not void of help. First he allows Adam and Eve a time of reflective solitude. Then at the evening rendezvous he goes in search of His lost children. Gently He approaches his stricken son and daughter.

God feels their agony. Their destitution cuts deep into His own soul, and He longs to lift the fear of retribution from their troubled minds. Tenderly He calls to them, that they might respond and meet Him at the halfway mark of reconciliation.

In their sin-stricken state, Adam and Eve cannot imagine for one moment that God is coming to them with mercy. But Adam hears the tones of love emanating from God's voice and slowly appears from his hiding place.

*So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.' Genesis 3:10*

Now God asks two searching questions:

*'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?' Genesis 3:11*

*Then the man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.' Genesis 3:12*

In his reply Adam tries to blame Eve for his sin, and even insinuates that God is also partly responsible, *The woman whom **You** gave...*

When a sin or fault is exposed in a person's life, there is often a temptation to shift the blame onto another or to blame circumstances.

But false justification can never foil God's discerning eye.

*If I have covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom. Job 31:33*

*'A good man out of the good treasures of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgement. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.'* Matthew 12:35-37

And now God questions Eve. *And the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'*

In her reply Eve gives an honest answer. The difference between Adam's and Eve's fall is simply this, Eve was deceived by the serpent.

*...the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness... 2 Corinthians 11:3*

Adam was not deceived at all. He ate the fruit because of his love for Eve. His love for God came second.

*And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 1 Timothy 2:14*

Now God addresses the root cause of sin - collaboration between the serpent and Satan. In the open court of the world, God passes judgement upon both.

*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.'  
Genesis 3:14-15*

In this proclamation God seals the fate of both the serpent and Satan. The body belongs to the serpent; the voice to Satan. Plucking the wings from the *flying serpent* God pronounces judgement upon him. *Isaiah 14:29* Now the flying serpent grovels in the dust of the earth, and his offspring evolve into the slithering snakes we know today.

Now snakes do not hear as people hear. They have no outer eardrum, but an inner ear which senses vibration through the jawbone resting on the ground. So snakes live in fear of being attacked from above. But a snake's stealth and venomous strike still strike fear into human hearts, a living example of evil's deadly nature.

*The wicked are estranged from the womb;  
They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.  
Their poison is like the poison of a serpent;  
They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear,  
Which will not heed the voice of charmers,  
Charming ever so skilfully. Psalm 58:3-5*

Oh what a fall the serpent suffered, from beautiful flying serpent to a slithering creature. And mirrored in the serpent's fall is Satan's great fall from heavenly beauty, becoming a slithering devil in humanity's dust bed of death.

God speaks directly to ...*that serpent of old, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world. Revelation 12:9*, and said:

*'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.'*" *Genesis 3:15*

God said He would put *enmity* (hostility) between Satan's seed - his evil offspring - and Eve's seed - her offspring the human race. There can be no agreement between God's good and Satan's evil but only fierce conflict and continual unrest.

And in the words, *He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel*, God makes a great statement of hope, a Promise, to save fallen humanity from Satan's strike of sin and eternal death. Oh yes, Satan's power to hold humanity to ransom shall be broken!

For you see, a rescuer, a deliverer, is destined to arrive in the world and wage holy war upon Satan's evil rule. During the battle Satan shall bruise the deliverer's heel. But the deliverer shall overcome Satan, bruising Satan's head. The final outcome will be an end to Satan's reign of terror and death. Humanity is given this promise, ...*the God of peace, will crush Satan under your feet shortly. Romans 16:20*"

A look of awesome power beams from This Man's face and without missing a heartbeat he continues:

“And God’s promise to *crush Satan* under our feet is not born of sudden impulse. Oh no, Adam’s and Eve’s sin is not a surprise to God.

Before the creation of Adam and Eve, and long before the creation of Planet Earth, the great King and Son looked down the ages of time and foresaw the entrance of sin in this world.

With supernatural foresight they see Adam and Eve eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and gazed upon their sudden fall from godly perfection.

*...Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done... Isaiah 46:10*

Yet this future crisis does not deter them from their plan of love to create human life. If God does not continue to create life He will be surrendering to the powers of evil, and life will cease to have meaning.

*Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,  
The power and the glory,  
The victory and the majesty;  
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;  
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,  
And You are exalted as head over all.  
1 Chronicles 29:11*

God the Father and His beloved Son shall not be responsible for Adam’s and Eve’s sin but they shall act responsibly by planning a rescue to save fallen humanity.

Thus the Father and Son meet in private council.