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THE FIRST WRONG CHOICE

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman created by God, lived in a perfect world. They could tend the beautiful garden that was their home, without discomfort or tiredness. They could enjoy each other's company with no unkind thoughts or words. They knew nothing of illness or fear of death.

Into this perfect situation came an intruder – a serpent, used by the devil to tempt Adam and Eve to disobey God. God had given Adam just one command, one rule that he must keep. He must not eat fruit from one particular tree which was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”. Keeping this one rule would show his willingness to obey the God who had given him life and every good thing to enjoy. Breaking God's command would bring death.

The serpent tempted Eve by presenting the idea that God was withholding something good from her. The fruit that God had forbidden, would actually make her wise, like God Himself.



Eve had a choice to make. Should she trust the God who had made her and given her everything she needed? Surely the God who had created the world was wise and would know what was best for her. Or should she believe the serpent, who dared to contradict what God had said?

Eve looked at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The fruit was attractive, it looked good. She reached out and took some fruit, she ate it and gave some to Adam and he ate it. In that simple act, Adam and Eve rebelled against their loving Creator. Instead of obeying God, they had obeyed the devil who hates God and hates everything that is good. The devil had deceived Eve. He had lied to her, and much sorrow was to follow her choice.

Adam and Eve felt ashamed and sewed leaves together to cover themselves. Worse still, when they heard God's voice, they hid among the trees, as if they could hide from God. Instead of confessing that they had done wrong, Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit, and Eve blamed the serpent.

The choice Adam and Eve made on that day, changed everything. Sin, sickness, sorrow and



death came into the world. Everyone born into the world since, except the Lord Jesus, is sinful and does, says and thinks things that are wrong.

READ: GENESIS 2–3; MATTHEW 1:21; REVELATION 12:9
QUESTIONS:

1. How do we know that the serpent was really the devil speaking to Eve? (Read Revelation 12:9)
2. Genesis 3:15 is picture language about someone who will overcome the devil. This is the first promise in the Bible of a Saviour. Who is the promised Saviour? (Matthew 1:21)
3. What is the difference between Adam's work in Genesis 2:15, and in 3:17-18?



EXTRA

ADAM AND EVE'S CHOICE AND GOD'S PLAN FOR PEOPLE TO BE "LIKE HIM" (GENESIS 1:26)

God is perfectly pure and holy. The human race had become sinful. Had the devil spoiled God's plan?

In Revelation 13:8, the Lord Jesus is called "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". This teaches us that from the beginning, God knew what He would do.

The Lord Jesus, God's own Son, would take sin's punishment for everyone who trusts in Him. He did this when He died on the cross so that we can be forgiven.

God sends His Holy Spirit to those who trust in the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit works in their lives, making them more like the Lord Jesus. The Bible calls this "sanctification". It begins when someone becomes a Christian and continues until the end of their life in this world. In this way God carries on His plan of making people "like Him".