

## The Temptation and Fall of Man

Genesis 3.1-7

Man was created in the image of God with the capacity to serve the Lord and the responsibility to obey Him. God's power and love has been on display; it's a perfect world! But lurking in the shadows of the Garden is a sinister foe. God's Word is about to be attacked...

### The Temptation

- The tempter's craftiness (Satan; cf. Rev. 12.9) (1a)
- The power of questioning God's Word (1b)
- The danger of distorting God's Word (2-3)
- The attack on God's character (4-5)

### The Fall

- The appeal of sin
- The act of sin
- The aftermath of sin

### Morals of the Story

*How do you treat God's Word?*

*How do you view God's motives?*

*'Take and eat': Sin and the Savior*



## Digging Deeper

1. There are subtle changes in the narrative of the temptation that are significant. In the creation of man (Gen. 2), it is "the Lord God" (*Yahweh Elohim*) who acts – the name which shows His personal, covenantal nature in relation to man. But the serpent refers only to 'God' – *no relationship here*. He does not want Eve to think of a personal caring God, but an impersonal and uncaring one! His question (*Has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'*) is designed to make God sound harsh and restrictive. Does Satan still pull these stunts today?
2. Eve's response to the serpent's crafty question includes subtle changes from the original prohibition given by God. Compare Gen. 2.16-17 with Gen. 3.2-3. What is different? What is the effect of the additions and omissions? Why do you think Eve minimized the wonderful provisions of God, but then added to the prohibition? What is the effect of changing God's "You shall surely die" to "lest you die"?
3. In verses 4 and 5, Satan attacks God's character directly. What does he say about God's word? In addition to painting God as a liar, what does he suggest about God's *motives*? Does he still do this today? Can you think of ways Satan seeks to persuade people that God is a 'kill-joy' who wants us to be miserable?
4. Once the Tempter had undermined trust in God's word and in His integrity, the natural attraction of the senses was sufficient to lead to sin. In the absence of trust in God and His word, this is always enough. Compare Eve's assessment of the forbidden fruit in v6 with John's words in 1 John 2.16.
5. The tragedy of sin is that we don't realize its awful results until it's too late. What God intended for pleasure results in misery and death. Adam and Eve had new knowledge in v7, but what did it create in them? Contrast their condition in 2.25 and 3.7.