

THE FALL OF MAN AND ITS EFFECTS

Introduction

The Fall of Man represents the decisive turning point in redemptive history. It marks humanity's transition from innocence, righteousness, and intimate fellowship with God to sin, guilt, and spiritual separation. This event establishes the theological foundation for understanding sin, human depravity, divine judgment, and the necessity of redemption.

The Fall explains not only the broken condition of humanity but also the disruption of the created order.

1.0 Biblical Foundation

The primary scriptural account of the Fall is recorded in **Genesis 3**.

The serpent—described as more cunning than any beast of the field—approaches the woman and challenges the **authority** and **integrity of God's command**. The temptation centers on the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The serpent distorts God's instruction and suggests that disobedience would result in enlightenment and godlike status.

Genesis 3:6 records:

*"When the woman saw that **the tree was good for food** and **pleasing to the eyes**, and that **it was desirable for obtaining wisdom**, she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."*

2.0 Nature of the Transgression

The sin committed was not merely the eating of fruit; it was:

- A rejection of divine authority
- A willful act of disobedience
- An assertion of independence from God
- A desire for self-exaltation

Through this act, sin entered the human experience, bringing spiritual death and separation from God.

As a result of their disobedience, Adam and Eve's eyes are opened, and they become aware of their nakedness, leading to shame and fear. God pronounces curses upon the serpent, the woman, and the man, and they are expelled from the Garden of Eden, signifying a loss of direct fellowship with God.

3.0 Theological Implications

The consequences of the Fall include:

- Loss of innocence
- Alienation from God
- Corruption of human nature
- The introduction of suffering and death
- The impact of sin upon all creation.

The Fall sets the stage for the unfolding plan of redemption, revealing humanity's need for divine intervention and restoration.

4.0 The Original Sin

The Fall establishes the doctrine of Original Sin, which teaches that humanity inherits a sinful nature as a result of Adam's transgression. Sin is not merely individual acts of wrongdoing; it is a condition transmitted to all humanity through the first man.

Romans 5:12 affirms this theological principle:

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned."

This scripture has two foundational truths:

- Sin entered through one representative man (Adam).
- Death—both spiritual and physical—spread universally to all humanity.

Adam functions as the federal head of the human race; therefore, his fall affected all who descend from him.

5.0 The Cause of the Fall of Man

a. The Command/ Instructions/ The Law:

God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17).

Genesis 2:16-17 records that;

*"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, '**Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat**; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

b. The Deception:

The serpent questioned God's Word, deceiving Eve by appealing to her desire for wisdom (Genesis 3:1-5).

Genesis 3:1-5 records that;

*"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "**You shall not eat of every tree of the garden**"?'"*

The serpent's deception began with **doubt**, then outright contradiction of God's Word when He said, "**Out of every tree you shall eat but not the tree of good and evil**", but the serpent said 'Has God indeed said, "**You shall not eat of every tree of the garden**"?' appealing to Eve's desire for wisdom.

c. The Disobedience:

Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, disobeying God (Genesis 3:6).

Genesis 3:6 records that;

*"So when the woman **saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes**, and a **tree desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."*

Sin begins with **doubt**, grows through **deception**, and is consummated by **disobedience**. Before sin there lust when lust has conceives sin, when sin matures it gives birth death (James 1:14)

6.0 Consequences of the Fall

Genesis 3:7-10:

"Then the **eyes of both of them were opened**, and they knew that they were naked (*lost purity*); and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings... They heard the sound of the *LORD God* walking in the garden... and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the *LORD God*."

6.1 Immediate Consequences

a. **Guilt and Shame:**

Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness (Genesis 3:7).

Genesis 3:7 KJV

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Guilt and Shame are the immediate outcome of sin. Whenever, you commit sin you must experience guilt for going against God's law and shame for the impurity.

b. **Hiding from God:**

Instead of communing with God, they hid from His presence (Genesis 3:8).

Genesis 3:8 KJV

*And they heard the voice of the *LORD God* walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and **Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence** of the *LORD God* amongst the trees of the garden.*

c. **Judgment:**

God pronounced judgment on the serpent, Adam, and Eve, expelling them from the Garden (**Genesis 3:14-24**).

The implications of the Fall are comprehensive and affect every dimension of existence:

6.2 Spiritual Consequences

- 6.2.1 **Separation from God:** Sin created a barrier between God and humanity (Isaiah 59:2).

Isaiah 59:2:

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face (presence) from you, so that He will not hear."

Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden (**Genesis 3:23-24**).

The act of God expelling Adam and Eve was the act of mercy. If God had left them in the Garden, they had eaten the tree of life and remain dead forever—because, they were already are in the dead nature.

- 6.2.2 **Spiritual death:** Humanity became spiritually dead and unable to relate to God without redemption (Ephesians 2:1).

Ephesians 2:1:

"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins."

- 6.2.3 **Loss of original righteousness, Holiness and Purity:**
Awareness of their nakedness symbolized lost purity (Genesis 3:7).

6.3 Natural and Physical Consequences

- 7.3.1 **Death:** Physical death entered the world through sin (Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12).

Genesis 3:19:

"For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

Romans 5:12:

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."

- 7.3.2 **Suffering and Pain:** Eve was cursed with pain in childbirth, and Adam was condemned to toil and labor (**Genesis 3:16-17**).

Genesis 3:16-17:

*"To the woman He said: 'I will greatly multiply your **sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children.**' To Adam He said, 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.'"*

- 7.3.3 **Decay of Creation:** The earth was cursed, leading to thorns, thistles, and degradation (**Genesis 3:18; Romans 8:20-22**).

Genesis 3:18 KJV

thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Romans 8:20-22:

"For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope... For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."

Genesis 3:16–19 records further that:

- Pain in childbirth
- Toil and hardship in labor
- The curse upon the ground
- Eventual physical death

7.0 Relational Consequences

- 7.4.1 **Strained Relationships:** Conflict and imbalance arose between man and woman (Genesis 3:16).

Every fight in the world that is happening now, is because of the fallen nature of man.

Genesis 3:16:

"Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

- 7.4.2 **Blame and Shame:** Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:12-13). Commission of sin, will always bring one into blemish and shame.

Genesis 3:12-13 records that;

"Then the man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.' And the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'"

Creation itself becomes subject to frustration as a result of human sin.

8.0 Universal Consequences

- 7.4.3 **Inherited Sin:** Original sin teaches that humanity is born with an inherent inclination toward sin. This condition is not learned; it is intrinsic to fallen human nature.

Sin was passed down to all humanity through Adam (Romans 5:12-14).

Romans 5:12-14:

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world... all sinned."

Psalm 51:5 expresses this reality:

"Surely I was brought forth in iniquity; I was sinful when my mother conceived me."

This verse reflects the deep-rooted nature of human corruption, emphasizing that sinfulness is present from conception.

7.4.4 **Bondage to Sin:** Humanity became enslaved to sin and incapable of righteousness without God's intervention (Romans 7:14-24).

Romans 7:24:

"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

What Adam lost?

- i. Adam lost his Original Position of Glory.
- ii. Adam lost his original formation.
- iii. Adam was covered by Purity and Holiness after God's own nature. When he sinned God, he lost that essence of God.
- iv. Adam was put as a Prince on earthen throne (earthly legislation) when he committed sin, he misplaced the throne. What really happened was Adam transferred his right to Lucifer. So, Lucifer became in Adam's place.

9.0 The Human Condition After the Fall

The New Testament further clarifies the post-Fall condition of humanity.

Ephesians 2:1-3 describes humanity as:

- Dead in trespasses and sins
- Walking according to the course of this world
- Living in disobedience
- By nature, children of wrath.

Spiritual death renders humanity incapable of self-redemption. Divine initiative becomes necessary.

The Necessity of Redemption

Because sin is both inherited and practiced, reconciliation with God requires divine intervention. The doctrine of original sin therefore prepares the theological foundation for the necessity of salvation through Christ.

The Fall reveals the problem; redemption reveals God's solution.

*Selah,
Receive Life in Abundance.*