



Adam and Eve

Adam was the only human being in the world. Yet he was not alone. For in the evening, in the cool of the day, God came to him and talked to him. At night Adam lay down on the cool grass to sleep. He had no house to live in, but he was not afraid, for none of the animals would hurt him. They were neither wild nor fierce.

God took care of Adam. God planted a garden, and He filled it with beautiful trees and plants whose fruit was delicious to eat. He put Adam in the garden to take care of it. The garden was called the Garden of Eden. In the middle of the garden was a very wonderful tree called the Tree of Life. Whoever ate the fruit of that tree would live forever. There was another tree in the middle of the garden called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God said to Adam, "You may eat freely of every tree of the garden, but you must not eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. For if you eat that fruit, you will surely die."

God had given Adam many wonderful gifts. The greatest of all these gifts was the love and the friendship of God Himself. Now God was testing Adam to see whether Adam loved and trusted God in return. That was the reason for the strict command not to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

God had made Adam good. Adam knew only about goodness; he did not know anything about wickedness. God did not want him to know anything about being wicked.

Adam was very happy in the Garden of Eden. Once in a while he was lonely, because there were no other people in the world. God brought all the animals to Adam so he could name them, but none of them could talk to him. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make a wife for him." God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was asleep God took out one of his ribs and made that rib into a beautiful, sweet woman.

When Adam woke up, God brought the lovely woman to him. How surprised and pleased Adam was. Now he was not alone anymore. Now he had someone to talk to and to love. Adam called her Eve. They wandered through the beautiful garden hand in hand, picking the delicious fruit, and taking care of God's garden together. They did not have to wear clothes. They went naked and were not ashamed, because they were innocent as little babies. They did not know sin and shame. Adam and Eve were happier than anyone else has ever been in the whole wide world. They were happy because they were good. They loved God. They loved each other, and they never wanted to do anything wrong.

There is something in my heart, and in yours, that makes us want to do wrong, because we have bad, sinful hearts. But when God made Adam and Eve, he gave them hearts that wanted to be good.

They were never sick or tired. God gave them bodies that were healthy. They never had to work hard, as we do. God also promised them a wonderful gift. He promised that if they obeyed his command not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would never die.

God made the first man and the first woman perfectly good, and perfectly strong and healthy. But think how much wickedness there is now in the world, and how much pain and suffering there is, and worst of all, death! How did this sad change come about?



The wicked devil was once an angel in heaven. But he did not stay good and pure, as the other angels are. He became wicked, and God put him out of heaven as a punishment for his wickedness. The devil, being very wicked, hated God, and tried to fight against Him. When he saw the beautiful new world that God had made, and Adam and Eve happy because they loved God, the devil wanted to spoil God's beautiful world, and make Adam and Eve wicked like himself. He knew that if Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they could not live in the beautiful garden and walk and talk with God. Satan wanted the man and the woman to be as unhappy as he was himself. So the devil disguised himself as a snake. The snake was the cleverest of all the animals God had made. Satan, hiding himself in the snake, came and talked to Eve. "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit of any tree in the garden," he asked.

Eve answered, "No, we may eat all the fruit in the garden, except the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God says if we eat the fruit of that tree, or touch it, we shall surely die."

Then the devil in the snake's body told Eve a wicked lie. He said, "You shall not surely die. God knows that the day that you eat the fruit of that tree your eyes shall be open, and you shall be like God, knowing good and evil."

Would Eve believe Satan, or would she believe God? This was a test of whether she really loved and trusted God.

Eve went and looked at the tree. It was a beautiful tree. She thought the fruit would taste very good. She would like to be as wise as God, knowing both good and evil. She knew God had commanded them not to eat the fruit, or even touch it. But she disobeyed God. She picked some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some of it to Adam. He disobeyed God too, and ate the fruit.

A horrible change came. No longer did the man and the woman want to be good. No longer did they love God and want to please him! No longer did they love each other! Now they had angry and selfish feelings in their hearts. They began to want to do wicked things.

It was indeed true that the fruit of the tree would make them wise to know evil as well as good. Before this they knew only what it was to have good thoughts, and to do good things. Now at once they knew what it was to have wicked thoughts, and do wicked things.

Now that they had eaten the forbidden fruit, they began to be ashamed that they were naked. Before this they had never thought of being ashamed. They took fig leaves and fastened them together. In this way they made themselves clothes, so that they would not be naked.

Adam and Eve no longer loved to have God come into the garden. They were afraid of God, because they knew they had disobeyed Him. When they heard God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they hid themselves among the trees. God called to the man and said, "Where are you," Adam answered "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." Then God said, "Who told you that you were naked, have you eaten the fruit of the tree that I commanded you not to eat," and Adam, whose heart was now wicked tried to lay all the blame on his wife. He said to God, "The woman that You gave to be with me she gave me some of the fruit of the tree and I ate it." Then God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done," and Eve laid the blame on the snake.



She said, "The snake persuaded me, and I ate the fruit."

Then God said to the snake, "Be cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field. You must crawl on your belly, and eat dust all the days of your life."

And the Lord made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Then God made a wonderful promise, a promise that Adam and Eve did not deserve. He said, "I will put enmity between the serpent and the woman, between her children and the serpent's children. Satan shall bruise your heel, but a son of yours shall bruise his head." God meant that someday one of Eve's children would conquer Satan and crush his head. That child would be our Lord Jesus Christ.

Then God said to the woman that she would have a great deal of sickness. She would have pain and weariness, and her husband would rule over her. Her disobedience had brought sickness and pain and weariness to the world. Eve would never again know what it was to be perfectly well. And when she had children, they too would sometimes become sick and suffer pain.

God told Adam because he had listened to the voice of his wife, and eaten the forbidden fruit, the ground would no longer grow fruits and vegetables by itself. After this Adam would have to work very hard to get enough to eat, until the sweat poured down from his face. Thorns and thistles would come up where Adam had planted seeds, because God had cursed the ground as a result of Adam's sin. All his life Adam would have to work, and in the end he would die, and his body would return to the dust.

What unhappiness they have brought upon themselves! They no longer wanted to be good, and to love God and each other. Their hearts were full of badness now. They became selfish, untruthful, angry. Instead of loving to think about God, and to talk to him, they wanted to forget Him.

There was more sadness to come. For when God sent them little children, the children would be like their father and mother. They would have wicked hearts too. Adam and Eve were the parents from whom all the people in the world have come. If Adam and Eve had obeyed God, their hearts would have stayed clean and sinless, and all the people in the world would have had sinless hearts. But now we are all wicked because Adam and Eve disobeyed God. The Bible says, "There is no one good, no not one."

You remember that besides the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, there was another wonderful tree in the Garden of Eden. It was called the Tree of Life. Whoever ate of that tree would live forever. Now that Adam and Eve had become wicked, God would no longer let them stay in the Garden of Eden, for fear that they might eat of the Tree of Life, and live forever.

God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. To keep them from going back, he placed cherubim at the east of the garden to guard the way to the Tree of Life, and a flaming sword which turned every direction. Cherubim are heavenly beings, or angels, who stand by the throne of God to serve Him.



When Adam and Eve were sent out of their home in the beautiful garden, they had to make a home for themselves. Things were not pleasant for them. What they missed most were those wonderful evenings when God came down to the garden, and walked and talked with them. Oh, how they longed for those happy times of fellowship with God! How they wished that they had not disobeyed His command.

God loved the man so much that he promised that He Himself would make a way for Adam and Eve and their children once more to walk and talk with God. He would send a Savior who would pay for their sin, who would bear their punishment in their place. Adam and Eve had to blindly trust in that promise. Someday they were going to walk and talk with God again. For God Himself had said so.

You and I, however, know who the Savior is. It is our Lord Jesus Christ, God's own Son. He came to earth on Christmas Day, and died on the cross on Good Friday, to pay for Adam's sin, and Eve's sin, and my sin, and yours, and the sins of all the people who have ever lived, or shall ever live, who put their trust in Jesus and love Him.

The whole Bible is the story of how God planned and prepared for the coming of His Son, and how the Savior finally came to earth and died to pay for our sins. It is the story of how you and I, even though we have wicked hearts, can be forgiven, and once again walk and talk with God.