

The Original Lie

Subtitled: {The truth about lies.}

In chapter 2 of Genesis we have the record of the first temptation and fall of man,

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!"

⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings (Gen. 3:1-7)

This is the biblical account of the fall of man.

Up to this point Adam and Eve lived in a state of innocence, having never sinned. Satan twisted God's simple command not to eat from a specific fruit – *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. Then Satan slandered God's character by implying He was not good, didn't really care about their interests, and that's why He was withholding the *best fruit* from them.

Once lies were accepted they became an easy target for the evil one. By focusing on the benefits and ignoring consequences, the devil persuaded them to disobey God's forewarnings. Temptation always involves half-truths.

A fish first takes the bait; then a hook takes the fish.

Paul wrote,

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned..." (Rom 5:12)

Three aspects I want us to see:

1. **The Lie:** In the anatomy of the fall the first step is to believe a lie and then act on that belief.
2. **The Legacy:** Consequences of the Fall that have been with us since that time.
3. **The Life:** God's Plan from the beginning that He brought about in Christ for us who believe Him.

I. The Lie

Satan's original lie: "You will not die!"

The Truth: "On the day you eat of it you shall die!"

Death became a reality for Adam and Eve, and everyone else.

Woody Allen said,

"It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens."

Someone has observed that in Elizabethan times people avoided talking about sex, but regularly engaged regularly in discussions about death. Today that has reversed itself. People talk about sex all the time. But the best way to ruin a conversation today is to bring up the subject of death.

Some Views on Death:

- To the ancient Greeks death was a release of the spirit from the bondage of the evil physical world.
- Hindus and Buddhists believe in Karma, in which someone who has died returns to live in a new body or state. – *Never ending redo's*
- Catholic traditions hold to the doctrine of purgatory as an afterlife state that prepares one for heaven.
- Islam teaches that someone may go to a similar place of punishment called the fires of purgatory that prepare someone for a good outcome of judgment.
- Spiritism says that all people and animals that have been loved (had their vibrations raised) such as pets, continue to live after physical death.
- Atheists believe that they came from nothing and return to nothing.

The same lie denying death seems to prevail.

The Bible says,

“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment.” (Heb. 9:27)

The Truth about Death:

- **Physical death** (Gk. Thonatos – separation)
James wrote, “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”
- **Spiritual death** – this occurred at the moment sin entered and men were spiritually cut off from God, the source of life.

Sin separated men from God; and just as a hand dies when it is removed from the life-giving blood of the body, so death and decay is the result of sin.

- **Ultimate Separation of Hell**

Revelation 20 states that there will be a Great White Throne Judgment.

It is those whose names are absent from the Book of Life who are cast into the Lake of Fire. Those who are spiritually without life are thrown into an eternal dwelling of lifelessness.

Referring to this place the apostle writes,

“The lake of fire, this is the second death.”

Jesus speaking of this final place of eternal judgment and torment, says,

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’” (Matt. 25:41).

The Lake of Fire is a place separated from God and the universe that is filled with God, so as to erase sin from existence as we know it.

Today there are groups that deny the existence of an eternal hell.

The Lie that men will not die will always be a lie from the devil.

II. The Legacy

Satan's lies: "You shall not die."

And a second: "You shall be like God, knowing good and evil."

The second lie was a promise of becoming like God by knowing good and evil. The truth is that God had better plans for his children to experience – good by obedience rather than evil and its consequences by experience. After Adam and Eve sinned a chain-reaction of evil took place. Sin brought about a changed nature within, and a world of troubles without. The wages of sin would be death and more sin.

Sin spread like infectious gangrene,
Three Legacies: Slavery, Corruption, and Enemies.

1. Slavery to Sin and Satan.

The apostle John writes,

"The whole world lies in the power of the evil one..." (1 John 5:19)

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:1).

The writer to the Hebrews cites the terrible state of humanity,
"Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives" (Heb. 2:14-15).

Men became slaves to Satan through fear until Christ came.

2. The Corruption of Creation.

Even the creation was affected:

"For the creation was subjected to futility...the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption..." (Rom. 8:20-21).

Until Christ returns and restores the earth to its original Eden-like condition, all will remain futile and corrupted by sin and death.

Russell Moore, in his article for the C. S. Lewis Institute, asks

“How can we have Narnian faith in a Screwtape World?”

He writes,

“As Wendell Berry puts it, ‘It is easy for me to imagine that the next great division of the world will be between people who wish to live as creatures and people who wish to live as machines.’ We live in a time when artificial intelligence and transhumanism speak of moving humanity even beyond the limits of humanity itself, and at the same time often reducing humanity to simply data enlivening meat.”¹

How corrupt can mankind become? Limitless!

Jeremiah writes,

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9)

Paul adds in his summary of the total depravity of man:

“There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God’ all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, not even one...”
(Rom. 3:10-12).

Thorough corruption...

The Third Consequence...

3. The Empowering of Enemies

-The World, The Flesh, & The Devil

- **The Devil**

The trilogy of enemies teams up to bring destruction on every man, born of Adam. Satan a fallen angel was the author of sin. He usurped power from Adam, stealing all that God had given him, including life itself

Jesus described him as a thief, who “...comes to steal, kill and destroy.”
(John 10:10)

Today he is active in specific ways:

Temptation

¹ Russell Moore, “How Can We Have Narnian Faith in a Screwtape World?”, (C. S. Lewis Institute: Broadcast Talks, Volume 3, Number 1, 2018), p. 8.

Accusation
Deception
Destruction

When Adam sinned he lost his dominion and became subject to Satan.

Paul writes to the Ephesian believers,

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:1).

The *World* also became subject to the devil, whom Jesus called,

- *the god of this world.*

- **The World**

This world system has been under the control of the devil since the fall.

John writes,

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

The third enemy (implied here) is within – the Flesh.

- **The Flesh**

When sin entered it corrupted all men in their natures.

- A nature of sin: Total Depravity

“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” (Eph. 2:3)

Paul Adds:

“So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind;

being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness...

[He adds in verse 22] ...that in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit..." (Eph. 4:17-19, 22)

Sin resulted in a sin nature.

"But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." (James 1:14- 15)

Believing lies produced a legacy of sin and destruction.

The Bible teaches that

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life."

(Rom. 6:23)

III. The Life

Promised Deliverance:

Back in Eden after the fall when God was giving consequences to Adam Eve and the Serpent, He also gave a promise of hope,

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the **head**, and you shall bruise him on the **heel**"
(Gen. 3:15).

The promised deliverer would be bruised on the heel; the snake's head *crushed*.

On the cross Christ would atone for sin; and Satan would be utterly defeated.

In His resurrection Jesus overcame death, rendered the devil powerless,
and conquering death for all mankind.

Paul writes,

"When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you **alive** together with Him,
having **forgiven** us all our transgressions,

having canceled out the certificate of debt
consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us;
and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

When He had **disarmed** the rulers and authorities
made a public display of them,
having triumphed over them through Him.” (Col. 2:13-15).

The good news is that Christ Himself was God’s remedy to restoration.
“I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10b)

There was a second tree in the Garden: The Tree of Life.
They could have eaten from it... it wasn’t forbidden.

It is a picture of Christ, who gives eternal life.