

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 2-3

Once upon a time, the world's scientists gathered for a convention. They decided that since science could now clone people, manipulate genetics, and perform technological marvels humanity no longer had a need for God. The scientists nominated a representative, and sent him to God to break the news...

Well, God listened as the scientist spoke on behalf of his colleagues. Finally, God proposed a test. "Ok, let's have a man-making contest. Let's both make a man just the way I made Adam. We'll see who does the better job?" The scientist accepted, "No problem!"

But just as he squatted down to grab a handful of dirt, God stopped him. The Lord said, "Woe, stop right there. What are you're doing? **Get your own dirt!**"

Last week we learned that Genesis 1 is the story of how God **reformed** and **refilled** an earth that was **shapeless** and **empty**. On Day 3 God rolled back the waters into seas, and dry land appeared. On Day 6 He used that dry land for His crowning creation. From the dust of the ground, God created His masterpiece, man.

The human was special. God created us in His own image, male and female. He then gave us the right to rule over His creation... Genesis 1 is a sweeping overview of creation's six days. Whereas, Genesis 2 spotlights the creation of the man and woman.

Genesis 2:1 summarizes Chapter 1, "Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done." God rested not to replenish His energy. God has all-power. He never tires. But what's the point of continually creating if you never take time to appreciate the results of your work.

God rested on the seventh day to enjoy what He had created. And this is an example for us. Thus, we're told, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." Later when God prescribes His top Ten Commandments the fourth is a Sabbath rest. He gives us one day a week to remember why we work the other six days - to *worship Him and enjoy life*.

It's interesting, that the man was made on the sixth day - which means his first full day of life was the seventh, or the day of rest. Adam *rested with God* before he ever *labored for God*. And this is a vital lesson... Often we want to jump in and serve the

Lord, without first learning to rest and rely on His strength. *Resting with God always precedes laboring for God.*

Verse 4, "This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens..."

Some people mistakenly take Chapter 2 as a second and contradictory account of God's creation. In reality, it's the same account, but from a different angle.

You know a good camera has a zoom function. You can zoom out and get a wide view, or zoom in and get closer to the scene you're shooting. Genesis 1 zooms out. We witness a wide, and broad, and sweeping view of creation. While Genesis 2 zooms in. It focuses on God's crowning achievement, the man and the woman.

A common characteristic of ancient Semitic literature is to tell a story; then tell it again with a different emphasis... That's what's going on in Genesis 1 and 2.

Again verse 4, "This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown." In other words, this is before formal agriculture. Growing crops don't become a necessity until man sins and gets booted from the garden. He **eats** *wild* oats, until he **sows** his wild oats.

"For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground." Here's earth's original ecosystem.

Some Bible scholars believe that before Noah's flood a canopy of water vapor shrouded the earth providing a continual mist and consistent temperatures. Since there was no air movement there was no rain. The earth was irrigated by heavy dews and subterranean streams. Our earth began as a lush, tropical paradise.

Verse 7 revisits a birthday, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Last week we learned two Hebrew words that describe God's creation... "*Asah*" or assemble, and "*bara*" which means, "*to create out of nothing.*"

But here, the Hebrew word translated "**formed**" is "*yatsar,*" which means "*to squeeze into shape or mold.*"

It depicts a potter's skillful mastery over the clay. Here God plays in the dirt. He squeezes and shapes a man.

Did you know the total value of the raw materials that make up a human body equals \$160 - *and that's due to the high cost of potassium and sodium*. Take away those elements and you're worth less than 30 bucks.

Dr. Mayo of the Mayo clinic said a human body consists of “enough potassium for one shot of a toy pistol, enough fat for seven bars of soap, enough iron for one large nail, enough sulfur to delouse a dog, enough lime to whitewash a chicken coup, enough magnesia for one dose of medicine, and enough phosphorous for a few boxes of matches. The total purchase would fit into a couple of grocery bags.”

It reminds me of Psalm 103:14, “For (God) knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” Actually, the name “Adam” means “earth or dirt.” Literally, God named the first man, *Dusty*. That's what we are... *a dirt clod*. We're frail and base and desperately need God.

Humans are dust, *but in another sense we are more than dust...* For human life is sacred. It's valued for two reasons: *First, we bear the finger prints of the Master Artist*. We're God's handiwork - made in His image.

And second, God not only formed us, but “breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” God authored all life, but with the man the gift got personal. God breathed His own life into man. Of all God's creatures, the man and woman alone were given a spirit that would last forever. All life is a gift, but human life is sacred. That's why *in utero* and *in old age* it should be respected and protected.

Verse 8, “The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.” “Eden” means “delights.” And here God plants a garden of delights just to satisfy the man He created.

“And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.” But there were two trees of special significance. “The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

“Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Hiddekel (it was a later name for the Tigris River); it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.” The mention of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers cause some scholars to believe the Garden of Eden was in southern Iraq... But it's possible the flood so altered the earth's topography that these pre-flood rivers no

longer existed, and by the time of Moses the exact identity of these rivers were impossible to attain.

Verse 15, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”

Notice, Adam is in a perfect environment, yet still has a job. God tasks him with tending and overseeing the garden... Granted it was an easy job. There were no weeds. Watering took care of itself (*a mist watered the land*). All Adam did was pick fruit, *yet a job is still a job*.

After Adam sins work gets harder, but from the outset humans were designed for meaningful service.

Verse 16, “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.” Remember there were plenty of fruit trees to choose from in the Garden of Eden. Only one was forbidden - *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*.

And yet God placed the forbidden fruit within Adam’s reach. It was a way for Adam to demonstrate his love for God. For love to be meaningful it has to be volitional. If you have no other choice but to love me, it’s a hollow love. If my wife had said “*I do*” with a shotgun in her back I would always be wondering...

Thus, God gave Adam an opportunity to demonstrate his love and loyalty, **by not eating from this one tree.**

Verse 18, “And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Six times in Genesis 1 God said of creation “it was good.” Verse 31, “it was very good.”

But here we’re startled, “*It is not good.*” *What’s not good with God’s creation?* It’s “not good that man should be alone.” Companionship - a human helper is needed - someone with whom the man can share life.

And just because God saw Adam’s need, doesn’t mean it was obvious to Adam! This is our problem today. We’re often blind to our needs. *We have needs we don’t realize, until God awakens those needs in us.* God was Adam’s companion. His emotional and spiritual needs were met by God. Adam didn’t know he needed a spouse, until God revealed that need to him.

And for all single Christians here’s wisdom... Rather than sulk over not having a spouse take your emotional needs to God. Trust in His sufficiency. Lean into Him. Let God fill your emptiness. Then when the time is right for you to marry, He’ll awaken that need in you.

And God does this for Adam in a unique way, “Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.”

God gave Adam the job of naming all the animals. Imagine, one man finding names for thousands of species of animals. Evidently, Adam was incredibly bright. His un-fallen intellect had enormous aptitude.

In antiquity the privilege of naming was a function of dominion. *Even today, you don't name your neighbor's dog.* You don't name what doesn't belong to you.

In the book of Daniel, when the Babylonians take Daniel and his Hebrew friends captive they reassign them pagan names. It showed Babylon's authority over the Jews. And here, in naming the animals Adam likewise is demonstrating his dominion over nature.

And as Adam surveys the animals it's apparent they all have companions - they come in couples - male and female... Mr. and Mrs. Giraffe, Mr. and Mrs. Zebra. That's when it must've hit him. *Where's Mrs. Adam?*

Verse 20 tells us, “So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept...” Again, if you're single, notice Adam gets his bride not when he heads off to canvass the singles' groups in town, or goes to the dance club, but when he surrenders to God and goes to sleep.

“And (while asleep, God) took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.” We're not sure it was actually a rib. The Hebrew means “something curved.” Rib just sounds more romantic than *piece of cartilage*.

There's a legend that God approached Adam and asked, “How would you like a helper that will cook your meals, wash your clothes, care for you constantly, and wait on you hand and foot?” Adam asked, “God, that sounds great, but what is it going to cost me?” God told Adam, “An arm and a leg.” He thought a second; then replied, “That's a little steep. What can I get for a rib?”

It's been said the creation of Eve was *the first splitting of an Adam*, and it unleashed a force into the world that mankind has never gotten under control.

God performed the first surgery. He took Eve from Adam's side. And what God did with *the first Adam*, God will do with *the last Adam, Jesus*. On the cross, a spear is thrust through Jesus' side, and out flows blood and water - *the same blood that*

washes away our sin. Like Adam, God took from the side of Jesus what He would use to fashion for Him a bride, the Church.

Verse 22, “Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

When God presents to Adam his bride it blew him away! She was perfect! He took one look at Eve, and said, “*Wow, man!*” “*Woe, man!*” *Wo man* and it stuck.

You could say when God gave Adam his wife *he was beside himself*. She was from *his side*, and was the perfect *sidekick*. Adam put his arm around Eve, and said, “*Baby, you’re the only one in the world for me.*”

But let me make an observation... Whatever it was that God took from Adam to make Eve, from that moment onward there was something missing in the man that only the woman could fill. Ladies, I know it comes as no surprise, but your hubby *is not all there!*

There’s a part of him missing that only you can fill. I like the country song, “*Little Rock.*” There’s a line Collin Raye sings, “*Without you, baby, I’m not me.*” That’s what Adam sang to Eve. Husbands and wives need each other to be all that God wants them to be.

As Rocky said to Adrian, “*I got gaps. You got gaps. Together we got no gaps.*” Realize, God has given you your spouse to *round you off*, and *balance you out*.

Actually, the naming of the woman is one of the most beautifully romantic passages in all the Bible... Recall, naming was a function of dominion and authority. That Adam named Eve tells us God had placed her under his authority, *but notice how Adam uses his authority...*

The Hebrew word translated “man” is “*Ish.*” The term “woman” is the same word, but in a feminine form, “*Ishah.*” Adam had authority over Eve, but rather than asserting it he treats her as his equal. He gives her his own name. Matthew Henry comments, “*The woman was taken from Adam’s side - not from his head to rule over him - not from his feet to be trampled on - but from his side to be equal with him, from under his arm to be protected, and from close to his heart to be loved.*” This is how husbands should view their wives.

And in verse 24 we find God’s blueprint for marriage, “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*”

Notice the pattern. You **leave** your parents. No more running back to mama when you have a problem. *And* you leave old allegiances. No flirting or confiding with the opposite sex. You keep your heart for your spouse.

Then you **cleave**. You make a lifetime commitment to your spouse - *you take a vow until death do us part.*

Third, you **weave** your lives as one. The expression, "**one flesh**" is a euphemism for sexual harmony - but that's just one way a marriage experiences oneness. Communication and consideration also spawn unity.

Notice the result of *leaving, cleaving, and weaving* - it's **conceiving**. Verse 25, "**they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.**" They now were open and accepting of each other. Nothing was hidden. Their relationship carried no baggage or hang-ups. They gave to each other freely and uninhibitedly.

At the end of Genesis 2, Adam and Eve have it made. They're living in Paradise, got all the fruit they can munch, and they're madly in love with each other.

Adam could tell a joke, and no one said, "**Ah, I've heard that one before.**" But in Chapter 3 the wheels come off. Adam and Eve make the mistake a lot of couples make: *they stop putting God first in their heart!*

And look at who they meet, "**Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.**" This was not simply a serpent. This snake embodied Satan Himself. Recall Revelation 20:2, Satan is named, "**The dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan.**" In Genesis 1, between verses 1 and 2, in the chaos waters **Satan tries to stop God's creation, but fails. Now he tries to spoil it...**

"**And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"** Pay attention to Satan's strategy... Rather than remind Eve of the thousands of trees God gave them to eat from, Satan highlights the one negative. *What's God holding back from you?* Satan tries the same strategy on us...

He focuses on God's few prohibitions, rather than on the million wonderful ways He wants to better our lives.

Verse 2, and here's Eve's first mistake, "**And the woman said to the serpent...**" She gets into a dialogue with the devil... Hey, Satan is a skilled tempter. That's why the moment you agree to converse and negotiate he's got you. When Satan wants to talk, just say "**no.**"

And don't overlook the talking snake! *Eve doesn't even act surprised he speaks...* Some commentators suggest that before the fall of man all animals talked.

Imagine, carrying on a conversation with your dog. If your wife could talk all day to the dog there wouldn't be so much pressure on husbands when they get home...

Eve replies to the serpent in verse 2, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

But what Eve says here is not true... Later Satan will *take away* from God's Word, but here Eve *adds to* God's Word. Look back in Genesis 2:17, God said nothing about *touching the fruit*, just *eating the fruit*.

Here's the first example of **legalism!** Eve makes the will of God harder and more complicated than God intended. And Satan loves to promote legalism. If he can overcomplicate, or exaggerate God's commands he can tempt us to give up and throw in the towel. *Why even try!* Remember what Jesus told us in Matthew 11:30, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Verse 4, "Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Notice the pagan, New Age beliefs Satan promotes in this one statement...

First, **you'll never die.** This life is one of many. It's reincarnate, not die. Second, **don't be afraid of the forbidden fruit.** Courageous experimentation - free thinking - breaking from traditional taboos is the path to enlightenment... Third, **discover the god within.** Be your own god. Believe in yourself. Satan's words are eerily contemporary. "New Age is really just an old lie."

Notice here, Satan tempts Eve to *doubt God's Word*. God said she'd die, but Satan says, "*You will not surely die.*" *Eve, the rules don't apply to you. You're the one exception. God's word applies to everybody, but you.*

Then he says, "*For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...*" Now he's tempting her to *doubt God's love*. He's saying, God is the great kill joy. He's wants to keep you down, deprive you of what'll make you happy.

Satan promises Eve that freedom from God's authority is the key to obtaining all that life has to offer, but that couldn't be further from the truth. *Disobey God's Word* or *doubt God's love* and she'll just become a puppet of Satan, and a slave to her own desires.

That's why when Satan comes to you and questions *God's Word* or *God's love*, don't bite. What God says is true, and why He says it is because He loves you.

But that's not Eve's response. She bites on the temptation, literally! "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..."

And here's another three-fold temptation that reoccurs over and over throughout the Scriptures... It was "good for food" - eat it, Eve, you'll feel great. It was "pleasant to the eyes" - hold it, you'll look great. It was "desirable to make one wise" - try it, you'll be great...

The same three temptations show up in the NT, 1 John 2:16, "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world." Satan tempts us with the same three desires - you can feel great, look great, be great... **Beware!**

Verse 6 tells us Eve "took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." And the universe has never been the same since! In 2:17 God told Adam and Eve if he ate the fruit he would "surely die," and die they did. **Spiritually**, they died instantly. Sin separated them from God. **Physically**, he died more slowly. Their bodies began to deteriorate.

"Entropy" or the process of decay, began to affect not only Adam, but the whole physical universe. Paul tells us in Romans 8:20, "the creation was subjected to futility." Randomness, a capriciousness invaded God's order. Sin marred His perfect world. Malfunctions became common. Accidents infiltrated God's world.

One detail to note. Everyone assumes Eve bit **an apple**, but that's not in the Bible. The Bible just says "fruit." Besides, as the saying goes "the problem wasn't the apple on the tree, it was the pair on the ground."

Verse 7, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked..." Eve became the only woman in history to say, "I haven't got a thing to wear," and it really be true. As soon as Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit they became aware of their nakedness. Up until this point they were oblivious to themselves. They were so *God-centered* and *others-centered* they weren't even conscious of their own nakedness. But now they become *self-centered*. And this is the heart of sin. It's no accident that the middle letter in "S-I-N" is an "I". All sin is ultimately selfishness.

Eve gained the enlightenment she sought, but when her eyes were opened she didn't like what she saw. She saw her own ugliness and self-obsession and it made her feel guilty, and shameful, and full of regret.

So she tried to cover up her sin. "And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings."

Adam and Eve's immediate response to sin was to *hide*. They planned a cover up. They sewed fig leaves to make green Speedos - *the original fruit of the loom*. They

hoped to rid themselves of their selfishness, but their plan backfired... I once had a good friend tell me that fig leaves make you itch - which means fig leaf Speedos made them even more self-obsessed and self-preoccupied than they were before the cover-up.

Verse 8, “And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden.” What a sad picture. The president and first lady of creation are hiding in the shrubs, *scratching like crazy*.

“Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” And please note, this is not the voice of an angry mobster banging on your door, seeking revenge, “Where are ya! I’m going getcha’.” **This isn’t the Godfather. This is God the Father.**

To read verse 9 accurately read it like a heartbroken dad passionately seeking to find his wayward child, and restore him to the family... “*Son, I love you! Where are you, my daughter? Please come home!*”

“So (Adam) said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Their first response to sin was **hide**, but now they start to **hurl**...

Everyone passes the buck, and plays the blame game. The man goes first, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” Adam is so arrogant he blames, not only Eve, but God. He says to God, “the woman whom **You** gave me...” It was your fault God for giving me this woman.

“And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” She blames the snake. In essence she says, “The devil made me do it.”

Hey, if you’ve sinned, stop playing the blame game. It’s not your spouse’s fault, or kid’s fault, or boss’ fault, or salary’s fault, or neighbor’s fault, or the devil’s fault. God will forgive, but first we’ve got to come out of the bushes and stop hiding. **Own what you’ve done.** You know a person is repentant of their sin *when they’re willing to accept responsibility for its consequences.*

Here’s what’s happened, “Adam has blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake, *and the snake doesn’t have a leg to stand on...*” **literally.** Verse 14, “So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.”

The snake is destined to do belly-flops. Here's the origin of the phrase, "*bite the dust.*" The snake will crawl on his belly. But if crawling is its punishment; then the snake must've originally had legs?

Herpetologists point to nubs on a snake's skeleton as proof they once had appendages. This may explain the Orientals preoccupation with dragons. *What is a dragon, but a snake with legs?* Revelation 12:9, and throughout the Bible, Satan is depicted as a dragon.

Verse 15 is one of the most strategic verses in all the Bible. It's called the **protoevangelicum** - that is, **the first mention of the Gospel in all the Scriptures.**

God tells the serpent, "**And I will put enmity between you and the woman,**" This part of the verse is easy to interpret, *most women are afraid of most snakes.* With few exceptions, I'm sure most ladies dislike snakes!

This also proves that partners in sin usually end up bitter enemies. At first the snake and Eve chatted-it-up, but God says there will now be hostility between them.

And God also says to the serpent "**I will put enmity, (or hostility), "between your seed and her Seed..."**

And notice the phrase the "**seed (or sperm) of the woman.**" This is a bizarre term. Nowhere does a seed belong to a woman. Obviously, this is a unique birth - a supernatural birth. I believe Genesis 3:15 refers to Jesus' virgin birth. It gets clearer with the next line, "**He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.**"

The entire Bible is about the war with this snake, but it'll be won for God by the seed of the woman. On the cross Satan bruises Jesus' heel - a non-fatal blow, but Jesus crushes the serpent's head. Jesus strips Satan of his authority. Jesus will strike the decisive blow - the knock-out punch. Thus, the devil has no power over hearts that trust in Jesus. The snake will *bite the dust.*

In verse 16 God turns to the woman, and doles out her punishment, "**I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children..."** Imagine giving birth the way God intended. Pain-free contractions! *No pain, all gain.* But that ended before the first delivery. Sin brought labor pains.

Yet the woman's sentence was two-fold, "**Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.**" Eve was sentenced to *labor pains*, and *laboring with a pain*. In other words, **she was saddled with the tough task of submitting to an imperfect authority.**

In 1 Timothy 2:14 Paul explains how Genesis 3 effects male and female roles today - *in the church and in the home.* Paul says Eve was deceived - Adam was not. Adam's

sin was probably worse, but because Eve was deceived in a spiritual and doctrinal matter - God has ordained for men to lead and teach in the church.

And this is vital, for when husbands and wives abide by these biblical roles they teach half the Gospel. We point folks to the origin of sin and our need for a Savior.

Finally, Adam is sentenced last. Verse 17, "Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field." Most men find their highest fulfillment in their work, but this is where God decides to curse the man.

Up until now Adam's work has been a breeze. The ole boy gets hungry and he picks fruit off a tree. *But now he has to plow hard ground, and overcome thorns and thistles, and grow food out of rocky, fallow fields!*

Prior to the curse, food had nothing to do with work. God provided the man and woman all they needed. But now if sinful Adam wants to be independent of God, he can start by growing his own food - earning his own living - and while he's *tilling* the ground - he's going to encounter obstacles... *thorns and thistles*. Suddenly, work is going to go from being *a breeze to a burden*.

Verse 19, "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." Before man sinned, work was *no sweat*, but *no more*.

Now because of his sin, the man will never get out of his job a reward equal to the effort he puts into his job. Over a lifetime whenever Adam went to work he would always leave a little something of himself on the job until he had literally worked himself to death! This is the plight of all Adam's descendants, even you and me.

And this is why if you're bouncing from job to job, looking for a perfect situation - **forget it!** It doesn't exist! Every *occupation* or *corporation* or *work situation* has its thorns and thistles. Every job has obstacles that irritate and aggravate us. We need to accept the curse, and allow God to use it to teach us to trust in Him.

Verse 20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living." Adam gives his wife another name. "Eve" means "life-giver." He takes to heart all this talk about childbirth. He believes Eve will bear him kids, and carry on the human race.

But it's also possible Adam's name for Eve is looking forward to something bigger - maybe the child spoken of in verse 15, the "seed of the woman." Eve will birth THE LIFE - the Savior Who bruises the serpent's head!

Verse 21, “Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.” God didn’t like Adam and Eve’s fruit of the looms, so He dressed them in leather. Yet no animal gives up its own skin willingly. Thus, animal skins necessitate a death - *a sacrifice*.

Fig leaves were an attempt to make up for sin with human effort. And people do this today. They sew together religious deeds, and good works to cover their sin. *Yet God insists on sacrifice*. He told Adam, “you shall surely die”. The wages of sin has always been death, and for sin to be forgiven a sacrifice is required.

This is why when we trust in Jesus’ sacrifice you and I are said to be *clothed in the righteousness of Christ*.

Chapter 3 ends on a sad, pathetic note. Truly, this is paradise lost. Verse 22 declares, “Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” - therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.” Here are the very first cops in history - angels that guard the way to the tree of life.

The fact that God drives out Adam and Eve from the garden sounds like harsh treatment, but apparently God’s actions are always laced with His mercy!

For if Adam and Eve had eaten fruit from the tree of life in their fallen, sinful state - they would’ve lived forever apart from God! That’s why, only at the end of the age, Revelation 22, after sin’s penalty is paid by Jesus, does God restore to us access to the tree of life.