

## 'IN THE BEGINNING'

### *(The Origin of All Things Coming to Pass in These Last Days)*

Studies in Genesis 1-11

#### Eviction Notice

Most of us will never experience *eviction* from our home, but it must be completely demoralizing and frightening. Unless a tenant has seen it coming and made plans for it, the sudden reality that you have nowhere to call home must be devastating. Coming home to find the premises chained and locked is a last resort of a bank or loan company that has not been compensated as promised by the resident. Eviction isn't necessarily unfair if the delinquent occupants continually fail to keep their promises or take care of the property.

Adam and Eve's eviction from the Garden was done by the LORD God, Owner of the Garden of Eden, fairly and graciously. Adam and Eve did not do what they said they would do when they moved in (*care for and tend the garden*). They broke the one and only simple *house rule* to not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Even given an opportunity to admit and explain what happened, Adam and Eve hid, evaded, lied, and passed on the blame. The Garden of Eden was being flooded with the *knowledge of evil* that came with that first bite of the forbidden fruit. God stepped in with *damage control* measures to curtail the escalating evil and long-term consequences that were spreading like a plague in the Garden.

God could have enforced the *death penalty* He warned of immediately. But because He is loving and gracious, the LORD God chose to enforce it gradually and to enact immediate punishment to fit the crimes. He also chose to use the *original sin* to begin His eternal plan of redemption by showing that He is able to both punish sin and forgive it, too. The entire Garden of Eden became forbidden and sin began its global plague, but God's redeeming grace was also being revealed to increase His eternal glory and majesty in the end. *PtL*

#### Paradise Lost

*(End of 'The Edenic Era')*

*Genesis 3:14-24*

#### Cursed!

*(The venomous fangs of sin)*

*"So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this **you are cursed** ... (slither on your belly, eat dust)... And I will put **enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.**"* **3:14-15**

- The first curse was upon the snake for letting Satan use it to tempt Eve. What does this teach about people who let Satan use them to lure others into sin? (*Proverbs 12:26*)
- What else does this curse teach about the two camps of people in conflict with each other throughout human history? (*James 4:4-5*)
- Discuss how the last sentence is the earliest preview of the Savior and His sacrifice.

***“To the woman (God) said: “...greatly multiplied sorrow and conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband and he shall rule over you.”*** 3:16

- Please notice that Eve’s role of *helper* (companion assistant) did not change and being under the loving authority of her husband has nothing to do with the curses of Eden (*1 Timothy 2:11-13*). Why do you think some women act like it is a punishment to be second in command? (*1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 5:32-33*)
- Why is pain in child-bearing an appropriate penalty for Eve’s disobedience?
- Why is *desiring the husband’s (role as leader)* an appropriate penalty for Eve?
- Talk about the phrase ‘*he shall rule over you*’ – what does it mean & not mean?

***“Then to Adam (God) 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. 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.”*** 3:17-19

- Adam’s sin was the worst because it was willful, rebellion against God’s law. But the 1st sin mentioned is ‘*submission to his wife*’ – why is this so serious to God?
- Discuss the other components of Adam’s sentence – how do the punishments fit the crimes? (*the ground, toil, sweat, dust to dust*)
- Talk about the fairness of these curses being passed on to future generations who had not done what our first parents, Adam and Eve did. (*Romans 5:12-14*)

### **Covered!**

***(The saving fleece of grace)***

***“And Adam called his wife’s name ‘Eve’, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin (see 4:2) and clothed them.”*** 3:20-21

- Apparently, the mention of ‘child-bearing’ informed Adam that they would have children. To encourage her, Adam ‘named’ her Eve, and showed her forgiveness.
- Talk about how important it is to ‘creatively reconcile’ after conflict with a mate.
- How does God’s way of covering their sin prefigure Christ’s sacrificial atonement?

### **Closed!**

***(The lovely forbidden garden)***

***“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.”*** 3:22-24

- Discuss why God was actually being gracious in closing the Garden of Eden.