

# Fall / Promise

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## Introduction

When God created this universe, He declared it perfect. Man's every need was met – physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Man was to tend and expand the Garden and to be fruitful and multiply.

There was only one thing that man was prohibited from doing...

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## Genesis 2:15-17

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> 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."

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## The Test

Like the angelic beings, God did not create us to be mere puppets or robots who would simply obey blind programming. God created us as intelligent moral creatures with the ability to make choices.

Man was given this ability to make choices but must accept the consequences of those choice. It is like planting. If you sow cucumbers, you will reap cucumbers.

You reap what you sow!

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## The Test

Service, obedience, love and choice are tied together.

Marriage is used as a picture of the relationship between man and God. Israel was the wife of God, and the Church is the Bride of Christ.

In marriage, commitments are made and both parties are to be obedient (faithful) to those commitments. Life is filled with temptation, but the choice to obey our covenant relationship is a declaration of our love to our spouse.

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## The Test

The same is true with our relationship with God. The choices we make are an outward declaration of our heart. They reveal what we choose to serve, and what we love.

It appears that God gave a “test” to all intelligent creatures as to who and what they would choose to serve.

In heaven the test was would they serve God or self. Lucifer was filled with pride and rebelled against God and one third of the angels followed him.

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## The Fall

Man's test was about obedience and serving self.

Genesis 3:1-5

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'?" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> 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.' " <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> 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."

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## The Fall

Man's test was about obedience.

1 John 2:15

For all that *is* in the world—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.

Genesis 3:6-7

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. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

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## The Fall

Has it every occurred to you that nothing occurs to God. He knew that man would fail, and he already had a solution in place.

Man was created to have fellowship with God. Though sin became a wall that separated us from God, He had a plan to remove it.

Genesis 3:15

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.”

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## Redemption

It was predetermined before Creation, that Jesus would come and be the sacrifice for sin.

Revelation 13:8

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life **of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

When Jesus breathed His Spirit into Adam, He knew He would breath it out again upon the cross of Calvary. Let's take a moment to make sure we understand the reasoning, and not just the events that transpired.

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## Redemption

Many people do not understand death. I have met many people who are angry with God because of death, pain, and suffering. It needs to be remembered that Jesus created a perfect world without any of those things. Death, pain and suffering are a result of man's choices.

Death means separation. There are two types of death. The one that we are familiar with when these bodies die. However, we are more than just a body. We have a spirit/soul that will exist forever.

Hebrews 9:27-28

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,<sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

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## Redemption

There is a second death that is a lot scarier than the first. This is where those who have not accepted Jesus' offer of forgiveness are separated from God and all that is good forever. Jesus talked more about the horrors of hell than He did about heaven.

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Many believe that if they are a good person, or keep the 10 commandments, that God will let them into heaven. This is a lie meant to deceive for no one can be good enough to erase the sin that they have done.

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## Redemption

Let's do some math.

Suppose you only "sinned" 3 times a day (you would be a lot better than me).

$$3 \times 365 = 1,095 \text{ sins}$$

$$1,095 \times 70 \text{ years} = 76,650 \text{ sins}$$

I do not know about you, but that is a lot of sinning. God cannot ignore that.

God demands perfection. Once we sin (Romans 3:23 states that we have all sinned) we are no longer perfect and there is nothing we can do to undo what we have already done.

**The Bottom line is you cannot sacrifice or be good enough to save yourself.**

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## Redemption

Death is really a gift to mankind. When Satan sinned, he was not cursed with death, therefore he is eternally cut off from God.

God created us to have fellowship with Him so when man sinned, He cursed man with death. This allowed Jesus to step into human history so He could enter into our death.

Romans 6:23 states "For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Jesus died in our place. He paid the debt for our sin. Without death, there would have been no place for our redemption.

The cross paid the debt for our sin – Jesus took our death. In the resurrection (Easter), our eternal life is secure as He gave us His Life!

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## Redemption

How do you receive God's gift of forgiveness?

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Notice that the Apostle Paul makes it clear that doing good works will not get you to heaven. It is God's gift given by grace through faith.

Some mistake faith with knowledge. I often hear, "I believe in God". Belief or knowledge is not sufficient to save. Even the Devil has this type of belief  
– James 2:19.

Faith is an active commitment. I can believe that a chair will hold me up, but until I commit myself to sitting on it, I have not exercised faith.

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## Redemption

You can accept God's gift of forgiveness by praying silently right where you are.

You should admit that you have done things wrong and sinned against Him.

You should recognize that Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the cross to pay the debt that you owed.

Ask Jesus to forgive you based on who He is and what He has done on the cross.

God did all the work in our salvation; our responsibility is to accept it.

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## What Now?

Remember what God wanted from Adam. He wanted obedience, but it was to be out of a heart that Loves Him. God has given us His Spirit, and His Word so we can know Him – what He is like, what He has done, and what He will do. The Bible is more than just “boring” content. It gives us the foundation to know and have a “relationship” with Him.

None of us are “perfect”. But we should be turning our back on our sinful habits and learning to follow the things that God wants from us. This is the purpose of the church. To help each other grow and be more like Christ.

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## So What ...

The most important aspect of life is not how much money, power, or status you have.

When this life is over, the only thing that will matter is what you have done with Jesus!!

If you prayed to accept Jesus’ offer of forgiveness or if you have questions, please speak to someone. It would be our joy to help you on this journey.

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