

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapter 3

Much like ancient Rome “**fell**” and a dishonest politician “**falls**” when exposed, **Genesis chapter 3** reveals how the first two humans also “**fell**” in sin and disgrace. That is why **chapter 3** is often titled “**The Fall**” in referring to the entrance of sin into the human race.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve against God led to their **fall** from a state of sinlessness to a position of ongoing, sinful rebellion against their Creator. Their actions impacted every subsequent person’s life. As Paul wrote in **Romans 3:23**, “*For all have sinned and **fall** short of the glory of God.*” Our study of **chapter 3** will reveal how this fall happened, and how it impacts all of humanity today. There are **three main sections** in **chapter 3**.

The Temptation of Man 3:1-5
The Sin and Fall of Man 3:6-7
The Judgment of Man 3:8-24

1. As background for **chapter 3**, read **Genesis 2:9** and **16**. Also note that the “serpent” (snake) of **3:1** is believed by most commentators to be Satan assuming the form of a reptile in an attempt to deceive. Read **3:1-5**. List the lies and deceptions that stand out in the dialogue between the serpent and the woman.
2. Eve was apparently deceived by Satan’s cunning deceptions. Read the dramatic and monumental narrative in **3:6**. What three crucial aspects of Eve’s reasoning do you identify in this paragraph that led to her decision?
3. How might a misunderstanding of these three aspects lead you to make wrong decisions?
4. The sin and disobedience of both Eve and Adam led to signs of immediate guilt and shame. How are these manifested in **3:7-13**? How did these two explain their behavior (**3:12-13**)? Does any of that sound familiar?

5. The third section of this chapter is titled “**The Judgment of Man**” and is found in **3:8-24**. In this lengthy passage, God disciplines the man, the woman, and the deceiver. In **13:14**, God brings a curse upon the serpent. What is that curse?

In **3:15**, God’s judgment is directed toward Satan himself and has prophetic implications. Describe and explain the nature of this curse on Satan.

Some refer to this passage with the word *protoevangelium*, or the “first gospel.” They see a glimpse of a future redeemer who will crush Satan. What aspects of this verse (**3:5**) could have a prophetic meaning?

6. The judgment given to the woman is found in **3:16**. Read and explain this verse.

7. To Adam, and to future mankind, the curse of God is recorded in **3:17-19**. One author wrote “*While Eve would have the pain of labor of childbirth, Adam would have the pain of his daily labor in the field.*” Read this passage and describe the plight of Adam.

8. As **chapter 3** comes to a conclusion, we see glimpses of God’s gracious provision for forgiveness and salvation. Describe God’s grace in providing:

(a) A new name (**3:20**)

(b) New clothing (**3:21**)

(c) A new home (**3:22-24**)