

Genesis chapters 1-3

Genesis is the first book in the Bible. The theme is creation. It is a very important Bible book because it sets the big picture of whole human history. There is a lot of information contained in this Bible book and you might know a lot of the stories in it. Today, we want to study the beginning of the Good and the Fall of mankind, and how that relates to our daily lives.

1) The Good (Chapter 1 and 2)

a. The Good is from God

God created the universe in the beginning, and it was Good (Gen. 1:9, 1:12, 1:18, 1:21, 1:25, 1:31). God made a garden for man that is good for food (Gen. 2:9). God made a helper for man (Gen. 2:18-25). Genesis chapters 1 and 2 listed many things from God that is Good.

b. God's desire is for our good

God's creation is for our good. He created light, water, air, etc. for us to live. He gave plants for us to eat (Gen. 1:29). God made us in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27) so that we have the ability to rule and take care of the world that was created for us.

c. Good is when we obey God

God has rules to govern the universe. Gen. 2:16 commanded Adam and Eve "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." When we disobey God, we will have bad consequence.

When we obey God, all things are good because all matters function as God intended. Romans 8:28 in New Testament states a similar fact: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

2) The Fall (Chapter 3)

a. Fall when we are unexpected

Chapter 3 starts the description of the fall of mankind. The serpent is Satan as confirmed in Rev. 12:9. Gen. 3:1 stated "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made..." Satan is very smart. He knows

it would be easier to tempt human when we are not alert. We fall often when we are in an unexpected situation. Eve was like in paradise and never really faces temptations and lies. I Peter 5:8 reminds us to be alert always: “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

b. Fall when Satan introduces doubt and lies

The later part of Gen. 3:1 is where Satan introduced doubt in Eve’s mind (“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”). Then, Gen. 3:4 stated the serpent said to the woman “You will not certainly die.” Satan gave the one-two punch to knock down Eve. First punch is the doubt, and then the lies followed. Satan is a liar (John 8:44). We need to have a strong faith in God because we know God’s desire is for our Good. We need to pray to God often and know His words (Bible) well so that we will not be misled easily.

c. Fall when you have wrong desires and priorities

Eve doubted God’s command. Eve was tempted to find out and get something better, instead of knowing and believing what God gave is the best. Her priority shifted to self-satisfaction instead of obedience to God. James 1:13-14 stated we are tempted because we are lured and enticed by our desires. We often fall due to our desires and priorities are wrong.

In conclusion, God created all and that was good in the beginning. God has the best for us. However, due to the first sin, we all are sinners and fall short the glory of God. We can learn from the mistakes of Adam and Eve in respect to Satan’s tactics. As James 4:7 states “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Submit yourselves to God means obey God and walk closely with God. Resist the devil includes all of the above three cautions for fall. In addition, you should put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11) to protect you and affront Satan.