

Church of God Sunday School

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 2:8 – 3:24

Have you ever planted a garden or watched someone plant a garden? Did you know that God planted the very first garden? It was in a beautiful place called Eden. We know it as the *Garden of Eden*.

In this garden, God made "to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food." Then, in the very middle of the garden, God planted two special trees—the *Tree of Life* and the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*. A beautiful river flowed through the garden.

God told Adam to take care of the garden. God also gave Adam this commandment: "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

God brought every animal and every bird to Adam, and Adam gave each one a name. Although there were many animals, Adam was alone. So, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam. Then, God took a rib from Adam's side and formed a woman for Adam. God brought her to Adam, and Adam called her "Woman, because she was taken out of Man." The man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

Of all the animals in the garden, the serpent was the most cunning. One day the serpent asked the woman, "Did God really say that you must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" (*International Children's Bible*).

She answered, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of [the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil] . . .



God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." (Did God tell Adam and his wife not to *touch* this fruit?)

The serpent told the woman, "Ye shall not surely die . . . your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

This was the very first temptation in the Bible. The devil was tempting Adam's wife to do something God had forbidden. She had to make a decision—should she believe the serpent or believe God? Desiring to be wise, she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to Adam, and he ate it. Their eyes (of understanding) were then opened. They knew that

they were naked, so they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

That evening as God walked about in the garden, wanting to talk to Adam and his wife, they were afraid and hid among the trees. God called to Adam, "Where art thou?" (Didn't God know where Adam was? Of course He did!)

Adam answered and said, "I heard thy voice . . . and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." God asked Adam, "Who told thee that

thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of [the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil] . . . ?"

Sadly, Adam blamed his wife. "You gave this woman to me. She gave me fruit from the tree. So I ate it" (*International Children's Bible*).

God asked the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?" She, too, looked for someone else to pin the blame on. So, she said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

God spoke first to the serpent: "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed . . . above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go . . . And I will put enmity between thee and the woman . . ."



Then God told the woman that she would bring forth children in great sorrow and that she would be in subjection to her husband.

Because Adam had listened to his wife and eaten of the tree, God said the ground would be under a curse; it would bring forth thorns and thistles. God told Adam, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken . . . and unto dust shalt thou return."

Then Adam gave his wife a name—Eve—"because she was the mother of all living." God made coats of skins for Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness. Then God drove them from the garden because of their disobedience. God "placed at the east of the garden of

Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

What a sad day this must have been! God wanted His creation—Adam and Eve—to show their love for Him through obedience. However, they chose to disobey God and committed the very first sin that we read about in the Bible.

~~~~~  
**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed."  
—Genesis 2:8*

~~~~~