

Genesis 1-3

An overview of Chapter 1

The key to this chapter is the first verse, *"In the beginning God..."* And we see right away that God is creative (vs. 1). God's first order of business was to separate *"the light from the darkness"* (vs. 4). God continues for six days creating everything, light, the sky, land, seas, vegetation, stars, moon, sun, sea animals, flying animals, land animals, and humans.

Humans are special; they are made in the image of God. God puts the humans to work; they must fill the earth, subdue it, and rule over the creatures of the earth.

Then after surveying all that He had done God concluded it was *"very good."*

Take note of the fact that God seems to be having a conversation with Himself and even refers to Himself as "Us" and "Our" (vs. 26). This is a key concept for understanding the doctrine of the Trinity.

An overview of Chapter 2

After all the creative work of the six previous days God decides to take a rest. This rest was so important that God blessed the seventh day and set it apart.

Beginning in verse 4 we will see a retelling of how God created humans which will give us more detail into how God created us. From this point on, as you read the Bible, you will be reading about God's relationship with His most prized creation - humans.

Notice in verse 7 that all the pieces of man were together, all the essential ingredients had been added, but life did not exist until God himself breathed life into this first man.

After creating the first man God begins to show loving care for him by planting a garden and putting the man there. He gave him the job of cultivating and keeping the garden. In return for keeping the garden, it will provide the man with the food which will be needed to survive. Only one rule was imposed on this man - do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God did not want the man to be alone so God creates a helper who is suitable for him; a woman. In verse 24 we see the foundation of marriage as God created it, a man and a woman joined to become one flesh. Together before God they had no shame.

An overview of Chapter 3

The serenity of the garden is broken as the serpent steps in. As we learn here the serpent is crafty, and I don't mean handy with scissors and glue. The serpent separates the woman from the man, because she had not heard the word of God directly. Immediately, He questions the word of God; *"Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"* In verse 4 he claims the word of God to be false; *"You surely will not die!"* And so Satan begins his attack on God's creation.

Unfortunately, Adam's wife falls for this deception and eats the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam joins his wife in breaking the command of God. After eating they find their innocence lost, before they had only knowledge of good, but now they have

knowledge of good and evil. New emotions overtake them; shame (vs. 7) and fear (vs. 10). For the first time, they could not face God.

Both Adam and his wife attempt to place blame away from themselves but both must admit to God, "I ate" (vs. 12, 13). God curses the serpent, gives pain and humility to the woman, and difficult labor to the man. God also repeats his promise of death for this sin both by telling Adam he will return to the dust and by driving him and his wife out of the garden where the tree of life is.

Adam and Eves sin did not lead to death for just them, but for the first time animals were killed to cover the sin of humans (vs. 21).

Reflection

Have you recently taken time to get out of your house (man's creation) and into nature (God's creation)? Have you really become one flesh with your spouse? Do you set aside one day each week for rest? Do you hear God's word for yourself or rely on someone else (friend, family member, Pastor) to tell you about it? Notice Satan's pattern for temptation - get you alone, question the word of God, call the word of God untrue. Do you feel fear and shame in your life, and if so is it a result of sin?

For Further Study

Creation: Psalm 8, Psalm 148, Romans 1:20-23

Trinity: Matthew 3:16

Life: Genesis 2:7, Job 7:7, Deuteronomy 21:23

Sabbath: Exodus 20:8-11, Matthew 12:1-21, Colossians 2:16-17, Hebrews 4:1-11

Satan: 2Corinthians 11:3, Revelation 12:9