



# The Best is yet to Come



That lying serpent of old took his place in the tree's branches and called to the couple. "Did God really say you can't eat from the trees of the Garden? God knows if you eat of this tree, you will not die." The lie practically dripped from his fangs like venom. "Come here." He called. "In the day you eat of it, you will become like God."

Oh, how wicked was his plot. For you and I are not so foolish as to forget that God had said, "Let us make mankind in our own image and likeness." God had perfectly and completely formed these two for the specific purpose of being "like him." But thieves steal, liars lie, murderers murder, and evil doers delight in doing evil.

Satan knew that these two had already been formed in the image of God, but he promised them even more. Of course, it was all a deception, like the story in the fairy tales of Hansel and Gretel, who were lured to the candy house of the witch, only for her to catch them and plan to devour them. We know that in that tale, they escaped with their lives after throwing the witch into the oven. Sadly, that was just a story for children. In this story, Adam and Eve, nor their children, will be able to defeat the Devil. But now, I'm getting too far ahead.

So the devil, disguised as a serpent, promised something he couldn't deliver, but that was his plan all along. If he could get these two to believe his lies, then those same two who had been made in the image of God would be destined for death. He could break them. He could destroy them. After all, he hated God and had every desire to malign, curse, and ruin the image of God by any means necessary.

Eve reached out her hand to take the fruit. "Why not," she reasoned, "It does look good, and it's edible, and it can make us as wise as God." She plucked the fruit from the branch, and the leaves shook or trembled at the act.

She brought the fruit to her mouth, and how I wanted to shout, "Don't do it!" I wanted to run to her, snatch it from her hand, and cast it to the ground. I wanted to plead with Adam. "Stop her! Don't let her take a bite! The Devil is a liar! There's death there! Don't you see that you mustn't do this!"

But I wasn't really there, you see. I'm just the storyteller.

She took a bite. The fruit crunched, and the juices ran down her chin. I covered my head, expecting some lightning flash to split the sky and strike her dead. But nothing happened. She passed the fruit to Adam. He broke off another piece between his teeth.

Then something shifted, and a shudder flew down my spine. It seemed as if all of creation was covered by a shadow. As if the colors of life were muted somehow. Something changed in Adam and Eve, too. I could see it in their eyes. Immediately, they knew they were naked. Immediately, they felt the sting of shame. Immediately, they hurried to make coverings for themselves from fig leaves. Immediately, they sought to hide their nakedness, to disguise what they had done.

Then a voice rang out. The mighty thundering voice of God that had previously been to them like honey in their mouths and music to their ears, now broke them in fear. Hadn't he said, "On the day you eat of it, you WILL die."

"Where are you?" he asked.

And immediately, they hid.

But don't worry.

The best is yet to come.