

# The Book of Genesis

## The Story

### Sin and Punishment

Wednesday 09 June 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

#### Opening Prayer

#### Reading Assignment – Genesis Chapters 3 and 4

#### Background

The story of creation now focuses nearly completely on one creature. All of the cosmos, the earth and its plants and animals fade into obscurity. The story becomes the tale of the human being, the *adam*. The adam and the eve have been given the job of managing the Garden of Eden and all that is in it. The vegetarian couple has one other notable creature in the garden with them. It is the serpent, and we are told that the serpent is very clever, the craftiest of all the wild animals.

Now the two humans were told by God that they could eat the fruit of all of the trees in the Garden except that of two trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. While the tree of life seems fairly obvious, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is actually its opposite, the tree of death. One day, in casual conversation with the woman, the serpent tells her that God does not want them to eat from the tree of knowledge because if they do, they will become like God and have the same wisdom as God, being able to distinguish good and evil.

Apparently, that is enough encouragement for the woman and the man, and they eat some of the fruit. From there, things go quickly downhill for them and for their descendants. Today, we will examine these stories.

## Questions to Consider

1. Is the snake an evil creature? Explain.
2. Why is the fall of mankind historically blamed on the woman? Did she get fair treatment? Explain.
3. If it is not a story about how evil snakes can be, what exactly is this story about?
4. If we are not self-aware and fully aware of the world around us is that really the garden of paradise? Is that what you hope for? Explain.
5. Do you think the punishment of Adam and Eve fit their crime? Explain.
6. How do you interpret Genesis 4:3-7?
7. What are the essential lessons for us in the Cain and Abel story?
8. What does the “mark of Cain” tell us about spread of sin?

## Closing Prayer

