

Hemphill, KenSurvey of the Old Testament (Nondisposable Curriculum Book 3)

7. The Fall of Man (Genesis 3:1-24)

This chapter walks through the fall of Adam and Eve as literal history, not myth. It shows how sin and death entered the world through one act of rebellion, traces the consequences, and finds the first promise of the gospel hidden inside God's judgment.

Key takeaways

- The serpent's first move is to twist God's word ('Did God really say...?') and deny accountability ('You will not die'), tempting man to be his own judge and 'like God.'
- Sin follows a progression: Eve saw the fruit, desired it, then took it. The same pattern (lust of the eyes, pride of life) still works on us.
- Adam failed to lead and followed Eve into sin; they trusted their own wisdom over God's word.
- Consequences are immediate and wide: shame, fear, hiding from God, blame-shifting between each other and onto God, pain in childbirth, toil, broken marriage, and death.
- Even in judgment, grace appears: God seeks man ('Where are you?'), and being barred from the tree of life keeps man from being fixed forever in rebellion.

- Being driven from Eden shows man cannot save himself; the way back is closed until Christ opens it.

Passages worth keeping

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

The first promise of a coming Redeemer and Satan's defeat at the cross.

How it connects

The cherubim guarding Eden reappear on the veil of the holy of holies; when Christ dies, that veil tears top to bottom, reversing the exile and restoring the fellowship with God that man forfeited in the garden.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 3:1-5** -- The serpent's temptation: doubting God's word and judgment
- **Genesis 3:6** -- The fall — the progression of sin
- **Genesis 3:15** -- First glimpse of the gospel, the coming Redeemer
- **Romans 5:12** -- Sin and death entered the world through one man

- **Matthew 27:51** -- The temple veil torn — access to God reopened in Christ
- **Romans 6:23** -- Wages of sin is death, but God's gift is eternal life