

CREATION FOR KIDS

By Russell Grigg

HAVE YOU EVER wondered why there is so much suffering in the world, so much sickness, so much killing, so many wars? The Bible gives us the answer. It tells us that when God made Adam and Eve, they lived in a world where

there was no suffering, no sickness and no death. Even the animals all ate plants and not each other. This included the dinosaurs. Then, as a test of Adam and Eve's loyalty and love for Him, God allowed them to be tempted by Satan.

In the Garden of Eden,

Satan wanted to get Eve to disobey God. Somehow he had to get her to eat some fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Why? Because that was the one thing that God had told Adam not to do, on penalty of death. Satan had a very cunning plan to drag her down.



THE FALL

A LESSON NEVER TO FORGET!

The Bible tells us that there is a supremely evil being in the universe, whose name is Satan. He is also called the tempter, the accuser, the deceiver of the whole world, the father of lies, and that old serpent the devil (Revelation 12:9; 20:2).

He was created a very special angel, who was very beautiful, very powerful and very intelligent. Then he became proud and rebelled against God. Because of this, he was cast out of Heaven. He is now called Satan, meaning 'adversary', or the devil. Many other angels followed him (Matthew 25:41).

What does Satan look like? We can't be sure. The Bible tells us he can disguise himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). However, he is an evil angel, who is now the enemy of God. He tries to tempt people to rebel against God just as he did, to sin, and do all kinds of wrong things—just like we see going on in the world today.

Who is Satan?



First of all, he cast doubt on what God had said about not eating the fruit. Then he denied that Eve would die if she did eat it. Then he told Eve that the fruit was something really nice and that God was unfair in keeping her from enjoying it. To experience this, Eve would have to ignore the penalty that God had warned them of, but Satan didn't let her think about that. How tricky! And it worked. Eve believed what Satan had said, instead of what God had said. She and Adam both ate the fruit that God had told them not to.

Now you might think it was a very small thing just to eat a piece of fruit like that. Why should it involve such a huge penalty? No less than death! Well, what Adam and Eve did was rebellion against God. They wanted to decide what was good and what was evil

for themselves. They wanted life without God. Instead of obeying God and being content with all the good things He had given them, they deliberately defied Him. They obeyed Satan rather than God.

Because God is perfectly holy and just, there had to be a penalty for rebellion, or sin, against Him. The penalty ('Curse') involved death, because that was what God had warned them would happen if they disobeyed Him. When God judged sin, He also withdrew some of His sustaining power in the world. This first sin, with its penalty, is called 'the Fall'. Because of sin, we now have a 'fallen' world with suffering, sickness, calamities and death. People are violent because that's what they choose to be.

God often deals with sin by allowing people to have what they want, but there are

always consequences. Adam and Eve ate the fruit, and from then on they were cut off from God, the source of all goodness and light, and of life itself.

What the Fall means for us today

All of us are descended from Adam, who was the head of the human race. We have all been born with an anti-God nature from Adam. And Satan's strategy today is still the same as it was in the Garden of Eden—he casts doubt on the Word of God, and denies its truth. Satan tempts us to disregard what it says, and wants us to think that there is no penalty for sin.

However, God has not forsaken us. Because He loves us, God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross. Because the pen-

alty has been paid, God can now forgive us for our sin (1 John 1:9), free us from guilt, and restore us to a right relationship with Himself. When Jesus rose from the dead, He showed that death had been conquered (1 Corinthians 15:20–26). All we have to 'do' is turn to God and ask Him to forgive our sin and to be our Saviour and our Lord.

The message of the Bible is that, although we are in a war with Satan, in Christ our victory has already been won! We have a choice: to sin and obey Satan, or to accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour and obey Him.

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