

## Eve Mother of all Living

21 January 2003

Sin came into the world by choice. And sin can be defined from two angles: 1) ...*what so ever is not of (the) faith* (of Christ) *is sin*. (Rom 14:23; Gal 2:16). 2) ...*and sin is lawlessness*. (1 Jn 3:4 ASV). Christ's faith is his understanding, and lawlessness is to be without God's instruction. Ultimately the two concepts mean the same thing. To be without God's way of thinking (cf Isa 55:7-9) is spiritual nakedness. **1 Pet 1: 9**. *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls*. Then salvation is having a completed understanding, as given by Christ, received and acted upon by an individual. It is mind reformation. (Cf Rom 12:2; Eph 4:17-32).

1. The law is spiritual (Rom 7:14 - of the spirit). As it takes many drops of water to form a stream, so many symbols (water, seed, sun etc.) form a story. Stories, as parables or literal, portray spiritual lessons. Jesus only taught in parables, and explained them only to those who asked of the meaning.
2. Since He is author of the Bible, it would seem reasonable to ask for a deeper meaning of the written. To do this requires listening to the Lord and walking in the understanding given, even when it goes against traditional views.

Placement in a garden: **Gen 2: 8**. *And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed*. Notice carefully what is written: Man's garden was located eastward in Eden. Adam and Eve were in the east part of the land of Eden, the garden of God. (Cf Isa 51:3; Eze 28:13). A garden is a symbol of a mind (Isa 58:11; Jer 31:12). This is not at all far-fetched, as some say. Jesus said that he would cleanse the church by the washing of water by the word, Eph 5:26. And Moses likened God's word to dew and rain, Deut 32:1-2. Adam & Eve were in God's thoughts before they were created. So, while physically in the land of Eden, they were in God's spiritual garden (mind) too. This is in the same sense Jesus prayed we would be "in him" (Jn 17 21). To possess the spirit of God is to have his thoughts in the mind.

Two trees: The pair were given permission to eat from all the trees but one. The Tree of Life is a symbol of Wisdom, or Christ (Pr 3:18; 1 Cor 1:30). The forbidden tree represents man mixing his own thoughts with God's. God specifically gave instructions about one of the two trees in the midst of the garden. Why didn't Adam or Eve ask about the other - the tree of life? While they were in a literal garden with literal trees, the two in the midst represent mankind's choice. Adam & Eve did not understand the inward meaning of the two trees.

Being placed eastward in Eden indicates Adam and Eve had only a measure of understanding (faith) of God, and they were to progress in understanding (moving westward in the garden). Examples: The priest, in performance of his duty in the sanctuary, did so with his back to the east, a symbol for self. As he moved west, he was approaching God. Jesus died to self in the Garden of Gethsemane, on the east side of Jerusalem, which enabled him to die on the cross on a hill called Golgotha, west of Jerusalem. Additionally, bear in mind that the outward manifests the inward - thoughts lead to action. Another indication Adam and Eve were spiritual babies is how they were clothed: **Gen 2: 25**. *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed*. They were not yet clothed inwardly with the righteousness of God and were not ashamed, because they had no sin to cause guilt.

Did Adam and Eve eat from the tree of life? First, **Gen 2: 5**. *...for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground*. 6. *But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground*. Rain is a symbol of God's spoken word, Deut 32:1-2; earth is self, or the mind of a person (cf parable of the sower in Mark 4). The earth was watering itself. **Gen 3: 22**. *And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also*

*of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:...* The pair never asked God, "Of which tree would you have us eat?" Has this not been our experience today? It takes time and understanding to know to call upon the Lord. Scripture also indicates man did not begin to call upon the Lord until the third generation (Gen 4:26).

The temptation: Remember, Adam and Eve were given a choice. All trees were ...*pleasant to the sight, and good for food...* including the forbidden tree - there is pleasure in sin for a season (Heb 11:25). **Gen 3: 1.** *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?* Have you ever wondered why God created the land animals on the same day as mankind? All animals represent thought. The land animals represent the level of the thinking of Adam at creation. The day he was created, God brought all the animals to him, and he was able to name each one, Gen 2:19. Eve was surely given the same level of knowledge. They were given dominion over the animals as a figure of having dominion over their own thoughts (Gen 1:26). A fact which is not true of the fallen sin nature, without God's help. Therefore both could identify a snake, and knew that snakes don't talk. The serpent speaking was the self of Eve. She was tempted by her own thoughts as she stood gazing at the forbidden tree. Notice the outcome: **Gen 3: 6.** *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.* She reasoned that God was keeping something back, so she disobeyed His command. I am NOT saying there are no fallen angels. I am saying that a merciful, loving God would not turn loose on Adam and Eve a more powerful and intelligent being to deceive them. The concept that Satan, the prince of all the fallen angels, caused them to fall has long perverted man's understanding of God. (See study Temptation of Christ) Moses made a brass serpent and put it on a pole in the wilderness. When anyone was bitten by a serpent, they were to look upon the brass serpent and live. That brass serpent represents the fallen sin nature, the old man, Christ killed on the cross. We are to look and live, to understand and have life, and life is in the Son's understanding (his faith).

Result of the temptation: Immediately after disobeying God, they knew they were naked and made aprons of leaves to cover themselves. They covered their loins (symbol of the mind) with something that grew from the earth (self). The outward act revealed their inward nakedness. **Gen 3: 8.** *And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.* Adam said, when God called to him, that he was afraid because he was naked. Fear and guilt had set in because of disobedience. Notice carefully Adam's and Eve's answers when asked by God if they had eaten of the forbidden tree: **Gen 3: 12.** *And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.* Neither of them took responsibility. By blaming someone else, they ultimately were placing the blame on their Creator. When God spoke to the serpent, placing a curse on it, He was speaking of Adam and Eve in the third person, similar to the way Jesus referred to himself in the third person as the Son of man. The curse was placed on the sin nature. The affect it would have on Adam and Eve is discussed in verses 14-19 of chapter 3.

The inheritance of humanity: **Gen 3: 20.** *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.* Fear, guilt, refusal to accept responsibility, blaming others, all these things have been passed down by birth. The results were seen quickly, in the story of Cain and Able. Yet there is another, more subtle distortion we have received from mother Eve - the rejection by God she felt after being driven from their garden home. Of all the subconscious things passed down, the main one is that we feel unacceptable to God. This is the foundation of the sin nature. That fallen angel called Satan, is a type of the sin nature which we have. We do not need any help to sin. But we need confirmation in our hearts that God loves us. He loves us as much as His son (Jn 17:23). He loved us before the Son was brought forth. It is the reason for the Son's births. GOD LOVES YOU!! Please,... eat from the Tree of Life.