



Then they began to die

(sequel to *The Bite Heard Round the World*)

Genesis 3:7-8 *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

Shame and Fear

Two emotions overcame Adam and Eve immediately after **The Bite**. As soon as sin entered the lives of Adam and Eve, they began to die—physically, emotionally, spiritually, and relationally. They went from being naked and not ashamed (2:25) to realizing they were naked, covering themselves. **A sense of shame** followed immediately.

They heard God walking in the Garden and hid from Him. As Adam says later, he was **afraid of God**. He doesn't mean a good fear, awe and reverence, but he was afraid. God gave us a sense of fear to protect us from danger, but not to drive us away from Him. **They went from walking and talking with God in the Garden to hiding in fear.**

God on the trail

*9*Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" *10*He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

God knew what had happened to Adam and Eve; He knew that they had now separated themselves from Him. Rather than waiting for them to come to Him and apologize or confess, as we would if we had been hurt or offended, **God went after them. He was on their trail, pursuing them with His love to draw them back to Him.** He did question Adam first, even though Eve ate the fruit first. He had given Adam the command *you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.* Adam was also the leader of the home, but did not lead when confronted with the temptation from Satan. He became weak and passive, making a decision apart from God's will in His life. Today, **apart from the Spirit of God, many men also are weak and passive in their homes**, regardless of any strength that they demonstrate in the working world or in recreational activities.

The Blame Game

*11*And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" *12*The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." *13*Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Again, God knew what had happened but wanted Adam to confess what he had done, to take responsibility for his decisions and sin. Instead, he chose to blame Eve and to blame God for giving Eve to him. He showed no remorse, no repentance, and no acknowledgement of wrong doing on his part. **Sin quickly led to blame.** When God confronted Eve, a similar story emerged. Eve blamed the serpent, not taking responsibility for her own disobedience or acknowledging it.

The Curse of the Snake

*14*The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; *15*And 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."

God never asked the serpent about why He did what He did. God already knew the character of Satan; he had already rebelled against God, trying to become like Him. But God did curse the serpent whom Satan embodied. In verse 15, God decrees that hostility and animosity will exist between Satan with his demons and the human race; he would afflict them, even causing the incarnate Son to go through a physical death. But at the same time, **God revealed the solution—the Son, Jesus Christ, would triumph over death and sin and Satan.**

The Consequences and God's Mercy

*16*To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." *17*Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. *18*"Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; *19*By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

In this edict, God did not curse man or woman, but only the serpent and the ground. The punishment for their sin was death, but their consequences would also make life more difficult. I believe God's desire was to give them a consequence related to their roles in life—**showing them their inability to do life on their own, something that would draw them back to Him.**

Watch for part 2 to see the impact of sin on marriage!