



Eve – Humanity's first lady – Genesis 2-3

Who Was Eve?

What comes to mind when you think of Eve in the Garden of Eden? Most of us remember her only for the “Apple Incident” that changed the course of human history. But if we stop there, we will miss a much deeper story of not only human failure and sin but also of God’s grace, redemption, and eternal hope. Let’s see what we can learn from our “First Lady.”

Adam was “made” from the dust, and God breathed life into him. However, Eve was “formed” from Adam’s side near the heart, to be a companion to him. The words used here imply a side-by-side equality and unity that go beyond just being a helper. Eve was formed with the intention to complete a partnership with Adam and to fulfill God’s plan for mankind.

Eve’s life began in a perfect environment. Adam had lived in the Garden for some time before Eve. He had named the animals and had received God’s command not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. However, we do not know if or how Adam had repeated this warning to Eve.

What Did Eve Do?

If Eve did not know about God’s command, then she may have been unprepared for her encounter with Satan. The serpent’s strategy was subtle. He questioned God’s word, twisted the truth, and appealed to Eve’s desire to be like God. Eve listened, considered, and ultimately ate the fruit. Then she gave some to Adam, who also ate.

Adam and Eve immediately felt the consequences of their disobedience. First, they realized they were naked and hastily tried to cover themselves. Then they hid from God when they normally would have delighted in being in His presence. Their intimacy with God was fractured.

When God asked if they had eaten from the tree, He already knew the answer. But Adam defensively blamed God and denounced Eve by saying, “that woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate...” (Genesis 3:12). Suddenly, the intimacy Adam and Eve had known with each other was just as splintered as their intimacy with God.

What Did God Do?

Throughout this whole account, God acts with both justice and mercy. In Genesis 3:14-15, God condemned the serpent. However, in doing so, He also foretold His ultimate victory over Satan through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Then, in Genesis 3:16-19, God declared that man’s peaceful lifestyle was over, and he would encounter pain and toil forever.

God displayed His mercy by making skin coverings for Adam and Eve. Imagine - the first sacrifice recorded in the Bible was initiated by God on man's behalf, previewing God's ultimate sacrifice of His son Jesus on the cross. Finally, God drove them out of the Garden to protect them from eating from the Tree of Life and living forever in a state of sin.

Eve may not have understood the full scope of God's mercy, but she still lived in it. When her first son, Cain, was born, she said, "With the help of the Lord, I have brought forth a son." (Genesis 4:1) After Cain killed his brother Abel, Eve had Seth, which prompted her to call on God again, saying, "God has granted me another child..."

What Can We Learn?

We know little about Eve after the birth of Seth. The Bible says Adam lived 930 years, and Eve may have lived that long also. Imagine how they influenced the next generations of people by sharing their eyewitness accounts of their direct interactions with God. That's why Genesis 4 ends with, "At that time, men began to call upon the name of the Lord."

Here are several lessons to remember as you call upon the name of the Lord:

We Were Created with Intention – Like Eve, we were each created in God's image, with purpose and value. Our failures can never define our worth in God's eyes.

Temptation is Subtle but Powerful – Ephesians 6:10-20 tells us we live our earthly lives facing spiritual battles. But God gives us spiritual weapons to resist Satan's attacks.

Our Hope is Anchored in God's Promises – God's response to Adam and Eve's fall points us to Jesus, our ultimate redeemer. Our hope is secure when we place our trust in him as savior.

We Are Called to Share with Others – God calls us to share our accounts of how He has worked in our lives so that others will begin to call upon the name of the Lord.



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