

The Beginning – Part 1

Introduction & Review

- Even though people around the world live in different time zones, time itself is the same everywhere (Gen. 1:5, 14).
- Even though people around the world live in vastly different cultures, the events of life remain the same (Eccl. 1:9) – *life, death, planting, reaping, etc.*
- Specific events must occur at specific time periods to fulfill God’s great plans & purposes – appointed times set by God “season”.
- Every individual must keep the appointment set by God with the events of life – birth, trials, joys... & death (Eccl. 3:1).

I. The Good in the Beginning

A. Everything was good at creation

The Bible describes the goodness of God as it was revealed in creation (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31; 1Tim. 4:4-5). Everything was “very good” in reference to the purpose for which it was created. The Hebrew word “good” (tob) means desirable, pleasant or agreeable. When anything is used in a manner not intended by God, it is no longer good.

B. Maintaining good was conditional

God made conditional provision to maintain & experience the good of creation (Gen. 2:15-17). Eden means delight or enjoyment – “garden of delight”. Adam & Eve were created with purpose in life – represent God, rule, procreate, work, etc. They were instructed in the way to please God (v. 16-17). God’s goodness is revealed – “eat of every tree”. They were warned of the consequences of disobedience (v. 17). Enjoying God’s goodness involves observing limitations established by God.

II. The Sin in the Beginning

A. The method of sin

*Sin begins with a lie, deception, temptation & gullibility or doubts (Gen. 3:1-6; 1Jn. 2:15-17). The temporary **delight** of sin effectively seduced Eve & Adam away from the **delight** of pleasing God. Deception is a lie that appeals to human desires – temptation (1Tim. 2:14). Eve was deceived by Satan & Adam was persuaded by Eve – both disobeyed God. This was the method of sin in the beginning & continues this way today (Jn. 8:44; Jas. 1:14-15).*

B. The initial consequences of sin

*The full consequences of sin are not always readily apparent. Adam & Eve received what was promised by Satan & sin (v. 7a) – “the eyes of both were opened”. God had protected them from seeing or understanding evil. But now their evil desires are satisfied & they understand what they wanted, but the pleasure is only temporary as with all sin. They also received more than was promised – they experienced evil & the effects of it personally & individually. Satan never told them about the dire consequence of their sin. **Thank God for grace & mercy when we sin...** God would have been justified to bring full & complete judgment for their disobedience, lack of trust, gratitude, honor, etc. but He did not...*

APPL: It is always dangerous to seek to know & experience more than God has permitted. It is human nature to live by facts, intellect & human knowledge rather than faith in God. It is human nature to desire more knowledge rather than to trust God, live by faith & obey Him. Thank God He still extends grace & mercy to us when we sin even with all this history before us & all of the examples of those who lived before us – we are surely without excuse.