



"Ye shall not SURELY die..."

JULY 02, 2010

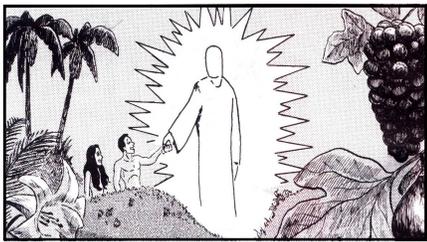
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In the beginning, "...God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (GENESIS 1:26). "Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and CALLED THEIR NAME ADAM, in the day when they were created" (GENESIS 5:2).



Adam and his wife (who was later named Eve by her husband after their banishment from the Garden of Eden) had daily fellowship with God in the Garden of God (EZEKIEL 31:9).



But God commanded the MAN saying, "...Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, thou shalt not eat of it: for IN THE DAY that thou eatest thereof thou shalt SURELY die" (GENESIS 2:16-17).

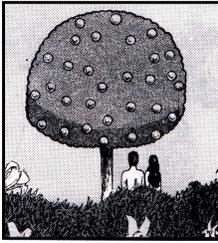
In the process of time, the tempter (MATTHEW 4:3) came to the WOMAN and asked the first question found in the scriptures: "...hath God said, Ye shall not eat of EVERY tree of the garden" (GENESIS 3:1)?

Satan laid a trap for the woman, tempting her to set the record straight: "...We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden (WHICH? There were two trees in the midst-GENESIS 2:9), God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye TOUCH it, LEST ye die" (GENESIS 3:2-3).

The woman's response provided the foundation for Satan to declare God a liar, and that He was holding back knowledge from them: "...Ye SHALL NOT SURELY die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and YE SHALL BE AS GODS, knowing good and evil" (GENESIS 3:4-5).

Now begins the pattern for all our sin...

"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" (GENESIS 3:6).



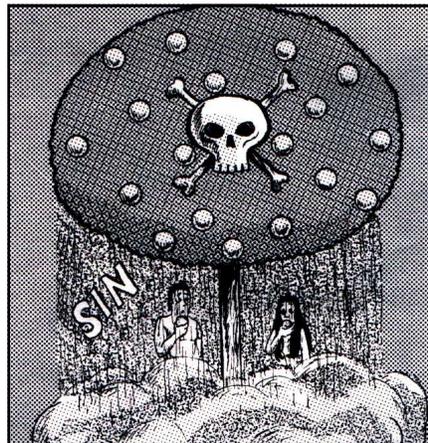
Take notice of this; nothing happened when the woman first ate. It wasn't until the man ate that changes began to take



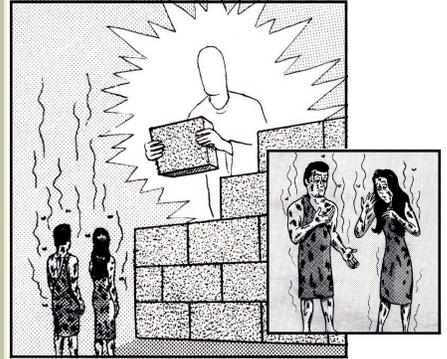
place: "...the eyes of them BOTH were opened, and they knew that they were naked" (GENESIS 3:7).

Up to this point, Adam and his wife had depended on God for everything. But now, they were "gods" in their own eyes and became independent of God: "...they sewed fig leaves together, and MADE THEMSELVES aprons" (GENESIS 3:7).

And for the first time in their lives, they experienced FEAR when "...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" (GENESIS 3:8).



Although they tried to cover their shame, God rejected their fig leaves, the work of their own hands, and provided coats of skins, that is, a blood sacrifice.

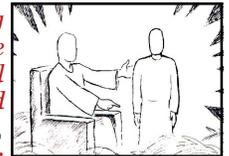


Even though Adam and his wife disobeyed God, the SIN that brought broken fellowship with God was the Sin of UNBELIF. It's the only sin that brings death in the world: "...the WAGES OF SIN is DEATH; but the GIFT OF GOD is eternal life THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord" (ROMANS 6:23).



"Wherefore, as by ONE MAN (Adam) SIN ENTERED into the world, and DEATH by sin; and so death passed upon ALL MEN, for that ALL have sinned" (ROMANS 5:12).

But God, "...sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh...condemned sin" (ROMANS 8:3), "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (JOHN 3:15).



But be warned, "he that...RECEIVETH NOT MY WORDS, hath ONE that judgeth him: THE WORD" (JOHN 12:48; 1:1, 14).

