

The Truth About Eve

Martyn Shenstone

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***Special thanks to all my faithful partners
who have supported this ministry.***

***Every life that is changed by reading this
book, has been changed by you and
I working together.***

*And my God shall supply all your need according to
His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

*Now to our God and Father be glory forever and
ever. Amen.*

Philippians 4:19-20

Chapter 1

We Are A Man

God said, "Light be!" and there was light.

Genesis 1:3

God spoke these powerful words and creation was born. The Universe had begun. Created by God's faith, steered by His hopes and governed by His love. A Universe in which God would create beings, in His own likeness and image, to love and share His very heart with. It was a perfect creation.

What went wrong?

In Adam all die.

1 Corinthians 15:22

The Bible tells us in the New Testament in 1 John 4:8 that, *God is love*. Because God is love, all of His motivation in everything He does is love. There are no exceptions to this rule. There cannot be. Since God is love, everything He has ever done, everything He is doing and everything He ever will do, is motivated only by love. Never allow anyone or anything to change your mind on this.

God is love.

1 John 4:8

All of God's motivation in creating you was founded exclusively in love. You are an expression of the love of God. God never made anyone or anything to bow before Him. God's highest ideal for man, is for man to be like Himself, and to share His love with. This is made abundantly clear at the very beginning of the Bible.

When God made us, He gave us very the best that He had. He gave us His nature, look carefully at Genesis 1:26.

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Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness..."

Genesis 1:26

He also gave us the freedom to exercise that nature. Read more of Genesis 1:26.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, let them have dominion..."

Genesis 1:26

Let them have dominion! This is God's desire for man. God made us to rule and have dominion. God was not looking for servitude when He made man. We do not have children so that they can serve us. We have children to share our love with. To share with all that we have.

What was it that God gave man to rule and have dominion over? Verse 26 spells it out for us.

... let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over the cattle, over all the Earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the Earth.

Genesis 1:26

God's gift to man was dominion over the Earth. Man was not made to serve. Man was made to rule!

So God created man..

Genesis 1:27

Yahweh, or more commonly known, *Jehovah*, is the nearest to a name given to God in the Old Testament. This Hebrew word is both male and female in gender. God is entirely complete as both male and female at the same time. He is not one more than the other. He is always the same. Genesis 1:27 confirms this. Read it carefully with your eyes open.

So God created man in His image, in the

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image of God He created him, male AND FEMALE He created them.

Genesis 1:27

God's image is male and female. It really is that simple. Man was made in God's image. The full and balanced expression of that image is in male and female attributes, not just male.

Look back at the passage you have just read. Does it not read a little strangely? God created *man* - singular, *male and female He created them* - plural. The Hebrew literally reads *male female He created them*. The Bible is telling us something here that most people miss - that male and femaleness were created simultaneously. But wasn't the woman was created later? Well, to give you a balanced answer - yes and no (that's very balanced isn't it?). You see Adam (which is the Hebrew for *man* - literally *from the clay*), like God, in whose image he was made, was originally fully male and female at the same time. He was like God, a plural being. God is a plural being and He said...

Let us make man in our image according to our likeness.

Genesis 1:26

God refers to Himself as a plural being. Moreover, as He reveals this to us about Himself, He tells us at the very same time that He is making man just like Himself. In His own image and likeness.

Allow me to go over this again. First; God reveals Himself as a plural being who is entirely male and female. Second; God reveals in His Word, the Bible, that man was also originally created in His image and likeness. Therefore man was originally a fully male and fully female plural being.

You must not start your journey of understanding of the Bible in Genesis, by saying that God created male before female, and thereby gave male man some kind of pre-eminence, extreme or mild, over woman. Such popularly imagined God ordained pre-eminence is not anywhere in the entire Bible. To say that

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male man has any divinely ordained pre-eminence over female woman is to unbalance creation.

What! you might exclaim, does not even the New Testament clearly tell us that God created man before woman? No it does not.

**For Adam was formed first and then Eve.
1 Timothy 2:13**

Surely that proves it? Man came first, woman came second? No, not at all. Look closer at the words used. The occurrence of different words in the Bible is inspirational, not accidental. Where this simple truth has been overlooked, many greater truth's have been lost.

Adam was *formed* first. In the verse quoted above from the New Testament, which was originally written in Koine Greek, the word translated as *formed* is *plasso* (Strong's 4111). Its meaning given in lexicons is *to mould or fabricate*. It does **not** mean *to create*. The Greek word *ktizo* (Strong's 2936) means *to create or to bring into existence*, for the very first time. This word *ktizo*, is not used here.

You must understand that femaleness was not created in Genesis 2:22, to which 1 Timothy 2:13, the verse quoted above, clearly refers. All the male and femaleness of humanity were created in the first person whom we know as Adam. The division of Adam, from being fully male and female, into two separate persons, one male and one female, was quite another event.

The Hebrew of Genesis confirms this. In Genesis 1:26 God says, *let us make man*. The Hebrew word here for *make* is *asah* (Strong's 6213). It literally means *to bring forth or to create*. Compare this with Genesis 2:22, the supposed creation of woman.

**Then the rib which the Lord God had taken
from the man He made into a woman.
Genesis 2:22**

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The Hebrew word used here for *made* is **not** *asah* - which is used when describing the creative act of Genesis 1:26. It is completely different. The word here is *banah* (Strong's 1129) and it means, just like the Greek word *plasso* in 1 Timothy 2:13 which refers to it, to *build or fabricate*. It does **not** mean to *create* or to *bring into existence* for the first time.

To summarise and demolish some popular misconceptions at the same time - all the male and femaleness of humanity were simultaneously and equally created (*asah*), in Adam in Genesis 1:26. Therefore when the person known as Eve came to life in Genesis 2:22, nothing new was created in relation to gender. A new person or spirit, Eve herself, came from God. Eve's body and soul, all her physical and emotional attributes were divided out of Adam. The Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament clearly proves this. To say that womankind was created in Genesis 2:22 or by reference to 1 Timothy 2:13 is to say something that the Bible does not say.

In Genesis 2:22 Adam was divided.

**Then the rib which the Lord God had taken
from the man He made into a woman.**

Genesis 2:22

The Hebrew word traditionally translated as *rib* here is not really *rib* at all. It actually means a *side*. The word is *tsela* (Strong's 6763). The famous Strong's lexicon gives the first meaning of the word as a *rib*. However this probably arises only from the sense of a curve, sometimes understood in the meaning of this word's root, and quite frankly from preconceived notions. The sense of a curve derives from the word *tsala* (Strong's 6760) from which *tsela* (our word in question) is derived. The Strong's lexicon then goes on to say of our word *tsela* '...hence a side, literally of a person or figuratively of an object.'

More conclusively, this word *tsela* occurs 42 times in the Old Testament. Apart from here in Genesis 2:22, it is only translated as a rib **once!** This isolated exception is in Daniel 7:5 where the context is a vision, making it harder to fix the

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precise meaning of the word. On 19 occasions it is translated as a side! On the other remaining occasions it is translated as objects which are associated with forming part of the sides of something; for example, a *cross beam*. It may be tempting to construct the idea of a rib from a cross beam, but a rib is a curved bone inside one part of the human body. Cross beams run right through the middle of something. When God made woman, He took something running right across man. He took a side. The meaning of the word *tsela* is *a side*. The idea that it means *rib*, especially here in Genesis 2:22, is nothing more than wishful thinking.

Moreover, for the Strong's lexicon to give the **first** meaning of the word *tsela*, as *a rib*, which is also the most uncommon translated meaning (if it is the meaning at all), is quite out of order. It contradicts the standard world-wide practice of dictionary listings, where the most common meanings of words are listed first, and the more rare meanings second, and so on.

Even more conclusively, allow me to show you something else. Because Hebrew is a fluid language, the context of a word often helps determine its meaning. So what does the context of Genesis 2:22 show us about translating *tsela* as *a rib*? It proves yet again, that the woman was not made from a rib. Look at what the context records Adam as saying about this important event.

She is bone of my bones (which includes ribs)
And flesh of my flesh (ribs are not flesh).

Genesis 2:23

She was flesh of his flesh. Ribs are not flesh. And even if Adam had only said, *bone of my bones* and stopped right there the woman still could not be accurately construed as coming from his rib. Why? because Adam said, '*bone of my boneS* (plural), not *boneS* (plural) *of my bonE* (singular). She was half of all that he was.

She shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.

Genesis 2:23

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She came out of him. Something of what Adam was became Eve. The first man was divided in two. A man, and a man with a womb, a woman. A male and a female. There is nothing secondary about the woman. Her spirit came into existence after Adam's creation, just as one person is born after another. All that Eve was as a woman, was created in Genesis 1:27.

So God created man in His own image... Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the Earth and subdue it; have dominion..."

Genesis 1:27

There is no hint of male superiority here. Because God's nature is perfectly balanced, the male part of His nature is not ruling over the female part. If the male part of God's nature was in ascendancy over the female part of His nature, this would infer that the female part of God's nature was weaker than the male part. There is no weaker part to God's nature and neither is there any weaker part to human nature - in relation to gender.

The first man was perfectly balanced. Masculinity and femininity in co-equal harmony, and in the image of God.

Then God saw all that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

Genesis 1:31

God Almighty Himself has made this marvellous and perfect being. Adam. Equally male and equally female, with complete dominion over all the Earth - a beautiful awesome creature. And what does the Lord say when He sees this perfect reflection of Himself in Adam? He tells us that he was, like all the rest of creation, **very good**.

God said that ALL His work of creation was *very good*.

Then God saw all that He had made and indeed it was very good.

Genesis 1:31

Chapter 2

Divided We Stand

And the Lord God said it is not good that man should be alone.

Genesis 2:18

Not good! What has happened? All that was previously affirmed as *very good*, now has a *not good* thrown right in the middle of it, and it was God who said it.

Traditionally this verse is understood to mean that Adam was lonely. He needed a woman. Someone to *help* him. Perhaps he needed female company to help him not to feel too lonely? Perhaps he needed domestic help with all the dishes, or all the trees he had to prune? Anyway, he is lonely, so God makes a woman for him. Why did God not think of this before? Well, we do not know. Perhaps He had other things on His mind. Simple isn't it? Not really. Absolute rubbish when you really think about it. Look again at the whole situation.

God originally made one individual man. After various blessings were bestowed upon that man, God Almighty, with all of His measureless understanding, declares His work, including of course the man He has just made, *very good* (Genesis 1:31).

In Genesis 2:18, it is then commonly understood that man's situation is described as *not good*, simply because he needs a woman. Think about that for a moment. This would mean that God did not know what He was talking about in Genesis 1:31 when He pronounced everything *very good*. That what He had created, was in reality, not *very good* and had serious flaws. In Genesis 2:18 God supposedly suddenly realises that things need to be altered and says, *Whoops, this is not good - Adam needs a mate*. No! Adam's problem was not the lack of a mate.

The *not good* of Genesis 2:18, does not refer to God making a

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mistake about man needing a woman, or female company. Therefore it must have been something that **Adam** did, or had begun to do, that perpetrated the new *not good* in creation.

Adam could not have been alone from female company. As we carefully investigated in Chapter One, Adam was female as well as male. Like God, in whose image he was made, Adam was complete in himself. You cannot be alone from yourself.

The big question then is - from whom was Adam alone? God, of course. God!?

Yes. **God!** He was the only person who Adam could have been alone from. Adam was not alone from female company, he was female company! But didn't Adam need someone to relate to? He did have someone to relate to. God! He was all he could have ever wanted, and needed, and more. A real friend full of love and laughter.

Adam was by his own choices, beginning to drift in his relationship with his Maker. He was sowing into his own heart the seeds of his later downfall. God had loved Adam, given him everything he could have wanted and more. God had given Adam a purpose and great responsibility. God had left Adam with the choice to love Him back. Love, by its very nature, can of course only be entirely voluntary. Adam did not return that love.

God saw what was happening and said, *It is not good that man should be alone*. God decided to try and reverse the problem. God tried?! Surely God does not need to try and do anything? Yes He does. God probably spends most of His time trying to do things that don't work out the way He wants, because they involve other people's choices.

There are some things that God cannot do. One of them is to force someone to make a voluntary decision. The decisions of your heart are yours and yours alone. Has God ever tried to get you to do something that you did not do?

For God to forcibly change your decisions, would be for Him to

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violate all that you are. To go back on how He made you as an eternal being with free will, with the ability to choose your own destiny. It would be to change you. God does not do that.

Adam was complete in Himself as long as He fellowshiped with God. When he did not, his personality began to corrupt. So God acted in a way that would help draw Adam back into a closer relationship with Himself. He made woman. He said,

I will make a helper comparable to him.

Genesis 2:18

Helper? Adam certainly needed help. His spiritual condition was deteriorating so much that he was trying to live alone from God. So God makes a *helper* for him. What was this helper for?

Look again at the word *helper*. It is correctly translated but completely misunderstood in the light of religious tradition and wrong conclusions from the preceding verses.

The Hebrew word for *helper* here is *ezer* (Strong's 5828), including here it occurs 21 times in the Old Testament. Sixteen of these times this word *ezer* refers to divine saving and or restoring help. For example it occurs twice in Psalm 121.

**I lift up my eyes to the hills,
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord
Who made heaven and Earth.**

Psalm 121:1-2

And once in Psalm 33.

**Our soul waits for the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.**

Psalm 33:20

In all 16 of these occurrences *ezer*, as in the two examples above, clearly means a superior saving kind of help. Other than also occurring twice here in Genesis 2:18 and 20, this Hebrew word for help, has three other occurrences. I have quoted each

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of the three remaining examples to make the point very clear. Woman was not made to serve man, she was made to help save him.

They were all ashamed of a people who could not benefit them, Or be help or benefit, But a shame and also a reproach.

Isaiah 30:5

Read in its context, this verse and the use of the word help in it, speak of one nation not being able to deliver another. Clearly not subservient help. Look at the second of the three remaining occurrences.

I will scatter to the wind all who are around him to help him, and all his troops; I will draw out the sword after them.

Ezekiel 12:14

This example is the same as Isaiah 30:5. Here God is speaking through the prophet Ezekiel of an allied nation (the Egyptians), not being able to help Judah against Babylon. Clearly not subservient help. Finally in the book of Daniel,

Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join them by intrigue.

Daniel 11:34

The overall context of this verse is visionary, so it's not clear precisely what this help is - except that it is **not** inferior or domestic help. What am I proving, by carefully examining, every other possible meaning given to this word *ezer* in the Old Testament? Simply this, that the word *ezer*, translated *help* in Genesis 2:18 and 2:20 cannot, I repeat **cannot**, be domestic help, social or physical companionship, or **any** kind of subordinate assistance. It cannot be any of these things. Either in the context of Genesis 2:18-20. Or in relation to the meaning given to the word, in every other occurrence of it in the entire Old Testament. This *help* is saving restoring help. Woman was made to help save man, not to serve him. To help

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save mankind, not to be the servant of mankind.

Does this mean that women are superior to men? No, not at all, unless you have the wrong concept of superiority.

You see, to the typical man in the street, superior often means, greater than, stronger than, in charge of, etc. However what God counts as superior, many of us see as unimportant. To a man, superiority usually relates to position or rank. The most superior person therefore is the one who is in charge of everyone else. However to God what is most important and what makes someone superior, or I should say, on a stronger foundation, is a living union with Him. Not who you are in relation to your position, or what you have previously achieved. In God's eyes, a genuine relationship with Himself comes first. Is the penny beginning to drop? For the most part women are the same.

To a woman, a genuine relationship is more important than anything else. Men can often think a woman's need for relationship is a weakness. God thinks it is a strength. Men often think you are strong if you stand alone. God said, *It is not good for man to be alone.*

Adam wanted to live in the garden of Eden, rule the Earth and partake of the life giving anointing of the Tree of Life, without being in genuinely close fellowship with God Himself. A very dangerous place to be. A place of power, recognition and responsibility, but also a place of imbalance. Adam wanted recognition without real relationship. If you are not in a living union with God, with His word abiding in your heart and having intimate communion with His Holy Spirit, then you are like Adam was in Eden. You have all the status but are on the precipice of a fall.

Because Adam did not maintain his close union with the Lord, he allowed the male part of his nature, to drift into becoming unnaturally dominant. He started to become proud and independent. The male part of his nature, began to take ascendancy, over the more relationship orientated female part of his nature. He let his union with God slip. He became

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unbalanced.

So God acted. He divided Adam's physical and emotional attributes into a separate male and a separate female. He then breathed His Spirit into the female part of the division - in the same way He breathes His Spirit into the seed in the mother's womb. A new individual, whom we know as Eve, had life. Adam exclaims...

**This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh...**

Genesis 2:23

Eve would have had a drawing effect on Adam and helped him see the need for real relationship. His attraction for her, would have compelled him to regain an understanding that, intimacy and genuine fellowship, are at the beginning of all lasting and eternal fulfilment.

Adam must have begun to lose something of his original perfection before woman was taken out of him. She was taken out of him, to try and prevent what God saw as his potential fall, or at least the worst effects of it. When God said, *it is not good that man should be alone*, this shows that Adam had become unbalanced and altered his original created state. He had by his own choices, made *not good*, what God had previously declared as *very good*.

There was something of a drifting or stumbling in Adam, if not an actual fall before Eve was formed. The New Testament book of James shows that this process which took place in Adam, is the process that precedes all sin. It does not begin with an actual sin, but eventually led to sin, which in turn gave birth to death.

**But each one is tempted when he is drawn
away by his own desires and enticed. Then
when desire has conceived, it gives birth to
sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings
forth death.**

James 1:14-15

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The woman was formed out of Adam, to *help* Adam, recover lost spiritual ground in his relationship with the Lord. The female part of his nature was not taken out of Adam, until by his own choices, it was *not good* for him to stay as he was.

The very character traits, which have often been declared to be God given strengths and confirmations of divinely ordained male pre-eminence, namely those of being able to stand strong alone, are in God's eyes weaknesses. They are *not good*.

Adam walked in the centre of God's will for him - Eden. Yet he walked there alone. In the middle of Paradise the devil became his god. Why? God's words to him were not abiding in his heart. He had no real fellowship with his Maker. God said, *it is not good for man to be alone*. Adam lost it all. He deceived himself.

In Adam all die.

1 Corinthians 15:22

Chapter 3

From Paradise to Hell

The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Genesis 2:18c

God placed Adam in Eden. Eden literally means *perfect pleasure*. Adam was put in a place of total perfection, it was as we say, Paradise. Although God had given Adam the entire Earth to rule (Gen 1:26), He started Adam out in Eden. A place from where Adam would learn progressively how to govern the entire Earth. Adam's first task after he was created was to look after Eden, to manage the trees and their fruit, but more than that, to spiritually oversee the garden. The Bible tells us about this role in Genesis 2:15, it is often overlooked as merely a verse about tending the vegetation.

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend it and keep it.

Genesis 2:15

Tend it and keep it. At a glance these two instructions appear more or less the same. There is however, a massive difference between them. To *tend*, comes from the Hebrew word *abad* (Strong's 5647), which simply means to *work*, as in till the ground, prune the trees and manage the garden agriculturally, etc.

The word for *keep*, is quite different. It is *shamar* (Strong's 8104), which literally means to *hedge about*. It is the same word used in Genesis 3:24, where the angel *protects* or *guards* the way to the Tree of Life, after the Fall. Adam was told to protect the garden. If Adam was told to protect the garden, obviously there was something or someone to protect it from. Therefore whoever came, and remained, in the garden was

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Adam's responsibility. Pause and think about this. God had given Adam the garden to tend and keep. Naturally, Adam must have had the power and authority to enforce this obligation, otherwise God would not have asked him to do it.

Now the serpent...

Genesis 3:1

The implications of the serpent's presence in the garden of Eden are enormous. The big question is, who let the devil in the garden? The person who had the authority over the garden and those who came and went in it. God? No! Adam.

Adam had clearly been told to protect the garden and it surely goes without saying, that in giving this job to Adam, God must have illuminated to him, what or who, he was supposed to be protecting the garden from - or how else could Adam have properly protected it? Adam must have consciously failed to do his duty, allowed the devil in, and let him remain in the garden.

Adam and the devil were working in collusion together to try and remove God's involvement in mankind. Before you object to all this, as spurious guess work, look at the scriptures, they tell you the truth about Adam.

"But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt treacherously with me. (See NIV and NKJV translations)

Hosea 6:7

The Bible clearly tells us that Adam was treacherous. Treachery carries with it a clear understood sense of premeditated scheming. The Hebrew word for *treacherously* here in Hosea 6:7 is *bagad* (Strong's 898), it means to cover or act covertly. With it comes the implication of pillaging. In other words, it means to steal something, by subversive or deceitful means.

Adam was working with the devil to cut God's influence out of the affairs of man. This may sound absolutely and utterly ridiculous, until you ask yourself, how did the devil ever get to be called the *god of this world*, in the New Testament in 2

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Corinthians 4:4? The *god of this world*, is not the same as Lord of all the Earth. The *world*, mentioned in 2 Corinthians 4:4, is the world system, from the Greek word *cosmos*, meaning the affairs or kingdoms of men. The Bible says that when the devil tempted Jesus in Luke 4:5-7, he offered him authority over all the kingdoms of the world, not the Earth.

Then the devil taking him up on a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to him, "All this authority I will give to you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whoever I wish. Therefore, if you will worship before me, all will be yours."

Luke 4:5-7

When Adam sinned he bowed down to the devil. He failed where Jesus later succeeded. When Adam ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he put himself under the lordship of the devil. He took on the devil's nature, that of sin and death. In some deluded way he probably thought he was freeing himself from God's control. God was never trying to control him in the first place.

Adam bowed to the devil and joined himself to his nature. He committed high treason. In his rebellion Adam lost all that God had given him to a vastly inferior being, a mere fallen angel.

Adam deceived himself.

In Adam all die.

1 Corinthians 15:22

Chapter 4

The Fall

"Did God say?"

Genesis 3:31

The devil was afraid when he came to deceive Eve. He had to not only deceive her into eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but before he could achieve this, he had to alienate God from her in her thinking. He had to reduce the risk of her turning and asking God to explain why she was not supposed to eat of the forbidden fruit. Anything that God might have said, had she done this, would have knocked the devil's temptations straight on the head.

The devil therefore needed to make Eve think, that it was not in her best interest at all, to go to God in this situation. How? By telling her that God did not really have her best interests at heart, when He gave the instructions about not eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

And the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:4-5

The devil did not simply question what God said, more subtly, he questioned why God had said it. Once the devil got Eve to doubt the sincerity of God's motives towards her, it was much easier for him to get her to doubt the truth of what God had actually said. The devil said that God did not want her and Adam to be too much like Him - as though God still wanted to be markedly superior to Adam and Eve, for whatever reason.

The devil challenged Eve's resolve, not only with a direct

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questioning what God had said, but also with a lie which subtly undermined her resolve. At the same time he appealed to her genuinely spiritual desire to become wise and more like God.

All this may still seem far fetched, until you consider, that it depends on how well you know someone, as to whether or not you trust them or believe what they say.

You see, Eve may not have known God that well. Being with Adam, who had developed an isolationist attitude to God, had probably rubbed off on her. She may have not got that way intentionally or because of any problems in her character. 1 Corinthians 15:33 tells us that, *evil company corrupts good habits*. Was Adam's company that bad? Yes, it surely was! Anyone who tries to get along without God and knows better, is the worst possible sort of company you could ever have.

Furthermore, the devil's presence in the garden appears to be of no surprise to Eve. It is quite probable that the conversation recorded in Genesis 3:1-5, was not the first that the devil had ever had with Eve. After all, the best way to deceive someone, is to make sure that what you are trying to deceive them with, looks perfectly normal. Another day, another conversation, a few more interesting questions, except that this time, the trap was ready to spring.

Eve was deceived, not because she was disposed to being deceived, as though God had made anyone prone to deception - but because the devil and Adam had put together a masterpiece of deception, which anyone would have done well not to be deceived by. God had originally said to Adam:

'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: but of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die'

Genesis 2:16-17

Eve's answers to the devil's questions, reveal that what God had originally said to Adam, about not eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, has been changed.

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And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it lest you die.'

Genesis 3:2-3

Eve minimised what they could do, and exaggerated what they could not. *You may freely eat of every tree of the garden* (Gen 2:16), has been reduced to a plain, *we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden*.

On the other hand, *...and of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*, has been exaggerated to, *but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden you shall not eat, nor shall you touch it, lest you die* (see Gen 2:17). God never said anything originally about not touching the tree. Perhaps He saw Adam and Eve's increasing interest in the knowledge of good and evil, and warned them more strongly not to go there.

Regrettably, Eve eats the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Why? As always, the scriptures have the answer to such a crucial question.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took its fruit and ate.

Genesis 3:6

Eve's motivation was clearly good. She wanted to be wise and was attracted to eating the fruit because the tree was *good for food*. The devil took the good desires in Eve's heart and twisted them to deceive her.

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:6

What just happened? The devil had deceived himself earlier and

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lost his position in heaven. Adam deceived himself and lost his position on the Earth. But it took the two of them working together to deceive Eve.

“Women are easily deceived.” How inaccurate can you get! This is the complete **OPPOSITE** of what the scriptures show us.

The devil's heart was filled with pride and he rebelled and was cast out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12-20 and Ezekiel 28:11-19). Adam's heart became proud and he wanted to be independent from God, and he must have believed whatever claptrap the devil told him, because he ended up under his dominion. And after all this, we are supposed to see in man's natural disposition, some sort of inherently sound and reliable leadership quality! And the woman, who is traditionally supposed to have been made to serve this wonderfully spiritual man, because she is so ingeniously ensnared, we are to believe, has a weak character disposed to being easily deceived. Which on top of all that becomes hereditary! What about Adam's treason? Did that become hereditary too?

Why did Adam wait for Eve to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil before he did? He wanted to see if she dropped down dead after she ate it. She was his guinea pig.

When Eve started to eat the fruit, apparently nothing happened. Adam must then have become convinced that God really had lied to him, or that he had outwitted God and that Eve was consequently becoming wise, or free, in some way which might leave him behind. Eve innocently shared the fruit with Adam, probably thinking that she was now becoming wise. Adam immediately consumed it. After all, he did not want to be ruled by a woman!

The devil knew what was going on the whole time. He knew that Adam would quickly eat of the fruit after he saw that Eve did with no apparent harmful consequences. He knew that the glory faded slowly from around you when you cut yourself off from God. He knew it would happen like that because that was how it had happened to him in heaven when he fell.

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Why did Adam not see, or fail to see, any apparently harmful effects on Eve soon after she ate the fruit? Because prior to the fall they were both clothed in the glory of God. When they cut themselves off from God's life, by eating the fruit, they lost the source of their life. However the life and glory of God that emanated from them did not simply go out like a light. It faded. A similar thing happened to Moses in Exodus 34:29-35.

**Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai... that the skin of his face shone.
Exodus 34:29**

If you read the whole passage, you will find out that Moses' face shone while he talked with the Lord but that he covered it when he talked with the people of Israel. They were afraid to come near him because of it. However this shining evidently did not become permanent. Verse 35 of this chapter clearly implies that it took place only when Moses talked with the Lord, and that when he came away from talking, it began to fade - but not immediately because the children of Israel saw it. The same thing happened with Adam and Eve. The Glory of God which had been so bright around them, because it was so very much a part of them, began to fade. Look at how the book of Genesis itself reveals this important truth to us.

**Then the eyes of them both were opened,
and they knew that they were naked.
Genesis 3:7**

The word for *opened* here is, *paqach* (Strong's 6491). This word means to *open* as in the opening the eyes and looking or observing. Within this word's meaning is also a sense of realisation, which stems from what has been seen. Adam and Eve now saw something that had actually changed in the physical realm. They could now see a change around themselves.

**And they knew that they were naked.
Genesis 3:7**

The Hebrew word for *knew* is *yada* (Strong's 3045). It means

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to *ascertain by seeing*. Quite simply, they perceived by *seeing* that they were naked. Notice that the word *were*, is italicised in your Bible (if you have a more literal translation, e.g. a New King James or NASB). This means that the translators have added it at their own discretion, to help clarify what they believe is the understood meaning of the sentence. If you try reading this verse without the added *were*, it becomes a present event not a past one. Literally, *and they knew that they naked*. It was something which they could now see - because it had just happened. In other words, they had just become naked. Adam and Eve were not naked before this event.

God did not make all animals with a covering like fur, hair or feathers, clothe his angels with glowing white robes and leave the crown of His creation unclothed, and blind them selectively, so they could not actually see each others nakedness! Their physical bodies were not some sort of secret, that each of them had that the other was not supposed to see - or else how where they going to go forth and multiply?

The catastrophe of the fall was not that Adam and Eve SAW their bodies, as though something about their bodies should not be seen. It was that their bodies were now permanently exposed. It was what they had LOST that was the problem. They had lost the glory of God that had clothed them.

Adam and Eve were clothed in the glory of God. When they ate of the fruit, they cut themselves off from God's life flowing into them and their covering began to fade. It was not immediately noticeable. Adam was not expecting to lose what he really thought was part of himself, his own life source, he thought. He did not know what death was actually like. He did not understand that the spiritual death that accompanied his sin, would take time to work on his physical body.

In the warning in Genesis 2:17 about not eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Hebrew literally says, *in dying you shall die*. Adam must have imagined death was going to be something quite dramatic. When nothing visibly happened to Eve when she ate the fruit, Adam must have concluded that

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he would not suffer any ill effects after all. He thought he knew better than God.

A better way to translate Genesis 3:7 would be, *and they saw that from now on they were naked*, or *...they were now to be naked*. Out of the greatest respect for the translators, adding the word *were*, infers that Adam and Eve were previously naked but failed to see it, which is not true.

But! - you might exclaim, Genesis 2:25 says they were *naked but not ashamed*? Aha! You thought that you had caught me out didn't you? Well, no gold stars this time. The word translated *naked*, in Genesis 2:25, is a different word from the naked of the fall. It is the Hebrew word *arom* (Strong's 6174) and it means *unclothed*. Literally, *without garments*, and not exposed, as we understand the meaning of the word naked. Let me show you that I'm not just making this up. This word *arom* occurs 16 times in the Old Testament. It occurs once here and on 14 other occasions it always means naked - as in without garments of clothing. For example:

For you have taken pledges from your brothers for no reason, and stripped the naked of their clothing.

Job 22:6

The word for naked here is of course *arom*. Here is another example from the book of Job.

Naked I came from my mother's womb, naked I will depart.

Job 1:21

This verse is clearly referring to clothing. The only place in the Old Testament, in which *arom* does not refer specifically to clothing, is again in Job but still clearly refers to a covering of sorts.

Sheol is naked before Him, and destruction has no covering.

Job 26:6

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The word *arom*, translated in Genesis 2:25 as *naked*, more precisely means *unclothed*. So why did Adam and Eve previously have no shame if they were unclothed? Because they were not naked, as in exposed. They were clothed in the glory of God. They would have looked like they were wearing robes made of light – because they were!

What about the word used for naked after the fall, later on in Genesis 3:7? This word is different, it is *erom* (Strong's 5903) and represents the more general idea of being uncovered, as in exposed. Adam and Eve's response to this nakedness was markedly different from their response to the unclothed nakedness, mentioned shortly after the division of Adam, in Genesis 2:25. The nakedness of Genesis 3:7 produced fear. Look at what Adam said, when God asked him where he was, after he had eaten from the forbidden tree.

I was afraid because I was naked.

Genesis 3:10

Notice Adam did not say, I was embarrassed because I was naked. He said, *I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid*. Why? He had lost his glory, he had lost his spiritual strength, he was weak and vulnerable and He thought God was coming to get him. He experienced fear for the first time.

Adam was the first person to hold the erroneous religious view that God is angry with people who sin. But God's anger is not on man, it is on sin (see Romans 1:18). Adam had absolutely no idea what God would do in this situation. Small wonder, how could he? Adam had spent so little time with Him, after all, God had said:

It is not good that man should be alone.

Genesis 2:18

Chapter 5

Adam Where Are You?

Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:9

God kept believing the best about Adam until he actually made decisions which established his drifting position. It was then that God acted to try and reverse the course Adam was on, by dividing him into male and female. Lamentably, Adam continued on his downward course. God had done everything He could to prevent Adam breaking away from Him.

Then Adam sinned, and ate the fruit. Whatever he was expecting, some sort of great independent future on the Earth without God, totally evaporated. The devil sold him the lie of a life of true freedom without God. Regardless of what the devil actually said, Adam fell for it, hook, line and sinker because he ended up under the devil's dominion and the devil ended up with Adam's dominion. Adam committed high treason and gave his allegiance to the devil, thinking that he would come out better off for it. He was gravely mistaken.

Now, in perhaps the most pathetic and sad scene of the entire Bible; Adam, with all of his delusions of grandeur dashed to pieces, finds himself weak, vulnerable and afraid. In the midst of this great tragedy, you might have thought that he would cry out to God for help, but no; Instead Adam hardens his heart even more, distances himself even further from God, and actually tries to apportion the blame, of his own premeditated and deliberate actions, on the woman and God. Look at his lamentable answers.

"The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Genesis 3:12

Adam Where Are You?

Adam takes absolutely no real responsibility for his actions. He offers no plausible explanation at all, as to why he ate the fruit. Having deceived Eve, in collusion with the devil, Adam blames her for giving the fruit to him and gives this as the reason why he ate it. On top of all this Adam absurdly tries to make out that it's really all God's fault - because He gave the woman to be with him in the first place. Perhaps he believed even his own lies. Adam refused to repent and held his sin in his heart.

**If I have covered my transgressions like
Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom.
Job 31:33**

Remember, Hosea 6:7 told us that Adam not only sinned but also what kind of sin it was. Treachery. You must understand the full extent of what Adam was trying to do. He was trying to cut God's influence out of the Earth.

God's influence on the Earth was exclusively through man, in this case, Adam and Eve. God had given mankind complete rulership and dominion over the Earth and everything that lived on it.

**... let them have dominion over the fish of
the sea, over the birds of the air, over the
cattle, over all the Earth and over every
creeping thing that creeps on the Earth.
Genesis 1:26**

Adam was now trying to do exactly what the devil had almost certainly tried to do in heaven, except not very competently, because the devil ends up on top and not Adam.

The devil had seen that his only chance of survival, after his failed rebellion in heaven and being booted out of there by the Archangel Michael (Rev 12:7), was to get Adam's authority - so that he could not be thrown off the Earth and into Hell. He succeeded, but only partially. Someone messed it all up. Eve.

You see, Eve was always the problem. That's why she had to be taken out first. She was the spiritual one. Adam was well on

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his way out, ready for treason. Eve? She had to be deceived. The devil knew she would not co-operate willingly. That's why she had to be made to eat the fruit first.

Adam has tried to blame God and Eve for his actions. God's attention is now turned to Eve. Not because He agrees with Adam's dumb answer about him eating the fruit all being God and Eve's fault. God's attention is turned to the woman because Adam has refused to genuinely relate to Him any longer. If you disagree, placate your objections by thoughtfully reading Hosea 6:7 and Job 31:33. Adam was treasonable and held his sin in his heart. It was quite pointless for God to say anything else to him at this time.

The devil, who has of course been standing there the whole time, is now halfway to securing the Earth as his home forever. That's as far as he ever gets. Eve's replies are the complete opposite of Adam's. Eve tells the truth.

The serpent deceived me, and I ate.

Genesis 3:13

Eve simply explains that she was deceived, and unlike Adam, does not try and blame God with false reasons as to why she ate the fruit. She is open with God.

More than that, Eve unflinchingly sides against the devil by identifying him as her deceiver - even though the devil's standing right there (after all what has he to be afraid of - God's not going to do anything, this is man's garden and he's been made welcome). Eve, unlike Adam, is not in collusion with the devil.

Because Eve remained open and honest with God, she left a way open for God to still deal with mankind through her. If she had not, there may have been no other way in for God, Adam had already closed the door of his heart.

You and I might have been born into a world totally ruled by the devil, with no hope for our future. Thank God for Eve!

Chapter 6

The Promise

I will put (or permit to be put) enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head and you shall bruise his heel.

Genesis 3:15

The scripture tells that the promise of salvation is through the woman's seed, not the man's. There is enmity between the woman's seed and the devil's seed but not between the man's and the devil's.

Genetically the man has the seed for procreation, the woman does not. In fact, genetically there is no such thing as a woman's seed. A woman makes the fertilised seed grow until birth, but even her blood is not mixed with the unborn child's.

Quite clearly, the seed of Genesis 3:15 is not a biological one. It is a spiritual one. It is the seed of faith. Consider again the scenario of Genesis chapter 3 so far. Adam has made an evil choice in distancing himself from God with his unrepentant answers to God's questions. He has confirmed that he is still sided with the devil by becoming a false accuser of God for his own sin.

Eve however, by her expose' of the devil before his very face, has created an enmity between herself and him. Eve's answers demonstrate courage. Adam's answer demonstrates cowardice.

What follows these answers is the result of Eve's right decision. God confirms the enmity between the woman and her seed and the devil and his seed. It is this enmity that accounts for most of the sufferings listed in Genesis 3:16 - which tradition says is the result of the woman having introduced sin into the world by eating the forbidden fruit. The devil's enmity is the cause of the

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woman's suffering. I will also expose some catastrophic mistranslations of Genesis 3:16 in the next chapter.

Between your seed and her seed, God says, will I fix enmity. According to scripture the devil also has offspring.

**The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom,
but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.
Matthew 13:38**

Who then are the devil's seed and who are Eve's seed? This is very simple. The devil's seed are those who do wrong and do not believe. Eve's seed are those who do right, those who believe, and through whom God is able to bring salvation to the world.

The seeds referred to in Genesis 3:15 are not physical offspring. If they were, Adam should have been mentioned first because biologically the man carries the seed. The devil could not be mentioned at all, because he carries no biological seed to reproduce people, and Eve could not have been mentioned either, because women carry no seed. Compare some more passages on this subject. God tells Abraham in Genesis:

**'By myself have I sworn ... in your seed shall
all the nations of the Earth be blessed;
because you have obeyed My voice.'
Genesis 22:16**

To Isaac God says.

**'In your seed shall all the nations of the
Earth be blessed because Abraham obeyed
My voice.'
Genesis 26:4-5**

To Jacob He says the same thing.

**'In you and your seed shall all the families of
the Earth be blessed.'
Genesis 28:14**

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To David God says,

'I will raise up your seed after you... and I will establish his throne forever.'

1 Chronicles 17:11-12

To whom do all of these seeds refer? To Jesus of course!

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your seed,' who is Christ.

Galatians 3:16

Why do they all refer to Jesus? Because each person to whom they were promised believed. They had faith. To qualify for this promise of your seed, bringing the blessing of salvation to all the nations of the whole Earth you needed to have had faith. Eve had exactly the same kind of promise made about her seed as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David. Eve therefore had the same kind of faith that they did. Furthermore, she is at the source of this lineage of faith. What about Adam? He's not in this lineage of faith at all. He's no more in it than the devil. Why? Because spiritually he was become a child of the devil. He represents the unbeliever. He represents treason. He represents deliberate sin. Adam is the door of death to all mankind, not Eve.

Death reigned from Adam to Moses.

Romans 5:14

So how come, since Eve ate the fruit first, sin is recorded as entering the world through Adam? After all, Eve sinned when she ate the fruit didn't she?

Didn't she?

By one man sin entered the world.

Romans 5:12

Chapter 7

Who Sinned?

In Adam all die.

I Corinthians 15:22

Death reigned from Adam to Moses.

Romans 5:14

Allow me to introduce you to one of the most startling and yet obvious facts of the Bible. Eve ate the fruit first but scripture records sin as entering the human race through Adam.

Through one man sin entered the world.

Romans 5:12

Please see the logic of these scriptures. It is as simple as two plus two. Eve ate the fruit first, Adam ate second, but the scriptures record sin as entering mankind through Adam. In the light of this there is only one possible conclusion. Eve did not sin when she ate the fruit. Look at the wealth of scriptures...

In Adam all die.

1Corinthians 15:22

Through one man sin entered the world.

Romans 5:12

Death reigned from Adam to Moses...

Romans 5:14

By one man's offence...

Romans 5:15

And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned.

Romans 5:16

Who Sinned?

**For if by one man's offence death reigned...
Romans 15:17**

**Through one man's offence...
Romans 5:18**

**By one man's disobedience...
Romans 15:19**

A staggering eight times the scriptures reveal one person as responsible for the entrance of sin into the world. Five times this person is identified as one man, and twice clearly as Adam. There is absolutely no room for doubt. Adam sinned first. Therefore Eve could not have sinned when she ate the fruit.

How unlike tradition! Eve is supposed to be the gateway of sin into mankind, but the scriptures repeatedly declare the very opposite of what most people sincerely believe. If Eve did not sin, then what did she do? As always, the scriptures give us a clear explanation.

**...the woman being deceived fell into transgression.
1 Timothy 2:14**

It is not a sin to be deceived. The Bible says Eve *fell* - read this word again, *fell*. Not, ran into, chased after, or willingly chose to, but *fell*. Why did she fall? Because she was tripped up. By what? By deception. Who deceived her? The devil.

**The serpent by his craftiness deceived Eve.
2 Corinthians 11:3**

What about Adam?

**Adam was not deceived.
1 Timothy 2:14**

Remember Adam was treasonable (Hosea 6:7). To be treasonable means that you must have an active and conscious part in something. When Eve ate the fruit, Adam was stood

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there the whole time and he never said a word. In their plan, the devil had obviously asked Adam to say nothing to Eve while he spoke to her. Adam's silence would probably have spoken louder to Eve than the serpent's words.

Eve fell into *transgression*. Contrary to popular belief, transgression is not the same as sin. There are very different words for transgression and sin in both the Old and New Testaments. To transgress, literally means 'to cross the line' or 'break the law'. Eve fell across the line. This still had serious consequences, even though she was not deliberately doing wrong and sinning like Adam was.

Sin is a deliberate act which you know in your heart to be wrong. In fact as amazing as it may seem to say you can actually do something wrong and it not be a sin – if you really believed it was the right thing to do.

For whatever is not from faith is sin.

Romans 14:23

This verse proves the point that sin originates from the heart, not from actions, because faith is from the heart. *Whatever is not of faith is sin*, is like saying whatever is not from a right heart is sin. If you wilfully violate your conscience by doing anything that you believe to be wrong, you are sinning.

Where is faith from? From the heart, the very core of your being. The difference between Adam and Eve eating the fruit in Eden lay in what was in their hearts. Eve's heart was open to God, full of faith. She clearly did the wrong thing but in faith trying to be more like God. It was not a sin, it was a transgression. Whatever is of faith is not sin but it may well be a big mistake and get you into a lot of trouble. So stay with wisdom too.

Eve, although she did not sin, still suffered a lot of serious consequences for her actions because she violated spiritual laws and principles. Transgression has the same consequences as any act stemming from sin, but not the same corrupting effect on the heart as sin. Sin produces death in the heart. In

Who Sinned?

the Bible your heart is the very centre of your being, it's your spirit, the real you. When Adam ate the fruit his spirit died. He violated much more spiritual law than Eve.

Sin when it is full grown, brings forth death.

James 1:15

Adam spiritually died when he ate the fruit. Eve did not. They both lost the glory around them. They both separated themselves from the life giving anointing of God, but they both did it for different reasons. Eve was deceived, thinking she was going to be more like God. This is why Eve was not driven out of the garden. Adam was treasonable and trying to cut God's influence out of his affairs, this is why Adam was driven out of the garden and no longer had access to the Tree of Life.

Then the Lord said... "And now, lest he [the man] put out his hand and take also from the Tree of Life and live for ever" - therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden... So He drove out the man.

Genesis 3:22-24

Eve was not driven out of the garden. She had access to the Tree of Life and its life giving fruit. Adam had to be driven out of the garden so that he did not have access to the Tree of Life. Traditionally it has always been women who are supposed to be kept out of positions of spiritual responsibility, but in Eden, God drove out the **man!**

It was because Eve was not the spiritual liability that Adam was, that she could stay in the garden. Her spirit was not under the lordship of the devil, she was still spiritually alive. This is why Adam called her Eve. Eve means *life*.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Genesis 3:20

Adam called his wife Eve. The Hebrew for *Eve* is, *chavvah* (Strong's 2332). It originates from the Hebrew word, *chavah*

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(Strong's 2331) - which literally means, *living*. When Adam called Eve such, there was no one else actually living. If Eve's name related to her childbearing abilities, it would have been far more appropriate to name her Eve at the time she was divided out of Adam? It was then that Adam first knew that she had a womb and would be able to bear children.

After all the trauma of the fall. After having been told how his actions would make his life so hard. After being told that one day he would return to the dust. After all that, the next thing Adam apparently has to say is something to his wife like, *Hey, you can have kids, lets call you momma* (or mother of all living). How absurd. The only thing a man thinks of who has just been told he is condemned die is, how can I live!? Adam looks at Eve and says, *You are alive!* because she would be the mother of all those who would be alive. Spiritually alive.

Adam comprehends at last what he has done. Having heard God say to the devil that he will defeat him one day through Eve's seed, Adam now realises that his hope for salvation is through Eve. She is the mother of all those who believe.

What was Eve's actual condition? She had lost the glory all around her but her heart was not spiritually dead. She was like a child born into the world today. Not clothed with God's glory but not spiritually dead either. Alive to God in her heart.

Contrary to popular belief, you are not born sinful. Just because David says in Psalm 51:5, *in sin did my mother conceive me*, it does not mean all people are born sinful. David's words relate to a specific family situation, clearly evidenced by his fathers behaviour in 1 Samuel 16:11. There is actually no such thing as the often mentioned 'sinful state'. The Bible recognises a state of spiritual death and acts of sin. Romans 5:12 tells us that *death spread* (not *sin spread*) *to all men*. Why? Because all men were born depraved and hopelessly corrupt and sinful? No! A thousand times no! The Bible tells us why death spread.

..thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

Who Sinned?

The big question that has raved for centuries is, 'why do all sin?' This is so simple. When Adam and Eve cut themselves off from God, they lost the life giving life force (anointing) of God that had clothed them and empowered them.

They lost their spiritual strength. They lost the strength to resist sin. When they cut themselves off from God they cut the rest of mankind to follow them off from God too. They broke the link. All people are now born without this strength.

It is in this way that Adam was responsible for the fall of all mankind. Romans 5:15 says, *for by one man's offence many died*. Romans 5:14 tells us that death reigned over people who sinned but not according to the likeness (i.e. not treason) of Adam's sin.

All people, as they grow up, even when they know the difference between right and wrong, sooner or later violate their conscience and sin. The reason for this is that they don't have the strength to resist every time. Sooner or later they sin and spiritually die.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the godly.

Romans 5:6

All people sin because they are born without the spiritual strength to resist sin.

Furthermore, many people do not understand spiritual principles and the way in which we are spiritually formed. Most people think they can do more or less anything, which has no immediately noticeable harmful effects and that it will not be detrimental to them. Like Eve, they transgress spiritual laws in ignorance and fall into transgression. While not sin itself, this weakens people even further, to a place of being less able to resist sin. Therefore there would have come a time later when Eve would have sinned, especially since she followed Adam out of the garden, her biggest mistake...

Chapter 8

The Consequences

They reward me evil for good, to the sorrow of my soul.

Psalm 35:12

If a man returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.

Proverbs 17:13

Strange as it may seem, many believe that after her well intentioned mistake, and clear stand against the devil, Eve is rewarded evil for good.

I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception, in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire *shall be* for your husband and he shall rule over you.

Genesis 3:16

If this traditional translation of Genesis 3:16 is to be believed, Eve attracts a special personal punishment from God. On the other hand, Adam and the devil, simply have the consequences of their actions outlined to them.

Genesis 3:16 appears more absurd the longer you study it. It is the single greatest translational blunder of all time. Through it the translators have fulfilled Psalm 35:12. They have rewarded evil for good, to the sorrow of women's souls.

It is supposed that Eve, for her more righteous conduct than Adam, is personally cursed by God with sorrow, pain in child birth and a desire for Adam. Adam, on the other hand, for his treason, gets to rule over Eve. All of this follows a marvellous promise by God to Eve that her seed would produce the Messiah. Is it really that way?

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Look at the Hebrew language of the Old Testament, in which Genesis was written. Ancient Hebrew was written only in consonants, it had no vowels. It had no Hebrew equivalent of, a, e, i, o, or u. For example, if you wanted to write the English word *exhaustive* in the same way that Ancient Hebrew was written, you would write it like this, *XSTV*, with no vowels.

In about 600-800AD Jewish scribes added a comprehensive system of interlinear vowel signs to indicate which vowels, they believed, should be understood to be between the original consonants. In our study the original consonants will appear as bold **CAPITALS** (scholars: the added vowel letters of c. 250BC do not affect this study). The later added interlinear vowel signs of 600-800AD will appear as, *italicised lower case letters*.

This system was designed to promote an easier understanding of the text without altering the original text at all. For example, if you did not know whether the imaginary transliterated sentence, "**MSS LVD HS HT**" was **MoSeS LoVeD HiS HuT**, or **MoSeS LoVeD HiS HaT**. These scribes could tell you in their scholarly opinion that Moses actually loved his hat by adding a little mark in the text above the word **HT** to indicate that an 'a' should be assumed to be the correct vowel to insert.

This study challenges only the translation, influenced by the added vowel signs of 600-800AD, of a few words in Genesis 3:16. I am not in any way questioning the original Hebrew text written by Moses (or the vowel system's general merit).

OK, here we go. The first part of Genesis 3:16 reads, *I will greatly multiply...* By altering the added discretionary vowel signs used here, *I will greatly multiply*, **HaRBeh AaRBeh**, can equally be understood to be **HiRBah AoReB**, and translated as *has caused to multiply a lying-in-wait* or *ambush*. This root Hebrew word **ARB** (Strong's 693) occurs twenty two times in Joshua and Judges where it is translated as *ambush* or *liar's in wait*. The original consonants of the Hebrew text are identical whichever phrase is chosen for translation.

God is saying to Eve that an ambush, has multiplied her sorrow. This is the devil with his hidden plan to catch her and

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deceive her into eating the fruit. The best word to express all of this in English is, a *snare*. The beginning of Genesis 3:16 should read, *A snare has increased your....*

What has the result of this snare and ambush increased? Eve's *sorrow and conception*? Please pause for thought. We are now supposed to believe that the fall and resulting consequences of it, not perpetrated by God, have made women more fertile. But one of God's blessings was to *go forth and multiply and fill the Earth*. Now we are supposed to believe that God curses Eve with fertility – and yet, all through the rest of the Bible, having a good number of children is a considered a blessing!

The Hebrew word translated here as *conception* is *HRJWN* (p.s. don't worry about the vowel signs any more), it is unique in the Old Testament and the Strong's Hebrew Concordance lists it as *HeRoN* (Strong's 2032). The usual Hebrew word for *conception* is indeed *HeRoN* evidenced by it's occurrence in Ruth 4:13 and Hosea 9:11. But *HeRoN* is NOT the word used here, so why is it translated as though it is!? This word, *HRJWN*, used exclusively in Genesis 3:16 is best translated as *sighing*. Eve's sorrow and sighing were increased because of the trap she had fallen into.

Next error... *in pain you shall bring forth children*. There is absolutely nothing in the Hebrew to suggest that this statement by God is an imperative command. Saying *you shall*, sounds like God is decreeing it. He is not. It should read, *you will*. Why will she? Because of what has happened, not because of God's attitude towards her.

Hang on because we are not through it yet... *your desire shall be for your husband*. In the NKJV Bible, *shall be*, is italicised, indicating it was added at the discretion of the translators. Why keep adding *you shall*!? Do women predominantly desire men? Is it not the other way round in all creation? Is desire wrong? Is it a curse! How can it be? The command to multiply, released in mankind the desire to multiply. The idea that desire is a curse contradicts Genesis 1:28.

"Be fruitful and multiply."

Genesis 1:28

The Consequences

The fact is that the command of Genesis 1:28 accounts for desire and therefore it is a good thing. The traditional translation of this part of Genesis 3:16 makes God contradict His own blessing and turn it into a curse.

The Hebrew word, wrongly translated as *desire* here, is *TeSHuWQaH* (Strong's 8669), it means to *stretch out after*. It comes from the word *SHuWQ* (Strong's 7783), *to run after* or *overflow*, like overflowing water. I explained in the preceding two paragraph's why this word has nothing to do with physical desire but it does carry with it a sense of movement. The prefix of the word helps clarify its meaning. The *Te* on the front of *TeSHuWQaH*, gives the word an abstract sense, like we would say, *helpfulness* or *goodness*. Hence the word becomes a sort of *stretchingout-ness* or *runningabout-ness*, implying vacillation. It describes a state of mind. That of going backwards and forwards between two choices, rather than of literally running up and down.

God is telling Eve that she is procrastinating about following after her husband and warns her that if she follows him, he will (not shall), rule over her. Evidently Adam was not ruling over Eve prior to her departure from Eden. *TeSHuWQaH* is translated as *turning* in all the oldest major versions of the Bible: the Septuagint; the Syriac Peshitto; the Samaritan; the Old Latin; the Coptic; Sahidic Coptic; the Bohairic Coptic and the Aetheopic.

Eve was caught between her affection for Adam and God. Remember, Adam was driven out of the garden, not Eve. But in Genesis 4:1 Eve is outside of the garden too. She turned after and followed her husband. It was her biggest mistake. The correct translation of Genesis 3:16 is therefore as follows:

A snare has multiplied your sorrow and your sighing. In pain you will bring forth children. You are turning to follow after your husband, if you do, he will rule over you.

Genesis 3:16

This translation fits all round. It fits the context of the story. It

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fits God's just nature. It accurately reflects the physical nature of men and women. The traditional translation is a complete misfit. It contradicts:

a.) The context; why does God personally curse Eve and yet only explain the consequences of their actions to Adam and the devil?

b.) It slanders God with gross partiality; He rewards Adam for his evil with authority over woman.

c.) It is unjust; God rewards Eve's mistake with a punishment befitting deliberate sin.

d.) It is physically not true; women do not predominantly desire men.

e.) It contradicts God's blessings elsewhere scripture; fertility and conception are blessings, not curses. Sexual desire is not a curse, it is the instigator of fulfilling the command to multiply.

Frankly, this should go in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's worst translation.

**They rewarded me evil for good to the sorrow
of my soul.**

Psalm 35:12

How true Saul's words to David ring down the ages from the one who lost the promise, to one who kept it.

**You are more righteous than I, for you have
repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you
evil.**

1 Samuel 24:17

Woman, don't follow your husband out of the garden!

If you want to know God, pray this prayer:

Dear God in Heaven

I am sorry that I have been so wrong about you. Now I see from the Bible that you never wanted me, or anyone else, to shed even a single tear.

I have made many poor choices. Please forgive me.

Thank you that you sent Jesus your Son to pay for all my sins and that you raised him from the dead to give me new life.

I have decided to follow you and I now say out loud –

Jesus is my Lord!

Thank you for giving me a new heart. I will always be real with You and myself. Thank you that you have only good things in store for me.

Amen

If you have prayed this prayer from your heart, you are now a Christian!

God said in the Bible: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Jesus also said: "Whoever comes to me, I will never cast away." Whatever challenges you may face, always remember that God never rejects you, and that He is not the cause of unfair things in your life. Rise above them.

Ask God to guide you everyday. Read the Bible and ask God to help you understand it. Check out: www.martynshenstone.com

Yours

Martyn Shenstone

The astounding thing about the teaching that says in Genesis 3:16 that God curses women with submission to male pre-eminence, conception and pain in childbirth, is that this means a wife must be under a "curse" by being married. This is the same as saying that God has ordained marriage as a curse for women. A husband fulfills this curse by marrying and being head over his wife, making her pregnant and consequentially causing her pain in childbirth, despite promising in the marriage ceremony that he will "love and cherish" her as Christ loved the church.

*Catherine Bushnell 1856 - 1946
(paraphrased by M Shenstone)*