

In The Beginning God . . .

*An In-Depth Study of the
First Three Chapters of Genesis*

All Truth Begins Here



The Tree of Life & The Tree of Knowledge

INTRO: We have been studying the truths about the nature of human beings in Genesis 1-3. We have seen so far that we were made in the image of God, that we have both a body and a spirit and are living souls, and that we are a natural “hybrid” between the spiritual and the material. As we continue to learn what we can from these early chapters in Genesis we will explore what happen when Adam and Eve sinned, how that affected their nature, and how God goes about the recovery process of restoring us to full spiritual health and resurrected life.

I. The First Covenant of Obedience—The Test of Love (Genesis 2:16-17)

- A. God gives Adam the opportunity for obedience and disobedience—it is a test of love.
 - 1. There is mystery here in the origin of human sin and evil
 - 2. Genuine love must be free and therefore must have the opportunity not to love
 - 3. God did not create sin and evil, but in the creation He allowed the potential—He planted the tree
 - 4. God did not predestine Adam to sin, but He knew He would and had already made Provision
 - 5. Adam was not required to sin to fulfill a predetermined plan, he was a *free moral agent*
- B. This test of obedience is in the form of a covenant and may be considered the first covenant God makes
 - 1. It establishes the terms of the relationship between Adam and Eve and God
 - 2. God’s commitment is daily fellowship and the potential of eternal, immortal life for human beings
 - 3. Adam’s commitment is to walk in loving obedience arising from trust, faith, and devotion

II. The Nature of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:9, 17, 3:6)

- A. It is the Tree of KNOWLEDGE
 - 1. It stands opposite the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden and represents two ways of life
 - a. The Tree of Life is the place of restful obedience based on faith (trust) in God’s goodness
 - b. The Tree of Knowledge is the place of human independence and self-directed choice
 - 2. The focus is upon KNOWLEDGE—*I want to know for myself, I do not want to trust what I cannot see and evaluate on my own terms. I will be the final judge of truth and what is best for me!*
- B. It is appealing on three levels:
 - 1. Good for food—physical, natural passion—body
 - 2. Delight to the eyes—aesthetic beauty, emotional gratification—soul
 - 3. Desirable to make one wise—intellectual and spiritual insight *FOR ONESELF*—spirit

III. The Essence of the Temptation—It is Always the Same

- A. Adam in the Garden of Eden in the original temptation
Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, boastful pride of life
- B. Christ in the wilderness
Lust of the flesh (stone to bread), lust of the eyes (all the kingdoms of the world), boastful pride of life (jump fro the Temple and become a hero messiah)
- C. John’s admonition to the Church at Ephesus (I John 2:15-17)
“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

