

Forbidden Fruit

Genesis 3

What's wrong?

We were given an old second-hand TV last year. It still looked in great condition and we were assured that it was working perfectly. We gratefully accepted and got some help carrying it home. We connected the aerial, plugged it in, and then switched it on. Our quiet Saturday morning was shattered with a loud CRACK as the little box in front of us literally blew up. It was all over in a flash. We sat stunned, peering into the "black hole". There was no "black box" to record the fault, so we were left to figure it out ourselves. Little chance of that. Over the months that followed, everyone who was anyone, who happened to visit was asked if they knew what was wrong. Several knowledgeable people made vain attempts to fix it. The TV made its final journey - from our home to the rubbish dump.

This world is a mess - it's full of heartache and hardship, conflict and crime. Why? What is wrong? And is there anyone who can fix it? The Bible gives us an explanation of the problem and the solution. It all started with a conversation in the Garden of Eden, and just one bite.

1. How do some people explain the problems in the world, and what do they put forward as the solution?



Forbidden Fruit

Read Genesis 3:1-13

2. What was the serpent's strategy?

3. What did the serpent promise would happen if Eve ate from the tree? And was the serpent right? (see verses 7, 22)

4. What was it, precisely, that Adam and Eve ate?

5. What do you think was the essence of their sin?

6. How do Adam and Eve react to being found out?

7. In Genesis 1-2, God established a certain order in His creation. He is in authority, with man and his helper, woman, ruling over the rest of creation. Compare this with what happens in Genesis 3? What do you notice?

8. Read Genesis 3:14-19. What are God's curses against the following? And what is the meaning and significance of each curse?

- the serpent?

- the woman?

- the man?

9. These verses are full of bad news. Can you find any good news, a hint of hope perhaps? If so, what do you think is the reason for it?

Adam, Eve, Jesus and us?

Read Romans 5:12-21.

10. Paul compares Adam's sin with Christ's gift of salvation. How does Adam's sin affect us? How responsible are we for sin?

11. Our sin problem is solved by Jesus. How are the many made righteous through the obedience of the one man? (verse 19)

Application

12. There is a well known kids song in South Africa which goes; "He made the stars to shine. He made the rolling seas. He made the mountains high. And He made you and the Lord made me. And this is why I love Him. For me He bled and died. The Lord of all creation became a crucified." How should we respond to King Jesus, our Lord and our Saviour?