

Did God really say?



Read Genesis 3:1-15

Some try to dismiss this story by challenging the historical authenticity of the events. Which maybe one way of discrediting the meaning of this story. However you wish to argue it, you are left with a question. Is it true because it happened or because it happens? What do you think?

- 1) Is there anything in the story that is new to you?
- 2) Why do you think the serpent spoke to Eve and not Adam?
- 3) Where was Adam when all this took place? (v.6)
- 4) What fears or desires did the serpent play on when it spoke to Eve?
- 5) How did Adam and Eve feel after they had eaten the fruit?

It is easy to see how Eve should have responded or how Adam should have behaved. But we are not meant to change the story to what should have happened. What are the dangers of doing that?

Adam and Eve do exactly what you and I do when we feel guilty, we shift the blame.

- What are the best excuses you have heard or come up with?

In v 12 & 13 look how quickly they shift the blame.

- Who do they blame directly?
- Who do they blame indirectly?
- What are the ways we shift the blame away from us?

The point of this story is not that we are related to Adam and Eve, but that we relate to them. We can identify with the emotions and the responses. We experience the same sense of guilty and the same desire to blame others. We are to understand that there are consequences for our actions and that a price has to be paid. We also need to realise that the effects of what the Bible calls “sin” has corrupted the whole of creation.

We live in a “blame culture” where as long as we can find someone else to take the blame we are ok. Adam and Eve were not quite brave enough, but implied that actually it might be God’s fault. After all God made Eve and Eve accuses another part of God’s creation. So if it was God’s fault, surely God should fix it!

- What do you think?
- Who does God hold responsible?
- Why then do you think God did fix the problem?
- How did he do it?

In Deeper

There were two named trees planted in the garden in Genesis 2, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Once sin had entered the story Adam and Eve had to be kept away from the tree of life.

Read Revelation 2:7 and 22:1-5

The Tree of Life returns at the end of time. Who is it for?

One way of understanding the whole of the Bible story is to think of it like this. We live between the two trees. We live with the consequences of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and as Christians we move forward to the Tree of Life. It gives us a metaphor, a picture that we can easily understand today, that we are on a journey. The only way to deal with the guilt we feel and the effects of sin is to accept the rescue plan that God put in place.

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