

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Its name means 'origin' or 'beginning'. A basic understanding of Genesis goes a long way towards making sense out of the rest of the Bible. Genesis chapters 1-3 are critical in understanding the history between God and mankind.

"In the beginning..."

Genesis chapter one records how God created the universe.

Take a look at Genesis 1.26-28.

- What pattern was mankind modeled after? (verses 26-27)
- What was God's attitude towards man in the beginning? (verse 28)

Read Genesis 2.8-9 and 2.15-17.

- Describe the Garden of Eden in your own words. What and who were in the garden?
- What warning was man given? (verses 16-17)
- Where in the garden was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil planted? Is there anything that surprises you about this? (verse 9)
- Why wouldn't God want man to eat from a tree called the Knowledge of Good and Evil?

Read Genesis 3.1-6.

- Who is the serpent? (see Revelation 12.9)
- How did he get into the garden?
- What did he claim about God? (verses 3-5)
- What did he claim would happen if Adam and Eve ate the fruit? (verses 4-5)
- Why did Eve eat the fruit? Why did Adam eat? (1 Timothy 2.13-14)

Read Genesis 3.7-19.

- What were the immediate consequences of eating the fruit? (verses 7-8)
- What were the long-term consequences? (verses 16-19)
- Did God curse Adam and Eve? Why or why not?

Take a look at Genesis 3.22-24.

- What do you think God meant when he said man had become like him?
- Why did he drive him out of the garden? (verse 22)

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

From Ancient History to Today's Reality

- In the beginning, who determined what was good and what was evil? (Genesis 2.16-17)
- By eating the fruit, what stance did man take on who determined good and evil? Who was now steering the ship?
- If your chain of command directs you to take certain actions and you decide to do differently, what is that called?
- At the end of Genesis 3, who has access to life? Who doesn't?

Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Adam and Eve chose to part with God's leadership and go their own way. By eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they decided that they would call the shots on what was good and evil instead of following God's instructions. They made themselves God. This disastrous decision is often referred to as "The Fall". Since then, mankind has lived on this earth as a fallen race, separated from God and from the life that he alone possesses. Each of us is born godless.

Quite a lot happened in the first three chapters of the Bible, eh? But even more has happened since the beginning. God still exists and has not given up his prized creation so easily. In the next study we will examine how God has set out to recover the lost race of humanity.