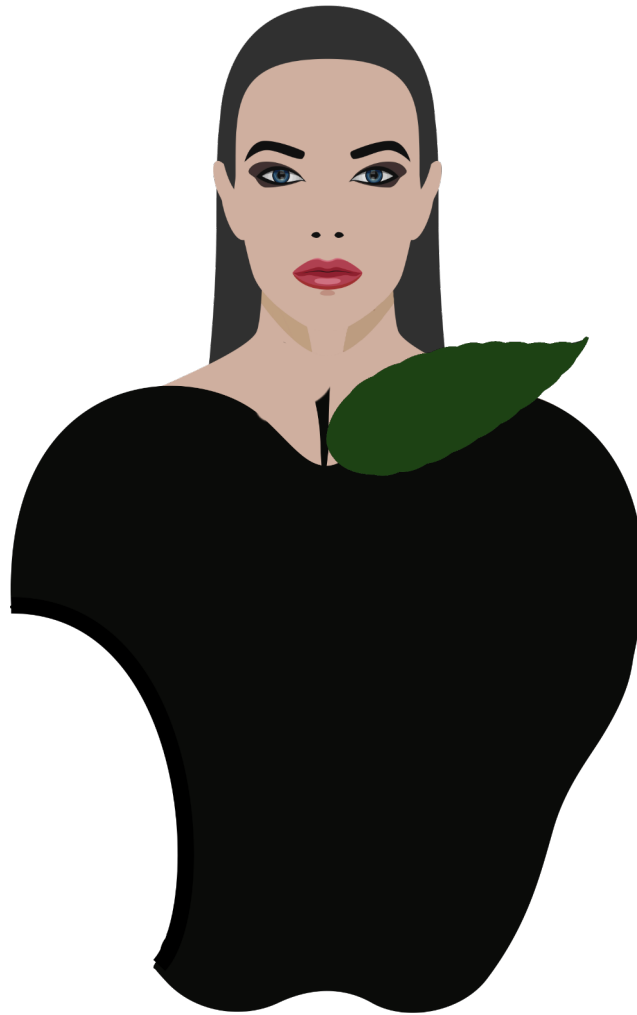

MOTHER EVE'S TRAGIC LESSONS ON SIN AND GOD'S PROMISE OF VICTORY



THE MAN CALLED HIS WIFE'S NAME EVE, BECAUSE SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF ALL LIVING.
(GENESIS 3:20 ESV)

MOTHER EVE'S TRAGIC LESSONS ON SIN

TRAGIC LESSON #1: Choosing our own way ruins everything.

Our mother, Eve, decided that she would choose for herself—apart from God—what was good for her, and Adam endorsed her rebellion by also eating what was forbidden. Before this moment they were co-regents blessed by God to rule over his entire “very good” creation. Now they have fallen in position and place and were forcibly removed from their home.

- (Genesis 3:20 ESV) **The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.**
- (Genesis 3:5 ESV) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- (Genesis 3:6 ESV) So **when the woman saw that the tree was good** for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
- (Genesis 3:22–24 ESV) Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 **He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.**

When our mother, Eve, chose to live apart from the word of God, her life shifted dramatically from peace with God to separation from God and a lifetime of contention with the devil. And in the process she lost her position of co-regency, peace in her relationship with Adam and would now experience pain in childbirth.

- (Genesis 3:15–16 ESV) I will put **enmity** between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” 16 To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your **pain in childbearing**; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be **contrary** to your husband, but **he shall rule over you.**”

TRAGIC LESSON #2: Choosing our own way is now the normal “right” way to live—for all humanity.

We possibly learn the most important thing about sin from the first sin in Genesis three where our mother Eve was deceived by the serpent and decided to choose for herself—apart from what God had said—what was right and wrong, good and evil, and by living by what seemed good to her.

The normal way of living which Eve introduced to our world was the “no God in our heart” way. God may be on our lips but he is certainly not our Creator and Lord. **We need to understand that Eve did not reject God per se ... she just rejected a Sovereign Lord who told her how to live her life.**

- (Psalm 14:1–3 ESV) **The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”** They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; **there is none who does good.** 2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 **They have all turned aside**; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.
- See also Psalm 53:1–3.
- (Proverbs 12:15 NIV) **The way of fools seems right to them**, but the wise listen to advice.
- (Proverbs 21:2 ESV) **Every way of a man is right in his own eyes**, but the LORD weighs the heart.
- (Isaiah 53:6a ESV) **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way.**

TRAGIC LESSON #3: Choosing our own way introduced death and separation into all of our relationships.

When our mother, Eve, chose—with Adam’s consent by participation—to live apart from the word of God, she set the course for war and contention in all our relationships both with God and with all humanity.

Sin separates us, first from God, then all humanity, and the price we pay for sin—choosing our own way—is death.

- (Genesis 3:15 NIV) And I will put **enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers**; he will crush your head, and

you will strike his heel.

- (Romans 5:12 ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, **and so death spread to all men because all sinned.**
- (Isaiah 59:1–2 ESV) Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 **but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,** and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
- (Romans 6:23 ESV) **For the wages of sin is death,** but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

TRAGIC LESSON #4: Eve’s choice (and Adam’s) means everyone now misses out on—and falls short of—the life that God created us for.

Only two people—our mother, Eve, and her husband, Adam—have ever tasted the life God had originally planned for his human creation. And even then it was only a very brief time before they decided that they knew better than God how to live. So they ditched God’s plans. In

doing this, they ensured that all humans would always fall short of living as God intended.

- (Romans 3:23 ESV) **For all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.

Sinned is ἀμαρτάνω [hamartano] ... and it means to miss out; to fail to reach, attain, or experience for oneself; to be without a share in; to miss the mark; to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor, to do or go wrong; to wander from the law of God, violate God’s law, sin.

Fall short is ὑστερέω [hustereo] ... and it means to come late or too tardily; to be left behind in the race and so fail to reach the goal, to fall short of the end; to fail to become a partaker, fall back from.

Every person on earth following Adam and Eve miss the blessing of life as God intended and all are sinners through Adam.

- (1 John 1:8, 10 ESV) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 10 **If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**
- (Ecclesiastes 7:20 ESV) **Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.**

GOD’S PROMISE OF VICTORY: FORGIVENESS OF SINS

When Adam and Eve chose life apart from God, they died. They died to life as God had intended for them and immediately realized their desperate need for restoration and forgiveness.

- (Genesis 3:9–10 ESV) But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and **I was afraid,** because **I was naked,** and **I hid myself.**”

In their great moment of need, God in his mercy and grace, clothed them to cover their guilt and nakedness.

- (Genesis 3:21 ESV) And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins **and clothed them.**

VICTORY PROMISE #1: Christ died for our sins giving us victory over sin and death.

- (Genesis 3:15b NIV) ... **he [Christ] will crush your head,** and you will strike his heel.

- (Colossians 2:15 NIV) And having disarmed the powers and authorities, **he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**
- (1 Corinthians 15:3 ESV) For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures.
- (1 Corinthians 15:56–57 ESV) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

VICTORY PROMISE #2: Christ died for our sins providing redemption and forgiveness of sins.

Forgiveness ... ἄφεσις [aphesis] ... to release from bondage or imprisonment; forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed); a formal release from an obligation or debt; especially understood of the debt of sin.

- (Ephesians 1:7 ESV) In him we have **redemption through his blood**, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.
- (Colossians 1:13–14 ESV) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the **forgiveness** of sins.
- (Matthew 26:28 ESV) For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness** of sins.
- (Acts 10:43 ESV) To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives **forgiveness** of sins through his name.
- (Acts 13:38 ESV) Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man **forgiveness** of sins is proclaimed to you.

FORGIVENESS ... ἀφίημι [aphiemi] ... to send away; to bid going away or depart; to let go, give up a debt, forgive, to remit; to give up, keep no longer.

- (Luke 7:47 ESV) Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are **forgiven**—for she loved much. But he who is **forgiven** little, loves little.
- (Romans 4:7–8 ESV) Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are **forgiven**, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

FORGIVENESS ... χαρίζομαι [charizomai] ... to do something pleasant or agreeable; to show one's self gracious, kind; to grant forgiveness, to pardon; to give freely, graciously. **χάρις [charis]** ... grace; favor with joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness; merciful kindness.

- (Colossians 2:13–14 ESV) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having **forgiven** us all our trespasses, 14 **by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands**. This he **set aside, nailing it to the cross**.

MOTHER EVE LESSON: NO CHOOSING OUR WAY. WE ARE COMMANDED TO FORGIVE AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN US.

- (Ephesians 4:32 ESV) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, as God in Christ **forgave** you.
- (Colossians 3:12–13 ESV) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving** each other; as the Lord has **forgiven** you, so you also must **forgive**.

HOW DID/DOES GOD FORGIVE US?

- (Psalm 32:1–2 NIV) Blessed is the one whose **transgressions are forgiven**, whose **sins are covered**. 2 Blessed is the one **whose sin the Lord does not count against them** and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- (Psalm 103:10–12 ESV) **He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities**. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 **as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us**.
- (Isaiah 38:17 ESV) Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for **you have cast all my sins behind your back**.
- (Isaiah 43:25 ESV) I, I am he who **blots out your transgressions** for my own sake, and **I will not remember your sins**.
- (Isaiah 44:22 NIV) I have **swept away your offenses like a cloud**, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.
- (Hebrews 8:12 ESV) For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and **I will remember their sins no more**.