

# **Truly Amazing**

*The Real Story of Adam and Eve*

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# 1

## **An Amazing Story!**

I have an amazing story to tell you! It has a good guy and a bad guy in it. It also has some people that need to be saved from the bad guy. The bad guy is really bad. The good guy is the hero of the story. He is very good. This story even has a talking snake in it! I don't think you can trust a talking snake? What do you think?

The coolest thing about this story is that I did not make it up. The story I am about to tell you is true! This is a story that really happened. How do we know? Because this story is in the Bible. That is God's book, and everything in it is true. God had the Bible written so we could know lots of things about God and the world we live in.

When we read the Bible and believe what it says, we are letting God's light into our heart and mind. Jesus called the Bible "the word of God" and he quoted from it all the time to prove what He was saying was true.



*The Word of God Brings Light*

## **What is God Like?**

Before I begin the story, let's look at some of the people in it. The good guy in our story is God. Long ago, before time began, there was God. He has always been there and always will be.

There are some things too marvelous for us to understand completely. God always being there is one of those things. But that's okay. We don't have to understand it. We can just believe it because God told us it is true. We are his children, so we can trust everything He tells us.

## God is Big!

What is God like? First of all, God is big! Have you ever looked up into the night sky and seen all the stars and felt amazed at how big it all is? Well, God is bigger than that, for he made all the stars. In fact, God is so big that he is what we could call awesome!



Once I went to the Grand Canyon. I looked down and saw how big and deep it was, and I thought, “Wow! That is awesome!” What is the most awesome thing you have ever seen? Whatever you can imagine, God is more awesome than that! Since God is so big, we can feel safe because He is big enough to watch over us and care for us.

## God is Beautiful!

What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen? Think about that for a moment and picture something beautiful. Have you ever seen a beautiful waterfall, a lovely hummingbird, or a mountain meadow covered with wildflowers?



How about a beautiful person? When I was a little boy, I was just sure that my mom was the prettiest woman in the whole world! Do you know someone beautiful? Just think, God made that person. It was God's idea to make him or her beautiful. Every beautiful thing you could ever see is like a reflection of the beauty of God. God is more beautiful than anything! Did you know that God thinks you are beautiful?

## God is Exciting!

God is not boring. Not at all. God is exciting. Did you know that God made excitement? He made us so that we could enjoy exciting things. Do you like waterslides, roller-coasters, boat rides and playing in the water? I do! Doing fun and happy things was God's idea.



When we get to know and understand God better, we realize that He wants us to have a good time. But he also wants us to be safe. That's why he gave us parents to help us know what is safe and what is not. God wants us to have fun without getting hurt. That is why God



has certain rules about what we can do and what we can't.

## **God is Good!**

God is full of love. In fact, love is what God is all about. Being loving and kind is God's favorite thing to do. That is why God made people and animals. When loving is your favorite thing, then you need somebody to love. So God made all sorts of creatures, both in heaven and on Earth. He did that so he could love them and be good to them. God wants to be with those he made. He wants to help them and talk to them. Yes, God even talks to animals! God is always reaching out to us from heaven.



## God is Mysterious

God is real. He is not something someone made up. If we were going to make up what God was like, we could imagine he was very simple. We could know everything there was to know about a make-believe god, because we could imagine him however we wanted. But because God is real and not imaginary, some things about Him are hard to understand.



That is why I say that God is mysterious. But that's okay. A real mystery is always better than a made-up story! I am going to tell you one of the mysterious things about God. Some people might think you are not old enough to understand this, but I bet you are! I

think you can understand everything about God that He wants you to know.

When I was a little boy I asked my Sunday School teacher a question about God and she said I was too young to understand. I didn't like that. I wanted to know the answer to my question. I bet you would not like it if I told you something like that. But don't worry, I won't. I am going to explain to you what I asked my teacher about. Are you ready to hear something mysterious about God?

Here we go: First of all, there is only one God. You probably already knew that. There are not many gods. There are not even two gods. There is only one God, and he made everything. But now, here is the mystery: God is three people in one! I know what you are thinking. You are like, "What?" Yes, that's what I said. There is only one God, but He is made up of three people.

How could that be? It is not really so hard to believe if you think about it for a minute. Think about an egg. It has three parts. It has a shell, a yoke, and a white. Three parts, but only one egg. God is sort of like that. Three persons, but one God. Bible teachers call this three-in-

one God “the Trinity” because “trinity” means three. That is probably a new word for you.

Now comparing God to an egg is not a perfect way to explain this. It only helps a little because God is way more awesome and mysterious than an egg. We can't understand it completely because God is so amazing. But we can believe it. God told us that is how it is, so we can trust that it is true.

The three persons that are God have names. First, there is the Father. He is the first person of the Trinity. Then there is the Son, and his name is Jesus. He is the second person of the Trinity. Finally, there is the Holy Spirit. Bible teachers call him the third person of the Trinity. You don't have to remember who is first, second, or third because they are all equal. They are all one God, and they have always existed.



It's like this: God is so full of love that within Himself there are three people that love each other and are always in agreement. And because God is three persons in one, He can love us and care for us in more ways than we can even imagine.

## **The Bad Guy**

In this story there is a bad guy. He is called the devil, and his name is Satan. Maybe you have heard of him. I will tell you the truth about him just like the Bible tells it.

Long ago, God made angels in heaven. Satan was one of those angels but he was a very special angel. The Bible says that Satan was very powerful and beautiful. God had a plan for Satan. God knew he was going to make the world, and he wanted Satan to watch

over the Earth and help God take care of the people He would make.

But something terrible happened. Satan had free will, just like we do. Let me explain what free will is. Having free will means that we can decide if we want to do right or do wrong. You know what I am talking about because we all know what it is like when we choose to do something that we know is bad. Have you ever told a lie? Perhaps you told your parents you did a chore, but you didn't really do it. You knew it was wrong because you felt bad about it later. Or maybe you thought about not doing something you were told by your parents to do, but you didn't do it. But then you decided to do it because you wanted to do what was right. It felt good to do right, didn't it?

So you see, we always have a choice to do right or wrong. That is what free will is. We can choose to be good or bad. Well, Satan had that choice also. He decided to be bad.

Satan was so beautiful that he became filled with pride. He thought he was better than anyone else. In fact, he was so prideful that he imagined that he was greater than God. He wanted to take God's place.

Satan got a bunch of other angels to disobey God also. They tried to attack God in heaven. Of course, they didn't win, and God threw them out of heaven. No one is more powerful than God. After that happened, Satan became even more evil and wanted to fight against everything that God does.



## God Makes the World

God decided to make people that were more like Himself than any other creature he had ever made. He was going to create people. But first, he had to make the Earth and prepare it for the people he was going to make.

So God made the Earth. At first it was all covered with water, but then he made the dry land appear, and He made the water go into lakes, rivers, and oceans. Then God made all the trees and plants to grow. Trees normally grow slowly, but when God first made the Earth, he made them grow up instantly so the Earth would be ready for what He would do next.



Then God made all the stars in the sky. He placed Earth in a special place in our galaxy, which we call the Milky Way. God put the



Earth in the safest place in our galaxy. Some areas of our galaxy are not suitable for life. God also made some huge planets like Jupiter and Saturn to be on the outer edge of our solar system so they would shield the Earth from the many asteroids flying through space. Because those planets are so big, they have very strong gravity, and they can pull the asteroids away from Earth.

God also made the Earth just the right size so that there would be the right amount of gravity. If the Earth were much bigger, gravity would be so strong that we would weigh a thousand pounds! We would not be able to move. And if the Earth were too small, gravity would be too weak, and we would not be able to walk normally. God thought of everything and he made everything just right!

God created the moon so that we would have light at night. We don't depend on the moon's light as much now because we have electric lights, but for most of history, people have not had electricity. So it was very important to have the moon and stars, for without them you would not be able to see your hand in front of your face at nighttime!

The moon also helps us with other things. We set our calendar by the moon. The moon goes around the Earth once about every 27 days. That is why our months are about the same length. Here is something else amazing: The moon is exactly 400 times smaller than the sun, but it is also 400 times closer to us than the sun. That makes the moon look to be the same exact size as the sun. God worked everything out perfectly so we would have a nightlight exactly like the sun, only not so bright.

If the moon were closer to the Earth, its gravity would make all kinds of problems for us on Earth. If it were farther from the Earth, we would not have ocean tides. We need tides because they help circulate the water in the ocean and keep it clean. God put the moon at a perfect distance from the Earth.

If we didn't have the moon at all, we would be in big trouble! The Earth wobbles as it spins, and this gives us our seasons. Have you ever seen a top wobble as it spins? That is what the Earth does. Because God put the moon in just the right place, the moon's gravity helps stabilize the Earth's wobble. If the moon weren't exactly where it is, the Earth would

wobble so much that winter would be way too cold, and in the summer, we would burn up!

God made an atmosphere of air on the Earth so people could breathe. He also put the Earth at the exact proper distance from the sun, so it would not be too hot or cold. God created everything just right for us to live here. Astronomers who study the stars have noticed that no other planet has everything just perfect like the Earth does.

That is because God created the Earth just for us so we would have a nice place to live. If you ever hear someone say the Earth just came about by accident, you will know that they don't know about all the scientific reasons that show the Earth is unique. The unique qualities of Earth show that it was specially created by God just for us.

Next, God made all the fish that live in the lakes, rivers and oceans. After that, he made all the animals. And then finally, the Earth was ready for his master plan. It was ready for people.

## Created in God's Image

First, God made one person, a man that he called Adam. God made his body, and then God created Adam's spirit to live inside his body. Once God made Adam's spirit, then Adam opened his eyes, and he was alive.

Adam was very different from any creature God had made before. God had said, "Let us make man in our own image." Wait! Why did God say "us?" Who was He talking to? Remember, God is three persons in one, so that is why he said, "Let *us* make man in *our* own image."

What does it mean to be made in God's image? First of all, people have abilities that are greater than what animals can do. We can think about the past and the future. We can consider our past actions and decide if they were good or bad. We can create a picture in our mind and make plans for making something that is just like the thing we thought about. Just like God, we are very creative. We can write poems and stories, or even stories about stories. This ability is called being capable of abstract thought.

People have both spoken and written languages. We are capable of deep love and

self-sacrifice for others. We have a conscience. This means we know whether what we are doing is right or wrong, and we can choose our actions based upon whether we think they are good or bad.

None of the animals have these kinds of abilities as much as people do. Do you think a dog or a cat ever thought about what it wanted to do ten years from now? Does a monkey think about whether it should make plans to help the poor? No, I don't think so either! So you see, people are different from animals in many ways. That is because we are created in God's image, which simply means we are very much like Him on the inside.

Maybe you have heard people say that people are animals or that animals turned into people. Don't believe it! Some people only think that because they don't know what the Bible says.

Yes, we are similar to animals in some ways because we have the same Creator. God made man and animals to live in the same Earth environment and he wanted us to relate to each other on some level. Because of that, we have some things in common with the animals. But we still are quite different from animals because

we are created in the image of God and animals are not. That is why God put man in charge of the animals because He knew that we could plan ahead to love and care for other creatures better than anything else that God had created.

An example of how people are helping animals is how logging is being done in our forests. Logging companies cut down trees so that we have wood to make houses, furniture, paper, and all sorts of nice things. Did you know that Jesus was a carpenter? Carpenters specialize in making things out of wood. One of the reasons God made forests was so that we could use trees to make the things we need.

But animals live in the forest, so we have to think about them too, because God gave us the authority to be over the animals. The forest service requires that logging companies leave many trees still standing, and they also insist that they thin out the underbrush when they cut down the trees. Not only does this make the forest look nicer, but doing that has another important advantage.

If a forest fire gets to where the trees were cut, there are not many bushes and old dead trees for the fire to burn. So what happens is

that the fire slows down so much that the firefighters have time to rush in on the logging roads made by the logging company, and they can quickly put the fire out because there was not much old dead wood there to burn.

And that is very good news for all the animals that live in the forest. You see, man can plan it all out ahead of time so that people have wood to make things, and the forest and animals are protected too.

Now, do you think there is any animal that could have planned all that out? Just imagine: A bear says to other bears, “We need to plan this out so that the deer won’t get burned up in a fire.” That’s silly, isn’t it? Bears can’t talk, and even if they could, they wouldn’t care about the deer, and they certainly could not think about such complicated future plans. So you see, man and animals are two very different creatures. Do you see now how silly it would be to say that man is an animal? We are special and different from animals because we are created in God’s image.

## **Boys and Girls**

Let me tell you something else the Bible tells us. I will quote it to you exactly the way

the Bible says it: *“On the day when God created man...he created them male and female.”* That verse is right at the beginning of the Bible, in a book called Genesis. So it must be very important. So boys and girls, it has been that way ever since God made the first people. He made them to be boys and girls that grow up to be men and women.



Perhaps you have heard someone say that there are more than two genders, that there are boys and girls, but also something in between. I want you to know that idea is very silly. People who say that just don't know what the Bible says.

You also might have heard someone say that a person can decide if they want to be a boy or a girl. Well, people can make-believe lots of crazy things. You could pretend you are



a dinosaur, but that wouldn't really make you one, would it?

While we are on this subject, let me quote another very important Bible verse. This verse is also in Genesis, and it is so important that Jesus quoted it. Here it is: *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”*

This tells us that God's plan is for a man and a woman to get married. Then they can have children. And their children will be boys and girls also. When a boy grows up, he can marry a woman, and when a girl grows up, she can marry a man. That is God's plan.

God told the first people: *“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”* Having children is a good thing. It is God's plan. Some people think that having lots of babies is wrong. They don't know what they are talking about. If married people want to have children, that is a good thing, and it pleases God because He loves children very much.

Today, some people say it is alright for men to marry men or women to marry women, but that is not true. God says that doing something like that is disgusting to Him. The Bible says such a thing is a terrible sin that will lead to awful consequences.

Two men or two women can't have a baby. Only a man and a woman can have children. That shows us from nature that God intended men and women to marry. Only a married man and woman can follow God's command to be "fruitful and increase in number."

There are many people today who are confused about all this, including many teachers. They simply don't know what the Bible says. God loves everyone, even people that don't know the truth. He wants them to learn what the Bible says so they won't do wrong things. It makes God sad when people sin because He knows that bad things will happen to them if they keep living that way.

When we come across people that don't understand these things, we must be careful not to act like a know-it-all. God wants us to love everyone, and we can't help them see the truth if we are mean to them.

We should always be kind to everyone, yet at the same time, we must be very strong in what we believe. We must not let the false ideas of others change our minds. If we believe what the Bible tells us, we can be sure that we are right, even if many other people say we are wrong.

## **Once Upon a Time**

And now, we are finally ready to begin the amazing story that I have been waiting to tell you. So here we go: Once upon a time, a long time ago...wait a minute! That is how fairy tales start, and this isn't a fairy tale. This is a true story.



So let's start another way. How about this? About six thousand years ago... Yeah, I know, that is still a long time ago. I just wanted to make sure you remembered this all really

happened, and it happened, just like I said, about six thousand years ago. How do we know? Well, I'm going to tell you.

But wait – I bet you can guess how we know. That's right! We know it because the Bible says so! You see, the Bible tells who Jesus' parents were and who His grandparents were and who their parents were, and it goes on and on like that, giving all the names going all the way back to Adam. The Bible even tells how long those people lived.

So from that, we can figure out that Adam lived about four thousand years before Jesus, and Jesus lived about two thousand years ago. So if you add four thousand to two thousand, you get six thousand. So that is how we know that Adam lived about six thousand years ago. Now I promise – no more math!

Maybe you have heard people talk about what happened on the Earth millions of years ago. They only say that because they don't understand what the Bible really says. And some people say it because they don't want to know God, and they want to disagree with the Bible.

The thing to remember is that the Earth has only been here for about six thousand years,

and Jesus was real, and so was Adam because the Bible says that Adam was an ancestor of Jesus. Think about it: Adam was just as real as Jesus was. Jesus and His disciples taught us that Adam really was the first man on Earth.

## **It's About Time**

God made time also. I bet you didn't even think about that! You see, where God lives in heaven, there is no passage of time, like there is here on Earth. God is outside of time in what we call eternity. We can't imagine that because we live inside of time. So don't worry if it doesn't make sense. I don't even completely understand it myself! We can just believe it because the Bible says it is true. When God made the universe, he also made time.

Did you know that scientists have discovered that space, time, and gravity are all related and connected somehow? We have found out that clocks on satellites in outer space move more slowly than clocks on Earth. Why is that? It is because they are farther from Earth's gravity, so they experience time more slowly. So you see, there is a mysterious relationship between gravity and time.

Speed and time are also strangely connected. How fast something is traveling can change time. For example, if you were on a spaceship that went almost as fast as the speed of light, time would slow way down for you. Isn't that remarkable? I don't understand it, but it certainly is interesting!



*Space–Time–Gravity Interconnection*

Have you ever heard someone say that a particular star is a million light-years away? That means that a star is so far away that it takes the star's light one million years to get to Earth. Now, since you are so smart, I bet you have a question. If everything was made six thousand years ago, how can a star be a million light-years away? How can we see it? It would

take a million years for its light to get to Earth, wouldn't it? So if the Earth is only six thousand years old, why can we see light that comes from a million light-years away?

Great question! I will tell you the answer because I promised you that I wouldn't tell you that you are too young to understand. You see, the speed of time is not always the same. Time moves at different speeds in different places in space, depending on gravity. The speed of time also depends on how fast an object is moving.

Now the Bible says that God "stretched out the heavens" when he made the universe. That changes everything! Remember that time is affected by the speed of an object. When God stretched out the heavens at the speed of light, many things were being affected.

Space, gravity, and even the speed of light were all changing at the moment of creation of the universe. These changes would affect the speed of time. When God stretched out the heavens, the light beams from stars were stretched out also. Even time itself was likely stretched. This is all very complicated stuff, and it makes my head spin! I bet it does yours too!

What may have been a very long time far out in space could have just been a day here on Earth. While God was in the process of making everything in six literal days on Earth, all the things that affect space and time were quickly changing. So the distance of the stars does not tell us anything about how old the Earth really is.

What all this means is that there is a lot that man does not know about. But we know this for sure: We are not smarter than God. He tells us that he made the heavens and the Earth in six days and that this happened about six thousand years ago. Since God said it, we can believe it.

## **Adam and Eve**

God made a beautiful garden for Adam. It was called the Garden of Eden, and it was the most perfect place on Earth. It had a river flowing through it with flowers and trees along the banks of the river. The garden was huge! It had meadows full of green grass and lovely flowers of many different colors. There were all kinds of fruit and berries to eat. The garden had everything in it that Adam needed to live comfortably.



God caused all the animals to come to Adam one by one, and Adam gave them names. Some of the animals were cute and cuddly. Adam liked petting them and playing with them. All the animals were very tame, even the giant dinosaurs!



Some people think that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago before man was on the Earth. That is not true. God made all animals, including dinosaurs, on the sixth day of creation. That was the same day that He made man.

God had a special treat in store for Adam, and God had saved the very best until last. Although the animals were nice company for Adam, God knew that no animal could be a perfect companion for him. Adam needed someone that he could talk with. Someone

who could understand him. God had put Adam over the animals to be in charge of them, but what Adam needed was someone who would be his equal.

God put Adam in a deep sleep and took out one of his ribs. God then took the rib and made it into a woman. God healed up Adam's side, and when he woke up, he didn't even feel a thing. Then God brought the woman to Adam. Do you know what Adam said? I bet he said, "Wow!" Adam told God that now he had the perfect mate to keep him company.

Adam called his wife Eve, which was a word that meant "mother of all living." All the people alive on Earth today are descended from these first two people that God made. Adam and Eve were married, and soon they would have children. But some things would happen before that, and some of those things were good, and some were not so good.

Adam loved Eve. He thought she was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen. He felt like she was everything he ever wanted for a friend and a companion. Eve felt the same way about Adam. Eve loved it when Adam put his strong arms around her, making her feel cared

for and appreciated. They were so close it felt like they were a part of each other.

Adam and Eve loved running through the garden laughing and playing. Eve liked the way the soft soil felt under her bare feet. Adam found a large tree beside the river. He climbed up and out onto a limb that stretched out over the water. Then he jumped into the water! Jumping into the river for a swim became one of their favorite things to do. They looked forward to that every day.

The Garden of Eden was huge! It went on for miles, with groves of trees and all kinds of lovely plants. It had meadows of all sizes. There were little hidden forest glades with soft velvety grass to lie on. Eve liked these the best because they had patches of colorful flowers scattered about. Adam and Eve enjoyed exploring the garden and discovering new things.

God had put them in charge of the garden, and they enjoyed taking care of it. It was not any work at all. It was fun! Adam and Eve would walk through the garden holding hands, talking about their plans for the garden and what they could do to make it even better. They loved each other very much. They never

argued or were cross with each other. That didn't even enter their minds.

They discovered that each of them had different skills. Eve was good at knowing where all the best fruit and berries were in the garden. She made baskets from reeds to carry them in. Adam was impressed with how she knew how to make things easier for them.

Adam made some walking trails through the garden, and he built some chairs and benches to sit on down by the river. Eve was amazed at Adam's ability to figure out how to make things. They both realized that God had given them different skills and roles in their marriage. They each enjoyed being who God created them to be. Eve was proud of Adam's abilities, and Adam was proud of Eve's unique talents. Together they made a perfect team.

In the evening, when they were done working on the garden, Adam would come home with some pretty flowers he had picked. He would give them to Eve, and she would say, "Oh! They are so pretty!" and Adam always answered, "Yes, but you are still the prettiest flower in the garden!" Then Eve would laugh and give Adam a big hug.

There is one more thing that was very different back then, and when I tell you about it, you are going to think it is pretty strange. Adam and Eve did not need any clothing! I know, that sounds odd, doesn't it? Let me explain why they didn't need any.

First of all, there was no one around but Adam and Eve. They were the only two people in the whole world. There was no one to see them, and since Adam and Eve were married, it was okay for them to see each other without clothes.



Also, Adam and Eve had never done anything wrong. They had never disobeyed God. When people do wrong things, it changes them on the inside in a bad way. Since they had never sinned, they had very pure spirits.

They didn't think evil thoughts at all, the way we sometimes do today. So being without clothes was not something they even thought about because they never had thoughts that were not right. Not ever. They were innocent and good.

By the way, the weather was very different then. It was never too hot or too cold. There were never storms, just a gentle breeze that brought the delightful smells from the garden's flowers and trees. So they didn't need clothing to keep them warm.

## **Walking with God**

Remember that I said Adam's favorite thing was to jump in the river? Well, actually, there was something that they both liked even better than that. In the evening, God would come down and walk with them in the garden. He would talk with them about how their day went, and He always had something very wise to teach them. As much as Adam and Eve loved each other, they loved God even more. They felt so happy and joyful whenever they were with God. They knew He was their father, and it made them feel very special to realize how much God loved them.

You might wonder how God could walk in the garden, since God is so big. Yes, God is very big, but it is also true that God can do anything. He could make himself appear to Adam and Eve in a way they could understand and be comfortable with. God did that because He loved them so much. The evening walks with the two people He had made were very special to God.



## **The New World**

I need to tell you about the world Adam and Eve lived in because it was very different from the world we live in today. First of all, there were no thorns and thistles in the garden. There was nothing to stick them or make them

feel itchy. There were no ugly weeds. There were not even any mosquitoes!

As I mentioned earlier, the weather was very different then also, for it did not rain. Instead, God caused springs of water to bubble up from the Earth and water the ground, so rain was not necessary yet. Adam and Eve did not have to work very hard, because all the food they needed to live on was easily available right there in the garden.



Today many animals hunt and eat each other, but back then it was not that way. All the animals ate plants. Adam and Eve did not eat animals either. They only ate what grew in the garden. No animals ever died. There was no death at all! Adam and Eve were going to live forever; in fact, they never even got sick, and neither did any of the animals. Everything



was perfect. After God made everything, He looked around and saw that it was all very good.

## **The Fall**

Satan saw all this too. Remember when I said that doing bad things changes you inside? Well, Satan had been so bad for so long that he became very twisted inside. He hated everything God was doing. He even hated Adam and Eve because he was jealous of the attention they were getting.

Satan was also mad because Adam and Eve loved and worshipped God. Satan wanted people to worship him. But Adam and Eve were so close to God, he knew they would not do that. He had to think of a way to trick them. He decided he had to find a way to make them stop trusting God.

When God made the garden, he put a special tree in it. He told Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit from any tree in the garden, except for that one. God explained that if they disobeyed and ate the fruit of that tree, they would die. Satan decided he would try to trick Adam and Eve into disobeying God and eating from that forbidden tree.

Satan carefully thought about how to trick them. He thought to himself that if he could talk to one of them alone, he might have a chance. He knew that they would be stronger if they were together and might not listen to him. Satan decided he would talk to Eve when Adam wasn't nearby.

But he couldn't just show up as himself because he was a powerful angel. He needed to be sneaky. He decided he would put himself inside an animal and talk to Eve that way. Since Satan was a spirit, he was able to go inside an animal.

But wouldn't a talking animal make Eve suspicious? If an animal started talking to me, I would think something was up for sure, wouldn't you? We have to remember that the world was brand new, and Eve might have thought that God gave some animals the ability to talk. So, she might not be too surprised. Or maybe some animals could talk then; who knows? I don't think so, but the world was so different back then that it is hard to say.

Satan looked around and decided he would go into a snake because snakes have a sort of cold, sneaky way about them, and that suited

Satan just fine. The Bible calls this snake a serpent. It was a bit different from snakes today because it had legs. I'll explain more about that later.

One day Eve was down by the river picking berries, and she heard a voice from the tree above her.

“So, God won't allow you to eat the fruit from any trees in the garden?”

Eve looked up and saw a serpent lying on a branch above her. She didn't realize it was Satan talking through the serpent.

“Oh no, that is not true at all,” answered Eve. “We can eat from any of the trees, except for one. The tree in the center of the garden is the only one we can't eat from. God said if we eat from that one that we would die.”

The serpent laughed with an evil hiss. “You will not die,” sneered the serpent. “In fact, if you eat that fruit, you will be like God. You will become wise and know all about good things and bad things, just like God does. It doesn't seem very fair for only God to be wise.”

“Do you really think so?” Eve asked.

“Let’s go look at the tree. God didn’t say you can’t look at it, did he? It won’t hurt just to look,” suggested the serpent.

So Eve walked to the center of the garden where the tree with the forbidden fruit was. She thought the serpent was right, that it wouldn’t hurt just to look. The serpent followed along.

When they got there, the serpent said, “Look at how beautiful the tree is! Look at the fruit and think how good it would taste and how smart you would be after eating it.”

All of a sudden, Eve reached out and plucked some fruit from the tree. She just wanted to see it better. Surely it would be alright to just hold it in her hand. She looked at it closely, and she thought she had never seen any fruit so charming and lovely.



She took a bite! It tasted delicious! She turned around to thank the serpent, but he was nowhere to be seen. She picked another fruit from the tree and ran as fast as she could to find Adam. She found him in a grove of trees. He was making some rope out of some vines he had discovered.

“Adam! Look at this beautiful fruit. The serpent told me that the tree in the center of the garden is good to eat from. It has delicious fruit. The serpent told me that we wouldn’t die and that eating it will make us wise. I tried some, and I’m just fine. It tastes amazing! Here, try some!”



So Adam ate some of the fruit also, and he agreed that it was delicious. Suddenly Eve began to have odd feelings. She didn’t feel

sick. She just had a strange feeling, unlike anything she had felt before.

“Adam! Stop looking at me like that,” Eve snapped, feeling irritated. She had never felt irritated before. She did not understand her feelings. What was happening to her?

“What do you mean?” Adam said defensively. Adam was starting to feel strange too.

Eve began to cry, and that really confused her. She had never cried before.

“Eve, what is wrong?” Adam asked.

“I don’t know! I just feel something is wrong. I feel bad. I feel so...I don’t know...I feel uncovered. Maybe you don’t like the way I look.

Adam was feeling the same way but he didn’t want to admit it. “Of course I like the way you look. Don’t be silly.”

“I’m not silly! Don’t call me that!” Eve began to cry even harder. “Adam, do something!” she begged.

“Okay, I have an idea, said Adam. “Let’s make some covering for ourselves so we don’t

feel so exposed. Let's use fig leaves to make ourselves an apron to cover ourselves with."

So that is what they did. The sticky leaves were uncomfortable and itchy. They had never felt anything make them itch before, so they didn't like the leaves much, but the idea worked, and they had something to wear. By the time they finished making their covering, it was evening. Then they heard it! It was the sound of God walking in the garden. They heard God's voice. "Adam, where are you?"



Adam and Eve hid behind some bushes because they were terrified. They had disobeyed God, and they knew it. They used to be so happy when God would come and be with them in the evenings, but now everything was different. They didn't want to face God. They felt so ashamed.

God kept calling, so Adam answered and explained to God that he hid because he didn't have any clothes on. God said, "Who told you that you needed clothes? Did you eat from the tree that I told you not to?" Of course, God knew what they had done because God knows everything, but God wanted Adam to confess. God knew that admitting what they had done would help them.

Adam thought that making excuses would help. "Well, it was this woman you gave me. She gave me some of the fruit and said it was good to eat."

Eve felt very hurt that Adam would say it like that, calling her "this woman." She felt separated from Adam and from God. She felt alone, ashamed, and scared for the first time in her life. Later on, Adam would feel bad about saying it that way, but he was frightened and ashamed also, so he had just blurted it out.

God said to Eve, "What have you done?"

"It was the serpent," Eve stammered. "he fooled me and told me I should try it."

God was sad about what they had done. God explained to them that there would now be consequences for their actions. Things



would never be the same. From this day forward, death would be in the world. Not only would Adam and Eve die, but so would their children and grandchildren.

Since Adam and Eve were the king and queen of the Earth, even nature itself came under a curse. From the moment that Adam ate the forbidden fruit, all of nature became twisted. The animals would not live forever anymore. All the animals changed, and many of them began to eat other animals. That doesn't seem fair, does it? The animals didn't do anything wrong. But that's how sin is. It affects everything around you and even hurts innocent people.

Because of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God, they had become twisted inside so that they were no longer perfect, like they used to be. They already realized this; for now they had bad thoughts that they had never had before.

God explained there would be specific consequences for both of them. Eve had committed two sins. Not only did she eat the fruit herself, but then she tempted Adam to eat it. So God explained to Eve that she would have two consequences. He told Eve that from

then on, it would be very painful whenever she would have children. God also said that Adam would now be in charge and have the final say on their family decisions. These consequences for Eve and the ones for Adam have been passed down to their children and all their descendants, even to people today.

Then God told Adam that they could no longer live inside the beautiful garden he had made for them. They didn't want to leave the garden, but God drove them out. Instead of having plenty of food in the garden, they had to go out and plant their own fields of crops to eat. God said Adam would have to work hard every day, all day long in the hot sun, in order just to have enough to eat, and he would have to do that his whole life until he died.



God cursed the ground so that it would grow weeds, and the plants would no longer easily grow like they used to. Even the insects changed, and now there would be flies and mosquitoes buzzing about, biting them, and making them itch.

God also made it so that all serpents would no longer have legs. They would be snakes that crawled in the dirt, like we see today. They were to be a permanent symbol and reminder of man's fall into sin, showing that all of nature changed at that moment. That is why most people today shudder with fear when they see a snake.

God said that women would consider the snake an enemy, and her children would hate snakes too. Snakes would try to bite people, and people would try to kill snakes. And that is how it is to this very day. Then God said something mysterious. He said that a descendant of Eve would stomp on the snake's head. He was talking about when Jesus would come and destroy Satan's plans and put an end to all the trouble the devil makes. Jesus is always stronger than Satan.

God felt sorry for the two people he had made and what they had done to themselves.

They felt pretty sorry for themselves too. God explained that he was still there to help them, even though they had disobeyed Him. The first thing God did to help them was make them some clothes, so they wouldn't have to wear uncomfortable sticky leaves.

God killed some animals and made clothing for them from the skins. It was sad that these animals had to die because of Adam and Eve's sin. Like I said, that's how sin is; it affects everything around you. When God used animal skins to clothe Adam and Eve, He was actually giving a hint of what would happen someday.

Just as the animals died and shed their blood so that Adam and Eve's nakedness could be covered, so also one day Jesus would come and die on the cross so that our sins would be covered by the blood of Jesus.



God had said to Adam and Eve that He still loved them, and He forgave them. He promised that He would always be there for them. He told them that one day, far in the future, all this would be put right.

As Adam and Eve sadly walked out of the garden, they couldn't help but wish they had never been fooled by Satan into disobeying God. Adam reached out and held Eve's hand. Eve looked up at Adam and said, "I'm so sorry."

"I know, Adam said. "Me too. Don't worry. I love you, and we still have each other."

"Yes," answered Eve. "And we have God. He still loves us. As long as we have Him and each other, we will be fine."

Adam put his arm around Eve, and together they walked out of the garden towards the sunset.



\* \* \*

And that is the most amazing true story I wanted to tell you. It is right out of the Bible. There are some unhappy things in this story, but there are a lot of things we can learn from it. And that is good!

We learned that God made the world perfect. Have you ever heard anyone blame God for how bad the world is? Well, God didn't make it bad, people did. It all started when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Before that happened, the world was perfect.

We also learned that God made us different from the animals and that we didn't evolve from animals. God made us in His image. We are special. We also learned that this all happened about six thousand years ago. We learned that God is good and kind and loving, and that the devil is very bad and will try to lie to us and trick us.

We learned that God made us male and female. We see that boys and girls are different, but equal. God has given special roles for each of us, and we should be happy in the role that God has put us in, for He knows what's best. God doesn't make mistakes.

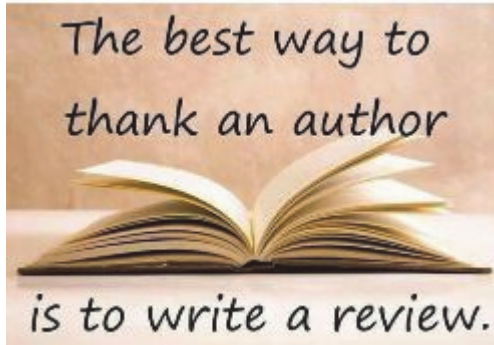
Lastly, we learned that there are consequences for disobeying God. We also saw that if we do sin, that God will forgive us if we repent. Then He can still help us. We saw that after Adam confessed to God what he had done, then God could begin to help him. When we do something wrong, we can confess it to God and tell him we are sorry, and then God can forgive us and help us.

Many people come up with wrong ideas because they don't know what the Bible says. People are often wrong about things because they have let the devil fool them and don't

even know it. But we know that we can always believe what the Bible tells us because it is God's word.



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