



Lesson 4  
Study of Genesis  
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Disc 4

GRAFTED IN FELLOWSHIP  
KING GEORGE

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**My Notes:**

**Your Notes:**

Naked

-no shame

-**Gen 3:1** - And the serpent was cunning above every beast of the field which YAHWEH Elohim had made. And he said to the woman, Is it so that Elohim has said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden? (HRB)

-**arum** <Gen 3:1> **vs** **arom** <Gen 2:25>

-serpent: talking, walking, without hair (no covering)

-purpose: to see how similar they are (not how different they are)

-in this context, nakedness is not about being without clothes, it's about being without a second agenda

Did God really say?

-Hebrew is not a question, it is a statement: God said.

-“ki amar Elohim”: as God said

-Eve's response: her focus is on what has her attention (her “middle” of the garden) <tavek>

-Is the serpent right? Yes!

-The serpent has only told the truth

Knowing right from wrong

-How can it be possible that she doesn't know the difference between good and evil before she eats of the tree so that she understands what the command is, if she won't know good and evil until after she eats of the tree?

-Moral of the story: what I understand to be good and evil BEFORE I eat, and what I understand to be good and evil AFTER I eat

+Before: prohibitions based on God's assessment of what is right and wrong

+After: something added – good and evil based on MY assessment of right and wrong

-Desire is now introduced into the human frame

-Desire is now the filter for every moral decision we make

-No longer is it based on what God says, it is now, “I know

what God says, but what do I want?"

- Difference between gods and humans?—gods make up their own minds
- This is idolatry
- Man is to remember (zakar) what God says is good and evil

Sages' belief about the serpent

- Assassinate Adam and marry Eve
- Why?
- The serpent lacks free choice
- To make a race of animals that will have free choice
- Plan is to get God to kill Adam

Now we get back to why it is not good for Adam to be alone!

- What is it that Adam has to have as a moral free agent: yetzer ha'ra (evil inclination)
- Life without desire is to be an animal
- yetzer ha'ra: desire uncontrolled by the voice of God
- Who steers my desire?
- We need to listen to what is good for us from the "outside", not the "inside"

Yeshua is the perfect human being

- filled with passion and desire
- completely guided by the external word of God
- He does not allow His own desires to direct His actions

The emphasis of the story: What does Eve do with the temptation to allow her own desire to be her guide

My desire has to be controlled by something outside of "me"

- this is the essence of sin
- my desire gets in the way of God's desire

The snake is not Satan

- the snake does not tempt Eve
- he only suggests what God has already said
- Eve tempts herself!

Why did God put the tree in the Garden?

- it is not the knowledge of "right and wrong"
- it is the experience of my own desire without control
- it is this experience that makes us human and at the same time destroys us

What makes us human?

-it is the desire that makes us human (but allowing God to have control of it)

-we are sinful when we recognize the desire and deciding to be in control

Eve sins as soon as she recognizes that she can make up her own mind

The genre of literature

-a fundamental mythology about questions about:

+what is life all about

+how did we get here

+what is the purpose of life

+what is my relationship to God

+what does it mean to be obedient/disobedient

-it is written as a polemic against the competing mythology

Why, after eating of the Tree of Knowledge, will God not allow them to eat of the Tree of Life?

-the normal explanation is that the Tree will provide immortality

-it provides for alienation

-broken relationship

What was it about nakedness that changed so radically that it takes precedence over disobedience?

-going back to "arom / arum"

-they were naked (transparent)

-the snake was not transparent

-going from: being transparent in front of God; to: afraid of being transparent in front of God

This is where grace is introduced into the Bible!

-a sacrifice takes place (the first)

Gen 3:9 - And YAHWEH Elohim called to the man and said to him, Where are you?  
(HRB)

-Two words for "where"

-They have different meanings

+apo-geographic location <proper pronunciation: aa-foe>

+ayi-"how come you are not here with me?"

Afraid

-He now recognizes he is duplicitous

-Paul Romans 7 <7:15-25> – this sin in me that wars within me...who will deliver me from this body of death?

- He is afraid of himself
- He is no longer transparent
- This is not part of man's "sin nature"
- The yetzer ha'ra is built into man, but this doesn't mean we "have" to sin
- Desire is always present in the human condition—it impassions us
- We have the ability to allow God to rule it, or to let us rule it
- “Original Sin” is part of the sinful nature theology
- It is not the sinful nature that causes me to sin, it is the introduction of a third element in the moral equation: my own desire
- If you cut desire out of your life, you will be nothing more than an animal

**Paul's Thorn** <<2 Cor 12:7-9 - 7 And by the super abundance of the revelations, that I not be made arrogant, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, that I not be made haughty. 8 Beyond this I entreated our Master three times, that it depart from me. 9 And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will rather gladly boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Messiah may rest upon me. (HRB)>> <<I don't see where God is the author of Paul's thorn.>>

- Who is the author of Paul's thorn? – God
- How does God deliver it to Paul? – Messenger from Satan
- To keep from becoming arrogant
- John Samuel: we do not sin in our weaknesses; we sin in our strengths
- This is why the serpent approached Eve—she is the strength
- The desire to be better replaces the desire to listen to God