

The Book of Genesis

Genesis 2

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

God’s simple and single command

God commanded man and not woman – she had not been formed yet

Surely die = both physically and spiritually

We need to remember that Moses wrote the Pentateuch for Israel

This warning about disobedience and death would resonate with Israel as

They were looking over the Jordan River toward Jericho

Moses was giving them the “Second Law” = Deuteronomy

They had just spent 40 years in the wilderness due to disobedience at

Kadesh Barnea when they refused to enter Canaan

Death was the result – everyone over 20 years old died in the wilderness

Deuteronomy 1:2 – Israel was only eleven days away from Canaan at Mt Sinai
2 (It takes eleven days to go from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea by the Mount Seir road.)

They could have begun to conquer Canaan eleven days after
they left Mt. Sinai

Deuteronomy 1:19–21 – Israel arrived at Kadesh Barnea

19 Then, as the LORD our God commanded us, we set out from Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites through all that vast and dreadful desert that you have seen, and so we reached Kadesh Barnea.

It took eleven days to get there from Mt. Sinai

20 Then I said to you, “You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

21 See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your fathers, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

But the people asked Moses to send out spies into Canaan

Deuteronomy 1:23–25 – The spies returned with differing reports

23 The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe.

24 They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and explored it.

25 Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, “It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.”

Only 2 of the spies. Joshua and Caleb, gave a good report and encouraged Israel to begin their campaign of defeating the Canaanites

The other 10 only saw the risk and difficulties ahead and they convinced Israel to not believe and to disobey God and to go back to Egypt

Deuteronomy 1:34–36 – Israel’s disobedience results in death

34 When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore:

35 “Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers,

36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly.”

And of course Joshua would also see Canaan because he would be

Their leader after Moses died

But God sent them out into the wilderness for 38 years until all of

That generation over 20 years old who disobeyed God all died

Just before Israel entered Canaan Moses would give them a warning that

Disobeying God would bring death

Surely they remembered that their disobedience at Kadesh Barnea brought

Death to a whole generation of Israelites

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 – Moses gave Israel the Law for a second time

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

This is the life and prosperity that God is talking about in verse 15

17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them,

18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

This is the death and destruction that God is talking about in verse 15

19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

And so death as a result of disobedience sounded familiar to Israel

Genesis 2

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Man was alone = God declared that to be not good

Everything else had been declared very good

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

This says that God would see what man would name them

Did God not know what man would do ?

Notice how God wrote this from man’s view

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

Did God know there would not be a suitable helper among the animals ?

Naming the animals showed man’s dominion over them

When the Babylonians defeated Judah, they renamed the captives

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were renamed = dominion

Notice that the animals were not afraid of man at this time

Apparently God gave Adam the responsibility to choose his helper

No “suitable” helper was found – not even man’s best friend

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

Could God do that ? No problem – God had formed man from dust

God put Adam to sleep – opened up his side – took out a rib

Then God healed the place on Adam

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

He used Adam’s rib to make the first woman

Man was made from dust of the earth
But woman was made from man
God presented her to Adam
And Adam immediately knew this was a helper suitable for him

23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

She supplied what was lacking in Adam – and he in her

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

This verse was probably written by Moses to instruct the Israelites since

There were no other people on earth at the time

Notice the spiritual unity of man and wife

One man and one woman become one flesh

No same sex marriage provided for here

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

There was no sin in the world

No need to discuss headship here

After the fall that discussion was needed

Nakedness was only a problem after the entrance of sin into the world

Bible Knowledge Commentary = Introduction to Genesis 3

Genesis 1–2 recorded what God said;

now the serpent (the devil, Rev. 20:2) spoke.

The word of the Lord brought life and order;

the word of the serpent brought chaos and death.

Truth is older than falsehood;

God’s word came before Satan’s lies.¹

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.

Crafty = shrewdness

Not bad in itself but used for evil by the serpent

More crafty than the others

Presumably the serpent allowed the devil to use him because,

¹ Ross, A. P. (1985). Genesis. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 32). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

as we will see, God found the serpent guilty and cursed him
Eventually we read in the Revelation that
Serpent = dragon = devil = Satan

Revelation 20:1–3 – The dragon = the ancient serpent = devil = Satan

1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.

2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Here we see the various names of Satan

Also elsewhere called the Accuser of the Brethren and Lucifer

3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.