

The Breaking of the Adamic Covenant

Introduction: What knowledge did Adam and Eve gain by eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Theme: Adam and Eve gained an experiential knowledge of rejecting good and choosing evil.

Key Verses:

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

Gen 2:17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--

I. Adam and Eve gained an experiential knowledge of good and evil.

A. This experiential knowledge is described as having their "eyes opened."

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

A consideration of the word "opened."

1. There are 15 different Hebrew words translated as opened.

2. The word means to become aware of something that was previously not discerned. It often carries with it a spiritual connotation.

2 Ki 6:15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

2 Ki 6:16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

2 Ki 6:17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- B. The experiential knowledge that they gained of good and evil is illustrated in the knowledge regarding their "nakedness."

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Gen 3:10 And he said, "I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Gen 3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Gen 3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

- C. There are 5 different Hebrew words translated as "naked". There is a word that means what is improper to be seen. That is not the word that is used here. This word most often means to be shamefully stripped of rank or office.

Deu 28:48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD shall send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

Deu 28:49 "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand,

Deu 28:50 a nation of fierce countenance who shall have no respect for the old,

nor show favor to the young.

Ezek 16:39 "I shall also give you into the hands of your lovers, and they will tear down your shrines, demolish your high places, strip you of your clothing, take away your jewels, and will leave you naked and bare.

Ezek 23:29 'And they will deal with you in hatred, take all your property, and leave you naked and bare. And the nakedness of your harlotries shall be uncovered, both your lewdness and your harlotries.

Note in these last two instances the words "naked" and "bare" appear in the same verse.

- D. Previous to the fall Adam and Eve were knowledgeable of their being nude. However, it did not cause them any embarrassment. They had no knowledge of shame.

Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

The word for naked is the same word that is used in Chapter 3. However, the phrase "were not ashamed" demonstrates that originally this carried no negative connotation with it.

- E. Now that their eyes were "opened" they "saw" something wrong with being nude. The experiential knowledge that they gained was that of shame.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

- F. They tried to hide their shame.

1. They tried to hide their shame from each other.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

2. They tried to hide their shame from God.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

G. Application:

1. Unfortunately, as a result of the fall man's eyesight becomes skewed. He now "sees" through sinful eyes. His perspective is colored by his sin.

Man becomes totally "depraved"

- a. Total depravity does not mean that person is as fully sinful as he can be.
- b. Total depravity does mean that every aspect of the life of the unregenerate is tainted by evil. Nothing is pure.

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Gen 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

2. As a result of his depravity man hides from God.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Rom 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Rom 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world,

and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

3. The seeker movement.

II. Adam and Eve gained an experiential knowledge of rejecting good and choosing evil.

A. Through the fall man came to understand good and evil in a way in which he previously did not understand it.

In this understanding mankind in some sense became "like" God.

Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

B. Man becomes like God in two ways.

1. In having to make a decision in participating in and rejecting either good or evil.

The verb form of "know" in verse Gen. 3:22 is an infinitive

NAS Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--

KJV Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Specifically according to Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar Oxford University Press. 1950, P. 351 This is an infinitive construct. It is combined with the preposition to define motives.

2. Man becomes like God in experiencing the consequences of his choosing.

Gen 1:31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

- C. The similarity between man and God exists in having an experiential knowledge of good and evil. However, the experiential knowledge of man is actually the direct opposite of the experiential knowledge of God.
- D. We do not yet have an experiential knowledge of "good". However, we will one day.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.