

AS SIMPLY AS I CAN TELL IT

Before the very beginning of everything, God was there. He created everything that we can see and everything that we cannot see. Toward the end of His creation, God created all the animals. But the most important of all that God created was Man. Adam was the first man. But Adam needed a helper to help him attend to the Garden of Eden. God brought all the animals He had made to Adam, but none of them could serve as Adam's Helper. So, God made Eve, a Woman, as a companion for Adam.

God set rules for the Garden He had created for Adam and Eve. He created some fruit trees for the Garden, and He told them they could eat the fruit of all the trees *—all except one!* It was a test to see whether Adam and Eve would follow God's directions or just do as they pleased. One of God's creatures was a serpent. The serpent then tempted Eve to disobey God and eat the fruit of the tree God had forbidden. Eve ate the fruit God had told her not to eat and she gave some to Adam and he ate it, too.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they poisoned themselves with what the Bible calls "sin." And they both began to die.

When Adam and Eve had sexual relations, a boy was born. His name was Cain. Then, Adam and Eve had another son, whose name was Abel. Cain and Abel fought and Cain killed Abel, proving that sin was in Cain. Then, Adam and Eve had another child, whose name was Seth. Then other children, males and females, were born to them. And with Abel dead, Seth and his wife had children that became all the people on the Earth, and the bad disease of sin became a part of all the people of the Earth, right down to our time today.

God created Adam and Eve in love, intending that they should live forever and love Him in return. Sin now poisoned all human life and God had to do something to prevent it. He decided that since blood was Man's life, He would use blood in a sacrifice to cleanse man from sin. But animal blood was not equal to human blood, and Adam and Eve's blood was already polluted by sin.

It was then that God decided to send His own Son, Jesus, to Earth to die and give His pure blood as an antidote for Man's sin. Jesus died a horrible death on a Cross, shedding His blood as He died. God looked upon His Son's blood and forgave the sins of all who believed upon His Son as their Savior.

Thus, when you truly believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sin and ask Him to forgive you for your sin, He declares you "free" and forgives you. When Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again" (John 3:3), He was saying, "You must be born *from above*," that is, from the Father in Heaven.

Think of yourself as diseased because of sin, but Jesus saying, "I will forgive you if you *believe* on Me." Proof of God's truthfulness rests in His ability to raise His Son, Jesus, from the dead. Jesus was raised from the dead three days after His death. Jesus is the only great religious leader who was raised from the dead.

Now, get on your knees before God and ask Him to forgive you. Tell Him you believe that Jesus Christ arose from the dead, and ask Him to receive you as one of His born-from-above children. *Believe* sincerely in your heart that the LORD will do what He said in His Word. Then, pray and say, "Thank You, LORD, for making me Your child." Everything is based on God's Word and depends upon you believing it. When you have received Jesus as your LORD and Savior, write me and tell me about it. I will be praying for you.

—Gene L. Jeffries, Th.D.