

# Death on an Earth Filled With Sin



## SABBATH—OCTOBER 1

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Genesis 2:16, 17; Genesis 3:1–7; Genesis 3:4; Genesis 3:7–19; Genesis 3:15, 21.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Sin entered the world because one man sinned. And death came because of sin. Everyone sinned, so death came to all people” (Romans 5:12, NIV).



**Satan wanted to find “a way to trick Adam and Eve to disobey God.”**

**JESUS** made all the faraway planets and filled them with life (John 1:1–3, 10; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2). Then God the Father honored Jesus in a special way. God the Father announced that He and Jesus together were going to make our earth and everything in it. This news made Lucifer jealous of Jesus (read Ellen G. White, *The Story of Redemption*, page 14). So, Lucifer made a secret plan to work against Jesus.

Then God threw Satan out of heaven. Satan wanted to “hurt God in heaven and make Him feel sad.” So, Satan decided “to destroy Adam and Eve’s happiness” on earth. Satan wanted to find “a way to trick Adam and Eve to disobey God. Then God would pardon Adam and Eve. When that happened, Satan felt God must be fair and show mercy to him and his evil angels, too.”—Ellen G. White, *The Story of Redemption*, page 27, adapted. God knew all about Satan’s evil plan. So, God warned Adam and Eve not to go near the forbidden tree (Genesis 2:16, 17). Do you see that God gave humans rules to obey before sin filled the earth?

This week, we will study about Adam and Eve’s sin. We will learn how sin and death took control of this earth. We also will see that God gave hope to humans in Eden.

**GOD OR THE SNAKE: WHO SHOULD EVE TRUST?  
(Genesis 2:16, 17)**

The Lord made the earth perfect (Genesis 1:31). So, before the Fall, Adam and Eve knew nothing about death. God warned Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden about death: “You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of [about] good and evil. If you ever eat fruit from that tree, you will die!” (Genesis 2:16, 17, ICB).

**Did God really need to warn Adam and Eve about the snake? Why does God need to warn Adam and Eve if they can’t choose between good and evil? Read Genesis 2:16, 17 for the answer.**

Sometime later, Satan pretends to be a talking snake and enters Eden. Eve sees the snake eating the forbidden fruit. The snake acts happy. He is not dying or dead. Ellen G. White tells us, “The snake himself ate the forbidden fruit” and nothing happened to him.—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 54, adapted.

**What do you think Eve felt when she listened to the snake? Why do you think Eve believed the snake’s lies? Read Genesis 3:1–4 for the answers.**

The snake gave Eve two reasons that convinced her that God was wrong. First, Eve saw no sin or death in nature. Second, the snake himself ate the forbidden fruit in front of Eve. She saw that he enjoyed it very much, too. So, why can’t Eve enjoy it, too? Eve felt that God’s command was too strict. Eve didn’t understand why God wanted to limit her freedom.

Sad to say, Eve made the wrong choice. She forgot three important rules: (1) Human thinking is not the safest way to judge spiritual questions. (2) We may not always understand the reasons for God’s commands. But we must trust that God is always right. (3) God often gives us tests to see if we will obey Him. So, we must stay away from the things that God forbids. Every day we need to decide between the Bible and the culture or the life we see around us. Our choices can change our lives forever.

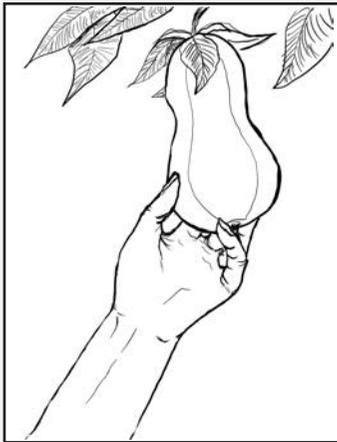
**How are Bible teachings different from culture or the life we see around us?**



**Eve sees the snake eating the forbidden fruit. The snake acts happy.**

## TRICKED BY THE SNAKE (Genesis 3:1–7)

**What were Eve’s reasons to eat the forbidden fruit?  
Read Genesis 3:1–7 for the answer.**



**Eve wants to know more about the forbidden tree. So, after God warns her not to go near the tree, Eve does not listen.**

Genesis 3 shows us how Satan tricks our minds to try to get us to sin. As we know, God warned Adam and Eve not to eat the forbidden fruit. If they do, they will die for sure (Genesis 2:16, 17). Satan uses the snake to talk to Eve as part of his plan to trick her. The snake asks Eve several questions that cause her to sin.

First, the snake causes Eve to not believe God. The snake wants Eve to think that she doesn’t understand God’s command. The snake asks, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1, NIV). Eve argued that the rule only was about the forbidden tree. She and Adam must not eat from it or touch it. If they do, they will die.

Next, Satan rejected God’s words. “But the snake said to the woman, ‘You will not die.’” (Genesis 3:4, ERV).

Finally, Satan blamed God for hiding important information from Eve and her husband. Satan argued, “ ‘God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree, you will learn about good and evil. Then you will be like [the same as] God!’ ” (Genesis 3:5, ICB).

Eve wants to know more about the forbidden tree. So, after God warns her not to go near the tree, Eve does not listen. At the tree, Eve must decide between God’s words and Satan’s lies. Eve doubts God. Eve believes what she sees with her own eyes. She lets her own personal experience guide her.

First, Eve saw that the fruit was a healthy choice: “the fruit looked so good to eat” (Genesis 3:6, ERV). Second, the fruit was beautiful (Genesis 3:6). So, Eve believed the fruit would make her happy. Third, Eve felt the fruit would give her special knowledge: “She also liked the idea that it would make her wise” (Genesis 3:6, ERV). So, Eve felt she had good reasons to trust the snake. Sad to say, she ate the fruit.

Some people think that all knowledge is good as long as we follow this Bible rule: “test everything. Keep what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21, ERV). But Adam and Eve’s sad experience teaches us that some knowledge can hurt us.

**What does this story teach us about our choices?  
Why do we make bad decisions so easily?**

“ ‘YOU WILL NOT DIE’ ” (Genesis 3:4)

**Read the snake’s lie in Genesis 3:4. What are the different ways that people have told this same lie again and again during human history?**

We see this lie in the teaching that the spirit doesn’t die when the body dies. This false teaching was part of many religions in Bible times. In Egypt during Old Testament times, this false teaching led many people to make mummies and pyramids.

This false idea about the spirit also became an important Greek teaching. In the book *The Republic of Plato*, Socrates asks: “Don’t you know that our spirit lives forever and never dies?” In Plato’s book *Phaedo*, Socrates says: “Our spirits will continue living after our bodies die.” Later, Christians in Europe accepted these false ideas. But the teachings come from a much earlier time. These ideas started in Eden with Satan himself.

Satan told Eve, “ ‘No, you for sure will not die’ ” (Genesis 3:4, NLV). With these strong words, Satan made his own words more important than the Word of God.

**Read Psalm 115:17; John 5:28, 29; Psalm 146:4; Matthew 10:28; and 1 Corinthians 15:51–58. What do these verses teach? How can we use this Bible truth to show Satan’s lies?**

Everywhere, we see Satan’s lie that the spirit lives forever and doesn’t die. Modern books, movies, and TV shows continue to teach this lie. So, people believe that when our bodies die, our spirits continue to live. Sad to say, this lie is taught in many Christian churches today. Science also teaches this false idea. Some scientists say that they invented a way to contact the dead. The scientists believe the dead really are alive and don’t need to have bodies. This false idea is everywhere. So, we shouldn’t be surprised that this lie will have a big part in the end times.

**How have you seen this lie in your own culture or in the life you see around you? Why must we trust the Bible? Why can’t we trust our own experience?**



**Everywhere, we see Satan’s lie that the spirit lives forever and doesn’t die. Modern books, movies, and TV shows continue to teach this lie.**

## THE EVIL THAT SIN CAUSED (Genesis 3:7–19)

**What bad things happened because of sin? For the answers, read Genesis 3:7–19 and Romans 5:12.**

The snake tricked Eve with his attractive lies. Eve didn't know that her sin would cause so many terrible things to happen. When Eve ate, she disobeyed God. She was no longer loyal to God. She was now loyal to Satan.

Genesis 3 talks about Adam and Eve and their life after they sinned. Adam and Eve became afraid of God. So, they hid from Him (Genesis 3:8). Adam and Eve were ashamed of their sin and felt guilty. They started to blame each other (Genesis 3:7, 9–13). Pain, sweat, and death became part of their experience (Genesis 3:16–19). Death became part of the lives of the plants and animals, too (Genesis 3:17, 18). Sin spoiled much of nature's beauty.

The Garden of Eden was no longer as beautiful as it had been before sin. "Adam and Eve watched the flowers hang down. They saw the leaves fall and rot. These signs of death caused Adam and Eve to feel very sad. They cried more deeply over the dying flowers than men now cry when their loved ones die. The dying flowers caused Adam and Eve to feel very sad, yes. But when the leaves fell off the beautiful trees, Adam and Eve understood that death was now part of life for every living thing."—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 62, adapted.

Adam and Eve didn't die right away. But on that same day God announced their punishment. The Lord told Adam, " 'You will work hard for your food, until your face is covered with sweat. You will work hard until the day you die, and then you will become dust again. I used dust to make you, and when you die, you will become dust again' " (Genesis 3:19, ERV). Sin brought terrible changes to life for all humans. Paul explains that "sin entered the world [the earth] because one man sinned. And death came because of sin. Everyone sinned, so death came to all people" (Romans 5:12, NIV). Today, we continue to suffer because of the bad things that happened in Eden. But Jesus gives us hope of everlasting life on a new earth where sin will never happen again. Let us thank Jesus for His help.

**How does Adam and Eve's story help us understand our evil behavior?**



**Adam and Eve became afraid of God. So, they hid from Him.**

## THE FIRST PROMISE (Genesis 3:15, 21)

**Read Genesis 3:15, 21. What hope in these verses can we find for the human family?**

Genesis 3 talks about the awful tragedy that happened after the Fall. But God gave Adam and Eve hope. First, God cursed the snake. The curse held a promise of hope for all humans. God announced to the snake, “ ‘I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your children and her children will be enemies’ ” (Genesis 3:15, ERV).

The word “enemies” comes from the Hebrew word “**eybah**.” This word shows us that the worldwide war between good and evil will continue for a long time. The word “enemies” also shows that God will put hatred for sin in human hearts. Without Jesus, our “spiritual lives” are “dead” (Ephesians 2:1, 5, ICB). We are “slaves to sin” (Romans 6:20, ICB). Jesus gives us new life. This new life fills us with hatred for sin and makes us the enemies of Satan. This hatred for sin allows us to accept God’s saving mercy. We need God’s saving mercy. Without it, our lives can’t change. We will continue to be Satan’s slaves.

Next, the Lord uses an animal offering to show Adam and Eve His promise (read Genesis 3:21). “God commanded Adam to make an offering for sin. This offering broke Adam’s heart. Adam must kill the animal. Only God can give this life. This experience was the first time Adam saw something die. Adam looked at the bleeding and suffering animal. The animal’s death showed Jesus’ death on the cross. Jesus was the offering for man’s sins.”—Ellen G. White, *The Story of Redemption*, page 50, adapted.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Hebrews 9:28. What do these verses teach us about the saving promise that God first showed us in Eden?**

Adam and Eve leave Eden (Genesis 3:19, 22–24). They know they will die someday. When they leave Eden, they are not wearing fig leaves anymore (Genesis 3:7). God Himself made them clothes from animal skins (Genesis 3:21). God Himself put the clothes on Adam and Eve. The clothes are a symbol of God’s own mercy and holy life (Zechariah 3:1–5; Luke 15:22). So, since the beginning, we see that God showed humans the Good News that Jesus saves us from sin.



**The Lord uses an animal offering to show Adam and Eve His promise.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Read Ellen G. White, “The Temptation and Fall,” pages 52–62, and “The Plan of Redemption,” pages 63–70, in *Patriarchs and Prophets*.

Recently, scientists did studies on Near Death Experiences (NDEs). These studies try to explain what happens when people “die.” The heart stops pumping blood. The lungs stop breathing. But then the dead people “come back to life.” These people have surprising stories about visiting other places or going to heaven when they were “dead.” Many of these people meet a shining person. Some of these people who “wake up from the dead” say that they met family members who died a long time ago. People who don’t understand the Bible truth about death believe that these stories are proof that the spirit doesn’t die. But the shining person and the dead family members in these NDEs don’t say anything about Jesus or His saving mercy. They only say nice words about love and peace. Don’t you think that is strange? Shouldn’t the people who “wake up from the dead” at least get a small sermon about Bible truth from their dead loved ones? What the dead family members or the shining person do teach are New Age ideas. Maybe this helps explain why the people who “wake up from the dead” change their beliefs. Also, why did none of these Christians learn anything about Christianity while they were in “heaven”? The answer is that these people were tricked by the same person who lied to Eve in Eden. Satan tricked them both with the same lie, too. (Read lesson 11 for more information.)



Some of these people who “wake up from the dead” say that they met family members who died a long time ago.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① How does Adam and Eve’s experience show that God’s forgiveness doesn’t remove the evil that sin causes? Why is this Bible truth so important to remember?
- ② God forbade Adam and Eve to go near the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What things does God warn us to stay away from today?
- ③ Satan tries to trick God’s people today. Satan wants us to believe that “Jesus’ rules are not very strict. If we relax our rules, then non-Christians will accept us more than they do now.”—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 474, adapted. How can we keep away from this trap?

## “SIGNS AND PROOFS” (ISAIAH 8:18, ICB)

Several months ago, I was studying the book of Isaiah in the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*. That’s when I read Isaiah 8:18. In this verse, Isaiah says, “I am here. And with me are the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and proofs for the people of Israel” (Isaiah 8:18, ICB). I felt that God was talking about me in this verse. My wife and I already had one child. We were waiting for our second child to be born. I read the verse from Isaiah again. I thought, “I want so much to be part of a miracle for God, too!”

I remembered reading about how God helped many Seventh-day Adventists collect lots of money for God’s work. These Adventists had no money, but they had a lot of faith. I prayed, “Lord, I also want to collect an offering for You. Soon my second child will be born. My baby is the reason I want to collect this money for You. Please show me how much money I should give You, with Your help. This offering will be my gift to You to show You that I am thankful for my healthy baby girl. Also, please let me know who should get the special offering.”

Almost right away, I felt that the Lord wanted me to collect an offering of 1,000 euros (about U.S.\$1,185.00 American dollars). This was a lot of money for me to collect. I didn’t earn a lot of money at my job in Germany. But I prayed, “Lord, this is Your plan. So, You will make sure the money comes from somewhere. You know that I don’t earn a lot of money. I don’t make enough money to save extra. All I can promise is to pray daily and save any extra money that I make.”

Every day, I asked God to help me collect the 1,000 euros. In less than a month, I had collected about half the amount. An older couple gave me 200 euros after I helped them move into their new home. I did not expect them to pay me at all! Then an Adventist businessman gave me 200 euros when my wife and I let two of his workers stay in our home for the night. We didn’t expect any money. We just wanted to be kind! After that, a married couple put 50 euros in our bank account. They didn’t tell us they were going to do that! A month before our baby was born, I already had the 1,000 euros.

Our daughter Maranatha Yessenia was born on May 4. I parked in front of the hospital at 8:37 A.M. Our baby was born 20 minutes later! I gave the offering I collected to the Lord. The Lord made it possible for me to collect the money. Today, my wife and I are blessed with our two children. Now, I can say with Isaiah, “I am here. And with me are the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and proofs for the people of Israel” (Isaiah 8:18, ICB). Thanks for supporting God’s work with your offerings each week in Sabbath School.

INSIDE  
*Story*  
by DMITRY BAGAL



**An older couple gave me 200 euros after I helped them move into their new home.**

