

In Romans 5:12 Paul asserts: "through one man sin entered into the world."

B. The Fall of Mankind

1. The Nature of the Fall

The Fall event may be analyzed into components or stages:

a. First, we have a man and a woman inclined toward God and holiness, with everything their hearts could need or properly desire, and walking in communion with God.

Genesis 1:27 28; 2:8 9, 15 16, 18, 21 22 -- 'And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;'. Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.' . . . So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man."

b. Second, we have a simple probation, a test involving a simple command in the form of a prohibition, with regard to a specific object (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil), and an announced penalty for disobedience.

Genesis 2:16 17 -- "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 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.' "

c. Third, we have a tempter, Satan (that old Serpent!) presenting the forbidden thing as a temptation, an enticement to evil.

- (1) It was an enticement to have what God had forbidden
- (2) It was an enticement to know what God had not revealed
- (3) It was an enticement to be what God had not intended them to be