

**Introduction to the Study of GENESIS Chapters 3:
the Tempter, the Temptation and Terrible Fall**

But God in great grace, in the words of Isaiah, ‘turns *ashes* into *beauty*.’

This is precisely what God will do! For it’s the *grand* story of MAN,
a story of GOD’S Infinite Love, Mercy and Grace,

All In CHRIST!

As chapter 2 closes, the future for Adam and Eve could not have looked more bright and amazingly wonderful. God had lovingly prepared the earth for man, full of abounding goodness (ch.1); and it brimmed with potential for Adam to discover and unleash. Best of all, God places the man – the crown of His creation – in the garden sanctuary He had planted for Himself.

(ch.2) With great artistic skill and engineering marvel God fashioned man from the dirt of the ground (ch.2). He then placed Adam in the garden of delight and assigned him various responsibilities. Responsibilities that would prepare him to exercise dominion over all of God’s creation. A vital part of Adam’s initial preparation included a helper who was perfectly fitted to serve at his side. Truly God had provided bountifully for the first couple; indeed, He showered them with goodness upon goodness.

As chapter 3 opens, Eve is enjoying life in the garden. There, in sinless innocence, a serpent engages her in conversation; however, he does so with the most evil intent (see John 8:44). Chapter 3 is bitter to read because God’s good plan for them will be shattered. Instead, the serpent entices them to disobey God, and with that disobedience, sin brings death; and with death comes all its attending consequences: pain, sorrow, ugliness, and fear. But - praise God! - where sin brings destruction, “grace will all the more abound” (Rom. 5:20). So God in mercy, love and grace promises a rescue plan. He will not leave man in hopeless doom. Then God’s plan begins to unfold as the chapter ends. Chapter 3 is filled with vital and timeless truths necessary for every child of God:

1. The Pattern of Satanic Deception (3:1-5)
2. The Process of Temptation that Leads to Sin (3:6)
3. Man’s Natural Response from Sin’s Shame and Guilt (3:7-13)
4. The Inescapable and Bitter Consequences of Sin (3:14-19)
5. God’s Plan of Rescue Begins to Unfold (3:20-24)