

Eve's Apple

“Ordinary Object, Extraordinary Meanings”

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8



Was it an apple? Does it matter? Why did Eve want to eat it when there was so much other fruit available? Did Eve act alone? Why does Eve get the blame? Didn't Adam eat the fruit also? These questions have been debated for years and will probably be for many years to come. I would like to explore how the story in the garden affects our lives today. Our salvation is a gift as is everything on this earth is including the fruit and the serpent mentioned in the story.

Over the years many stories about Adam and Eve eating the fruit from the tree in the garden have grown. According to the Bible, a serpent questioned Eve as to whether or not she had been told she could eat from any tree in the garden. Eve answered truthfully. They had been told they could eat from many trees, but there was fruit on one tree in the middle of the garden whose fruit they were not supposed to eat. In fact, according to the Bible, they were told *“Ye shall not eat of it; neither shall ye touch it, lest*

“God called to the Man: ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.’ God said, ‘Who told you you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?’ The Man said, ‘The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it.’ God said to the Woman, ‘What is this that you’ve done?’ ‘The serpent seduced me,’ she said, ‘and I ate.’”

Genesis 3:9-13

ye die.” Genesis 3:3 NJV. What kind of tree was it? The apple always gets the blame! It is worth noting that after they ate the fruit of that tree they did not die as we would think of death today. But, they did die to the way of living that had been perfect where they never had to work for anything.

The serpent had told Eve that wouldn't happen. That was enough to make Eve wonder. The serpent seemed to know more than God so when Eve was told by the serpent that she would not die, she believed! In fact the serpent told her she would be much smarter. He said *“You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.”* Genesis 3:4-5 (The Message)

But Eve wasn't going to do it alone. She went to get Adam and they both ate

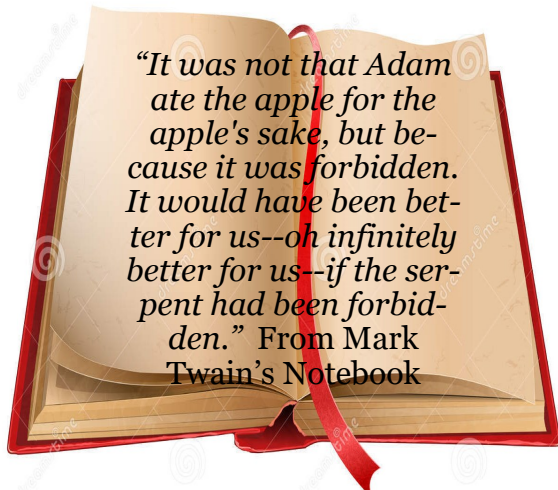
the fruit. After that they saw things differently and God approached them. Then the blame game began!

Adam blamed the woman that God had sent to be with him! The woman blamed the serpent because the serpent had deceived her and told her she could eat the fruit and not die! Eve didn't have to eat the fruit. The serpent didn't force her to eat it. Adam didn't have to listen to Eve. They both had free will. The serpent merely suggested that it was good for them to eat that fruit.

If you want to read some light material written with tongue in cheek, read Mark Twain's Diaries of Adam and Eve. It goes through Adam's naming the animals and trying to discover who Eve is and where she came from. But it also includes a beautiful love story and prayer by Eve about the death of one of them before the other. The quote below is from Adam imagining living without Eve.

“After all these years, I see that I was mistaken about Eve in the beginning; it is better to live outside the Garden with her than inside it without her.” Mark Twain, Diaries of Adam and Eve

Many times we have the “fruit” in front of us. We know we shouldn't do something. We have been warned that it was not good, but we do it any way.



Often times, the more we are warned not to do something, the stronger the will is to do it. We blame it on being human. We can always find someone else to blame when actually the blame lies with us, just as it did with Adam and Eve. We all know right from wrong, but often we are tempted and convince ourselves that doing a particular thing won't hurt anything. Today, even with the knowledge we have, we are still enticed by things that are pleasant to us even though we know they are not good for us.

There is always someone else to blame and there is always someone who is willing to tempt us.

"Temptation is the devil looking through the keyhole. Yielding is opening the door and inviting him in."
Billy Sunday

"The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places"



"By the way, if you get mad at your Mac laptop and wonder who designed this demonic device, notice the manufacturer's icon on top: an apple with a bite out of it."
Kreeft

Why do people talk about an Adam's apple? Did a piece of that apple get stuck in Adam's throat?

If Eve was made from Adam's rib why aren't men missing a rib?

Prayer: Almighty God, You have created so much for us and we should be satisfied with all that is good, but You also gave us free will and we often succumb to things that are not good for us. Help us to seek daily to do Your will and not be tempted by those things which are not good for us. Help us to see that following Your ways will lead to eternal happiness, and that the temporary happiness of earthly pleasures can cause us to be unhappy and not know Your forgiving love that is always there for us. Amen

1. Was the serpent the devil or Satan in disguise?
2. Where was the Garden of Eden? Did it actually exist? Or was it the perfect life and closeness to God that mankind has lost on this earth and will only know when we meet God in Eternal Life with him?
3. Was there a tree of knowledge?
4. Did Adam and Eve eat the fruit to gain knowledge, or because they were tempted to do something in defiance of God?
5. Something to ponder—Humans are the only being where the rib was taken from the male to form the female. Some say she is part of the man or human and so is equal, not formed separately and also made in God's likeness. They are two halves of a whole?