



Progressive Revelation: The Heart of Adam's Sin Part II

Introduction: In this study attention will be given to the *actions* and *intent* of Adam which led to his eating of the forbidden fruit. From the previous studies many points have already been established which help significantly in setting up how one is to understand Adam's sin of rebellion against God. The little word phrase we will look at today rests in Genesis 3:6, "she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."

Instructions: Review comments, notes, or recall by memory thoughts or ideas from the previous studies about Adam's sin of rebellion and answer the questions below.

1. Before Adam ate the fruit, was he diligent to obey all the commands God gave regarding his role as caretaker in the Garden of Eden and husband to Eve? Based on the context of the first two chapters of Genesis how did you or how would you now describe Adam's activity by the time you read Genesis 3:6?

2. The previous study which came immediately before this current study demonstrated that Adam was not by Eve's side when she was conversing with the serpent. Where was Adam if he was not immediately by her side?

3. Based on the previous answers to the questions, is there one term you can use to describe Adam (examples to describe Adam: attentive, prepared, diligent, negligent, aware, on guard, ignorant, self-disciplined, unknowing, unsuspecting etc.)?

What a difference a word makes in context!

"and he ate."

Instructions: Based on all that has been covered up to this point, what can one conclude about Adam's activity of eating the forbidden fruit? Before answering the question, read the **Helpful Notes** below and then formulate your thoughts into a paragraph which summarizes Adam's act.

Helpful Notes:

1. To interpret any given passage of the Bible, the first course of action is to grasp the context. While words may have a variety of definitions and/or meanings, even so, the context prevents the use of a wrong conclusion and locks down the words of the text to only have one meaning.

2. Sin can be understood in the following way:

- It is a legal term to describe the *intent* of an activity such *premeditation* or *negligence*. Both a premeditated act and negligent act result in the harm of one's self, another individual, or the destruction of property.
 - An act of premeditation is to purposely plan (willful) to perform an action which results in harm or injury to another person or loss / damage to property.
 - An act of negligence is a (willful) failure to be alert about one's surroundings / environment so as to avoid activity which results in either harm to self or to another individual, or property.

3. While the translation of the Hebrew phrase וַיֹּאכַל “and he ate” is straight forward in regards to the action Adam performed, the intent of the action is more significant as it gives the reader a view into the heart of Adam. It is not the fruit which defiled Adam; rather, it is the heart of Adam that defiled Adam (Mark 7:14-23). The only means one has to properly interpret Adam's intent in this passage is the context itself and any cross references in the Bible.

- Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote, “and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor” (1 Timothy 2:14).
 - Since Adam was not deceived, would he have premeditated the act of eating the fruit if he was standing next to Eve while she was talking with the serpent?

4. Since Adam was not deceived, how did he eat of the fruit? What was Adam's intent? What does the intent imply? In other words, was Adam actively or passively thinking about what he was doing?

5. The verb “he ate” is an active verb, not passive. Can someone be active in what they are doing while at the same time be passive in their thoughts about their actions?
