



Progressive Revelation: Grasping the Text to know The Heart of Adam’s Sin

Introduction: In the next two studies we will examine a little phrase in our Bible that is highly overlooked. We will learn about the activity in which Adam was engaged that led to him eating of the forbidden fruit. We will answer the question, “How close was Adam to Eve during her conversation with the serpent?” Finally, we will bring the text home to our day and time by answering the question, “Do men still behave in a like manner to the way Adam did before he ever ate of the fruit?”

This study will teach a little bit about the art and science of interpretation, and how one understands the words used in a given passage. If you have been a part of the previous study, take time to reflect on your answers from that study as you make interpretive decisions about the text under examination below.

Activity: Read for context purposes Genesis 3:1-6. Let’s take verse 6 and look at a phrase.

- Genesis 3:6, *“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”*

A closer look at a phrase

“she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”

Instructions: Answer the following questions.

1. What is the scope of the word “with” in regards to its meaning in the text? (If available, feel free to utilize English grammar books that may be available in your personal library or online that shed some light on the word “with” and how it is to be understood.) Write down what you understand about the word and then work through the rest of the material which will shape your understanding.

Helpful Hint: The following helps were taken from Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi’s book *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. The English word “with” is a preposition. In the Hebrew the word is identified as עִם (eim) which takes on a variety of meanings. However, only one meaning can be used.

For example, the word can mean the following (among, by, in, with, within, near, to, besides):

- A. **Accompaniment:** The preposition expressed additional participants in the discourse through a sense of accompaniment. Example: “Then he and the men who were with him at and drank” (Gen 24:45).
- B. **Personal Complement:** resembles a dative function to mark the recipient of an action. Example: “And show kindness to my master Abraham” (Gen 24:12). Another Example: “Behold, I will come to you in a pillar of cloud, so that the people will hear when I speak with you (Exod 19:9).
- C. **Locative / Spatial / Proximity:** Marks locality, proximity, or position of a person in relation to an object. Example: “and Isaac lived near Beer-lahai-roi” (Gen 25:11). Another example: “Joshua sent out men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-Aven” (Josh 7:2).
- D. **Restrictive:** presents an exception to a circumstance or action. Example: “See now that I, I am he, and there is no god besides me” (Deut 32:39)

Activity:

1. Review the above categorical translations and interpretive meaning the Hebrew preposition עִם (eim) can have. Plug in each word to the phrase “she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate” by replacing the word “with” with the words underlined in each explanation above and see which word makes the most sense.
2. Take the word that seems to make the most sense and explain what it means. For example, if the word “with” makes the most sense, which category will you use to explain its meaning?
3. How important is one little word in a sentence?
4. How does context help determine the meaning of the word in question? In other words, based on your previous studies, how does the context drive the meaning of the text?
5. How much does this study further your appreciation for teachers who take the time to translate, examine, and interpret the text of Scripture?

Write down your thought below for group discussion.
