

WHO SINNED FIRST – ADAM OR EVE?

Who sinned first, Adam or Eve? It is an undeniable fact that most people in the church today believe that Eve sinned first. And they believe this for two reasons. First, it was Eve who ate of the fruit first. And secondly, it is universally taught that Eve sinned first but that Adam only incurred the blame because he was the “head”. Now, Scripture does tell us that Eve ate of the fruit first. However, the teaching that Eve sinned first but that Adam only incurred the blame because he was the “head” is found nowhere in Scripture. Therefore, in this section we will examine what Scripture has to say on this most important question. Whether it is Eve, or whether it is Adam, let us accept the clear Word of God.

So, who sinned first, Adam or Eve?

To answer this question we need to turn to Scripture.

¹²“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—¹³for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.” (Romans 5: 12-14 ^{NASB})

¹⁸“So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.” (Romans 5: 18-19 ^{NASB})

²⁰“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15: 20-22 ^{NASB})

Furthermore, in Genesis 3: 17 ^{NASB} God says to Adam, ¹⁷“...Cursed is the ground because of you...” The word that is translated as “ground” in verse seventeen is “dama” in the Hebrew and means “the earth; the entire surface of the place where humans dwell”. ^[1]

So, in the above passages there is no mistaking that the person in view is Adam because he is mentioned specifically by name. Therefore, from the above passages of Scripture we can see that sin entered into the world through one man, Adam. This means that before Adam sinned, sin was not in the world. This means that Eve could not have sinned first. Therefore, it is clear

through plain Scripture that Adam sinned first, not Eve. Furthermore, the above Scripture states that it was because of Adam's transgression that condemnation resulted to all people. This would include Eve. Condemnation resulted to Eve because of Adam's transgression. The above Scripture also states that because of Adam's disobedience the many were made sinners. This would include Eve. Eve was made a sinner because of the disobedience of her husband. Moreover, it is stated that as a result of Adam's sin, the earth is cursed and death has spread to all people. It is because of Adam that we die.

So nowhere in the above passages of Scripture does it say that sin entered into the world through Eve. Nowhere in these passages does it say that because of Eve's transgression that condemnation resulted to all people. Nor does it say that because of her disobedience that her husband or anyone else was made a sinner. Nor does it say that the earth is cursed because of her or that all people die because of her. Furthermore, nowhere in the above passages of Scripture does it say that sin entered into the world through "two" people. Nor does it say that because of "two" transgressions that condemnation resulted to all people. Nor does it say that because of "two" people's disobedience the many were made sinners. Nor does it say that the earth is cursed because of Adam and Eve. Nor does it say that we die because of Adam and Eve. Again, the Bible clearly states that sin entered into the world through "one" man, Adam. Because of "one" transgression condemnation resulted to all people. Because of "one" man's disobedience the many were made sinners. The earth is cursed because of Adam only. And we all die because of Adam only. So it was Adam, and Adam alone, who caused "the Fall". Adam was not made a sinner because of the disobedience of his wife, as is widely taught. But rather, Eve was made a sinner because of the disobedience of her husband. This is what Scripture clearly teaches. Therefore, it should not be taught that Eve sinned first because to do so is to completely twist what Scripture says on the matter. Indeed, the teaching that Eve sinned first but that Adam only incurred the blame because he was the "head" is a false doctrine as it is not found in the above passages or anywhere in Scripture. Therefore, since the Bible is abundantly clear that sin entered into the world through Adam, I suggest that we actually take Scripture at its word and try to understand then just how it was that sin entered into the world through Adam. And this is what we will now do. In the following segment, we will journey to see exactly how sin entered into the world through Adam, how his disobedience caused Eve to become a sinner, and will unravel the lies that have been taught for centuries.

To begin, the Bible states that God formed Adam from the dust of the ground and then put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. And as He put Adam there He commanded the man, saying, ¹⁶... "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (Genesis 2: 16-17 ^{NASB}) However, when God formed Eve and brought her to the man, the Bible does not give any reference that He had told her about the forbidden fruit. It appears

that she heard about the command from Adam because of the way that God questions each of them after they ate. To Adam He said, 11...“Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” (Genesis 3: 11 ^{NASB}) But to Eve He said, 13...“What is this you have done?” (Genesis 3: 13 ^{NASB})

Now since the evidence in Scripture shows us that Adam gave the command to Eve, we now need to see whether Adam gave the command to Eve correctly, or whether he gave it to her incorrectly. Let us take a look. In Genesis 3: 2-3 ^{NASB}, when Eve replies to the questioning of Satan, she says, 2...“From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” Now, in beginning here, I would like to say that it is clear from Scripture that Adam and Eve were in view of the tree when Satan tempted them. Therefore, the fact that Eve referred to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (KGE) as “the tree which is in the middle of the garden” when she was standing directly in front of it, shows us unequivocally that Eve did not know which tree was the tree of the KGE. If she did know, then she would have pointed to the tree and stated something like, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of this tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” It is illogical to think that Eve would give a non-specific answer while directly in front of the tree all the while knowing that it was the tree of the KGE. Even if Eve had forgotten the name of the tree, she still could have pointed to it because of her proximity to the tree. Clearly, her answer is indicative of someone who does not know which tree is the tree of the KGE. Therefore, it is clear that Eve is not bungling the command of God in Genesis 3: 2-3, as is commonly taught, but rather, that she is repeating the command of God “verbatim” the way she received it from Adam. Adam neither gave her the name of the tree, nor did he previously take her to the tree so that she could identify its fruit.

Now I would also like to add that the fact that Eve did not recognize the tree shows us that Adam and Eve were not created with an innate knowledge of which tree was the tree of the KGE. They had to be taught, just as we have to be taught which tree is an apple tree or an orange tree. Therefore, it is clear that God told Adam not to eat from the tree of the KGE while standing directly in front of it and pointing to it. Otherwise, Adam would have had to guess which tree of the vast many trees was the tree of the KGE because, if we notice, God said nothing about “the tree which is in the middle of the garden” when he spoke to Adam. This was Adam’s analogy when giving it to Eve. Therefore, it is clear that God had taken Adam to the tree which is why he knew it was the tree in the middle of the garden.

Furthermore, I would like to say that it is obvious why Adam did not give Eve the name of the tree, and that is, they were not in view of the tree when he told her about the command. In his mind, giving her the name would not have done any good until she was at the tree and could

associate its name with its fruit. Therefore, since he was not close enough to point to the exact tree, he stated its location instead. However, as we will see a little later, giving her the name would have helped.

Now, it is easy to see why Adam did not give Eve the name of the tree. However, we must now ask the question, “Why did Adam add the words “or touch it” to God’s command?” Well, if we study Genesis 2: 16-17 we will find that God did not give Adam a reason as to why he could not eat from the tree or a reason why he would die. He only told him that he could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or he would die in the day that he ate from it. Therefore, not knowing that God was speaking of spiritual death, I believe that Adam naturally assumed that the fruit was poisonous and therefore thought that God was warning him that he would die if he ate it. It was not until Satan spoke to Eve in Genesis 3: 5 that Adam understood the reason he was not supposed to eat of it – he would be like God. Therefore, I believe that Adam had added the words “or touch it” to God’s command as an extra precaution when he gave it to Eve because he wanted to make sure that nothing harmful would be absorbed through her skin. Furthermore, the fact that it was Adam who added the words “or touch it” to God’s command also explains why he did not correct Eve when she replied to the questioning of Satan. For there would not have been a need for Adam to correct her since she replied exactly as he had told her.

Now, to confirm that it was Adam who gave the command to Eve incorrectly, I would like to bring attention to what Paul says in 1 Timothy 2: 14 ^{NASB}. And that is, ¹⁴“And *it* was not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.” Now we know that when Paul says that Adam was not deceived and that Eve was deceived, he is speaking about the incident that happened in the Garden of Eden. Furthermore, we can see that Paul is making a distinction between Adam and Eve as to why he was not deceived and she was deceived. Therefore, we need to ask the question, “What is Paul referring to when he says that Adam was not deceived and that Eve was deceived?” Every clue in Genesis points to Adam giving the command to Eve incorrectly, which would naturally be the reason that Adam was not deceived and that Eve was deceived. But because men do not want to acknowledge what is apparent, and insist that Adam gave the command to Eve correctly, we then have to assert one of the following about 1 Timothy 2: 14:

- 1) When Paul says that Adam was not deceived and that Eve was deceived, he is speaking in reference to the words of Satan in Genesis 3: 4. Adam was not deceived into thinking that he would not die and Eve was deceived into thinking that she would not die.
- 2) When Paul says that Adam was not deceived and that Eve was deceived, he is speaking in reference to the command in regards to the tree. Adam was not deceived in regards to the tree

because he remembered the information that God had given him and Eve was deceived in regards to the tree because she could not remember the information that Adam had given her.

Now let us look at the first scenario.

If Paul is speaking in reference to the words of Satan in 1 Timothy 2: 14, and he is saying that Adam was not deceived into thinking that he would not die and Eve was deceived into thinking that she would not die, then we could put Adam in the category of a complete idiot to knowingly eat from a fruit that would cause him death that very day. Remember, Adam had no knowledge that God was speaking of spiritual death, which would eventually lead to physical death. He thought that physical death would occur that very day. Furthermore, for this scenario to be true we would also have to believe that Adam knew that his wife, whom he loved, would also die that very day and that no benefit of any sort would be passed onto future generations since they did not have children. It is silly for anyone to argue for this scenario because no one in their right mind would take ten million dollars if they had to drink poison first because if they did they would not be able to benefit from the money. And if no one today would do this then it is clear that Adam would not have either. Furthermore, for this scenario to be true it would also mean that Eve was only deceived in reference to Satan's words because Paul would not make the case that Adam was not deceived and that Eve was deceived on unparallel parts. Therefore, it would mean that Eve knew that the tree in front of her was the tree of the KGE, yet she chose to give a non-specific answer when questioned, and did not point to the tree or give any indication that she knew that it was the forbidden tree.

Now let us look at the second scenario.

If Paul is speaking in reference to the command in regards to the tree, and he is saying that Adam was not deceived because he could remember the information that God had given him and Eve was deceived because she could not remember the information that Adam had given her, then we could put Eve in the category of a complete idiot. Indeed, for this scenario to be true we would have to believe that Eve, after previously being taken to the tree to view its fruit, could not recall which tree was the tree of the KGE. This is even more absurd when we consider the fact that there were only two trees in the middle of the garden (Genesis 2: 9). It would mean that Eve could not differentiate between the two trees in the middle of the garden that were clearly separated out from the rest of the trees. However, it would be a total stretch to think that Eve did not cement this one tree in her mind, as it was the only tree which would cause them to die.

So, two completely ridiculous scenarios are what we have to deal with if Adam gave Eve God's command correctly. The scenarios are so ridiculous, in fact, that it would be nearly impossible today to find any man or woman to replicate them. But men would rather think of this passage

in terms of sheer lunacy rather than acknowledge that it was Adam who gave Eve God's command incorrectly. Nevertheless, if we want to be honest with this passage and look at it in a logical fashion, the only plausible scenario is that Adam gave Eve misinformation about God's command which caused her to be deceived. Therefore, in 1 Timothy 2: 14, when Paul's says that Adam was not deceived and that Eve was deceived, he is not speaking in reference to Satan's words, but rather, he is speaking directly in relation to the information that each of them had about the command in regards to the tree. Clearly Adam was deceived in reference to Satan's words; else he would not have eaten, nor let his wife eat, from the fruit.

Now, since the evidence in Scripture clearly shows us that Adam gave Eve misinformation about God's command, we will now take a look at how this misinformation affected Eve and why she was not able to decipher the truth. Now, in beginning here, I would like to say that it is clear that the misinformation given Eve is the reason that Satan addressed her in the garden instead of Adam. For Satan knew that she had been given incorrect information about God's command and was easy prey, which brings me to another point. I do not believe that Satan was an actual snake, but that the term "serpent" was used of him metaphorically to describe that he lay-in-wait for his prey and was cunning and crafty in nature. For in Revelation 12: 7-9 we can also see that Satan is called a "dragon"; this too is used of him metaphorically. Furthermore, Scripture tells us that Satan walked the earth and stood upright. (Job 1: 7, Zechariah 3: 1) This would not be possible if he was an actual snake slithering around on his belly. Therefore, I believe that Satan looked human in appearance and appeared as a man to Adam and Eve in the garden. However, he had the characteristics of a serpent. Satan knew that Eve had been given misinformation about God's command and took full advantage of it. He lay-in-wait at the forbidden tree, and when Adam and Eve came near he went in for the strike to the injured prey, Eve, before Adam had time to make clear to her the tree that God had forbidden.

We can also see evidence by the questioning of Satan to Eve in Genesis 3: 1 that his misleading question would not have worked with Adam, the one who knew exactly which tree was forbidden by God. For if Satan had asked Adam the same question, Adam would have pointed to the tree of the KGE and told Satan that they could eat from any tree of the garden except this tree. For Adam's heart at this point had not yet turned to sin and he would have answered correctly. Eve, on the other hand, did not know which tree was the tree of the KGE, which is why she stated they could not eat or touch the fruit from "the tree which is in the middle of the garden". Furthermore, the fact that Eve did not defer to Adam at the questioning of Satan, or turn to him at any point for guidance, also shows us that Eve did not know that Adam knew which tree was the tree of the KGE. She did not know that God had taken him to the tree but thought that they were both to be on the look-out for the poisonous tree together. So the line of questioning that Satan used, along with the way that Eve responded to him, confirms that he went after Eve because she was easy prey.

Now, since it is clear that Satan went after Eve because of the misinformation given her about the tree, we must now ask the question, "How did Satan deceive Eve by his craftiness?" (2 Corinthians 11: 3) Well, it is commonly believed that Satan swayed Eve to eat the deadly fruit just by the mere words he stated to her in Genesis 3: 4-5. However, merely telling a person that the fruit will not kill them does not require much craftiness. Furthermore, no one in their right mind would be swayed to eat something that was thought to be deadly by mere words alone, especially those of a complete stranger. What they would need is for someone to eat the fruit first so that they would know unequivocally that the fruit was safe. However, in Eve's case, she only needed to see someone touch the fruit. This is why when the Bible says, in verse six, that Eve "saw" that the tree was good for food, I believe that this means she "physically saw" that the tree was good for food, not that she realized the tree was good for food. And the only way that she would have been able to physically see that the tree was good for food was if Satan touched its fruit and remained alive. So, I believe that this is how Satan deceived Eve by his craftiness. I believe that he picked the fruit off the tree in order to show her that she would not die from touching it which, by the way, also showed her that it would be safe to eat. For I believe that Eve had full trust and confidence in her husband and had no reason to doubt or distrust the information that he had given her. She did not know that Adam had added the words "or touch it" to God's command but fully believed that they were part of God's command. And when she "saw" that Satan touched the fruit and did not die, she then knew from the evidence before her that "this tree" was safe to eat from which, in turn, also showed her that the other tree in the middle of the garden, the tree of life, was the one that was forbidden by God. For Scripture tells us that it was only after Eve "saw" that the tree was good for food that she took from its fruit and ate.

Furthermore, I would like to say to those who may be skeptical of whether Satan actually touched the fruit, since the Bible does not specifically mention it, that if Satan did not touch the fruit then the addition of the words "or touch it" to God's command by Adam would have had no bearing what-so-ever on why Eve was deceived. They would have been a harmless and inconsequential addition. Therefore, only the subtractions to God's Word, the unnamed unspecified tree, would have been the problem. However, as I stated before, the only logical scenario to Paul's words in 1 Timothy 2: 14 is that Adam gave Eve misinformation about God's command which caused her to be deceived. Therefore, I believe that both Adam's taking away from God's Word and his addition to God's Word had an impact on why Eve was not able to decipher the truth. Furthermore, I would also like to say to those who are skeptical, that the very nature of Satan is evil. He opposes God, and any and all righteousness. Therefore, he wanted to ensnare Eve into eating the fruit because he wanted her to transgress God's command. So do you think then that Satan would not have taken full advantage of the misinformation that was given to Eve? Do you think that he would have let the opportunity to touch the fruit slip him by? Or do you think perhaps, that Satan missed out on the chance to

touch the fruit because he was just not quite smart enough to figure out how touching the fruit would affect her ability to attain the truth? Certainly Satan was smart enough which is why he took full advantage of the misinformation given to Eve. He wanted her to transgress God's command and did everything in his power to make that happen. Indeed, he touched the fruit.

Now another point that I would like to bring up is that I believe that Adam and Eve perceived the words of Satan differently, in Genesis 3: 4-5, due to the fact that they each had different information about the tree. Therefore, I would like to take a little time here to relate how I believe each of them perceived Satan's words, starting with Adam. Now we know that Adam knew unequivocally that the tree in front of them was the tree of the KGE. Therefore, when Satan uttered the words, ⁴"You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil," there is no mistaking how Adam perceived Satan's words. Adam had to have taken Satan's words to mean that God had lied to him, and had only told him that he would die, because He didn't want him to eat the fruit and therefore be like, or equal to, Him. In other words, Satan made it sound as if it was a jealousy thing on God's part. However, because Eve did not know which tree was the tree of the KGE, thinking in terms of a jealousy thing would not have crossed her mind. Therefore, when Satan uttered those words, I believe that Eve took his words to mean that God had given them this fruit because eating it would allow them to gain the needed wisdom to discern between good and evil, as He did. This seems to be the case because of what the Bible says in verse six. Verse six ^{NASB} says, ⁶"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 desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate..." This also would explain why Eve then gave to her husband who was with her. For she also would have wanted Adam to gain this wisdom from the fruit that she thought God wanted them to eat. So Adam ate knowing full well that the tree in front of them was the forbidden tree because he wanted to be equal to God. Eve, on the other hand, ate because she was deceived into thinking that the tree in front of them was not the forbidden tree, but rather, a good tree that God had put there to make them wise.

I would also like to say that the fact that Adam did not give Eve the name of the tree was by no means a small omission. Indeed, if Adam had given Eve the name of the tree she would have realized that this was the tree of the KGE due to the fact that Satan used the name of the tree in his reply back to her. Not only would his reply have clued her in to the fact that this was the tree, but it also would have caused her to distrust his words altogether because she would have thought that he was trying to poison them.

So it is clear that Adam's incorrect teaching had a profound impact on why Eve was not able to decipher the truth. However, I will say that Adam's incorrect teaching was not the only reason Eve was deceived. Another reason that Eve was deceived is because Adam exercised his own

jurisdiction apart from God. Indeed, it was actually Adam's incorrect teaching in conjunction with the fact that he exercised his own jurisdiction apart from God that caused Eve to fall into transgression. Let me explain.

Earlier I had stated that Adam initially remained silent when Eve replied to the questioning of Satan. This would have been natural since Eve replied with the same information that Adam had given her. However, when Adam found out that the reason he could not eat from the tree was because he would be like God, he continued to remain silent. This time, however, his silence was due to the fact that his heart had turned to sin, and as a result, his silence had now turned into disobedience. He purposefully remained silent and did not set the record straight with Eve because he wanted to eat the fruit. But what he should have done at this point was told Eve that he had added the words "or touch it" to God's command out of concern for her safety and he also should have told her that this was indeed the forbidden tree that they were standing at, including its name. But he did not because he now had a premeditative intent to disobey God and eat of the fruit. So, in reality, it was Adam's incorrect teaching in conjunction with the fact that he exercised his own jurisdiction apart from God that caused Eve to fall into transgression. Adam could have corrected the misinformation he had given her, but because of his pride in wanting to be like God, he chose not to.

So, the above is the scenario that I believe played out in the garden. Eve was not seeking in any way to eat from the fruit of the forbidden tree. It was because of the incorrect information that Adam had given to her about God's Word, and his refusal to correct it, that she was deceived by the craftiness of Satan. So it is clear that Eve unknowingly transgressed. Adam, on the other hand, sinned with full premeditation. He was not deceived by Satan because he had the truth of God's Word, and therefore knew which tree was forbidden. When God confronted them, Adam tried to blame the woman. But God in His infinite wisdom knew that the heart and mind of Adam were premeditative and tied to sin. God knew that Adam's sin preceded Eve's because he had eaten the fruit in his heart before Eve physically ate of the fruit. And indeed, He correctly charged Adam as the one who brought sin into the world. So it is vital for us to understand that sin entered into the world because of Adam's premeditative intent to disobey God. It was Adam's premeditative intent that caused "the Fall" from God's grace. It is also vital for us to understand that Adam had brought sin into the world before Eve ever took a bite of the fruit and that it was his disobedience that caused her to become a sinner. We must understand that sin did not enter into the world through Eve. Nor did sin enter into the world through Adam and Eve. Indeed, it was through "one" man that sin entered into the world. Indeed, it was Adam who sinned first. This is what Scripture clearly teaches.

Now the reason why it is so important for us to understand that Adam sinned first is because many mistranslations of Scripture have come from the teaching and belief that Eve sinned first.

Therefore, it is vital for us to lay the correct foundation on this subject so that we can expose the lies that have been placed in Scripture. Now, the first mistranslation of Scripture that is based on the claim that Eve sinned first is Genesis 3: 16. In Genesis 3: 16, we can see the supposed punishment to Eve by God. However, is this a punishment to Eve or is it a warning to Eve of what is to come? It is actually a warning to Eve of what is to come, but men have mistranslated this verse so that it reads as a punishment. For if this is a punishment to Eve set forth by God then men can justify their claim that the man is to rule over his wife as part of her punishment for bringing sin into the world. For it would not make sense that Adam would get to rule over his wife if he was the one who brought sin into the world. Hence, by this mistranslation they can show that Eve sinned first and that because of it the husband is to rule over his wife. However, because we do know from clear Scripture that sin entered into the world through Adam, we can be certain by the character of God that He would not reward Adam for bringing sin into the world by authorizing him to rule over his wife, and that the current translation is a misfit all around. ^[2]

Now the question is, "How did verse sixteen get so mistranslated?" This question is answered for us by a woman named Katharine C. Bushnell. In her book, "God's Word to Women", she explains in great detail the error with which this verse is translated. I will only briefly summarize her findings because her work is very in depth, but I encourage you to read her book for yourselves so that you can see in greater detail why this verse is mistranslated. It is also important to know that Ms. Bushnell was a scholar in both the Hebrew and Greek languages. She went home to be with the Lord in 1946.

Now according to Katharine Bushnell, the original Hebrew had totally different looking letters than the Hebrew of today. In addition, the original Hebrew had only consonants; it did not have vowels. Furthermore, there was no separation between words or verses, nor was there any distinction between small and capital letters, nor was there punctuation. Now the reason that the original Hebrew started to be changed or updated was because it was becoming a dead language due to the Babylonian captivity. So in order to make the original Hebrew easier for the common people to read, the Jewish scribes added a system of vowel-letters and vowel-signs to the original Hebrew. However, if the vowel-letters or vowels-signs were not placed correctly then a sentence could be easily manipulated to read as something else. With this in mind and due to the fact that the given rendering of Genesis 3: 16 is a misfit with the rest of the text and with Scripture as a whole, Ms. Bushnell looked at the Hebrew in its original form, without the vowel-letters and vowel-signs, to determine if what was translated was correct. And she believes by her study of the original Hebrew that the given translation is incorrect and that the actual translation is quite different. It is also important to note that the addition of vowel-letters and vowel-signs were most likely made by Jewish scribes who held women in

utter contempt. We must remember that the original Scriptures were inspired by God. The additions and changes to God's Word by the Jewish scribes were not inspired by God.

Furthermore, in addition to the manipulations of the vowel-letters and vowel-signs, Ms. Bushnell also found mistranslations that have occurred to Genesis 3: 16 that are of more recent invention. She found that some words had mysteriously taken on a different meaning than they had in the original Hebrew. For example, Ms. Bushnell has done extensive research to find out the true meaning of the Hebrew word "teshuqa". "Teshuqa" is rendered as "desire" in the NASB and in most modern translations. But as Ms. Bushnell discovered, the true meaning of "teshuqa" is "turning" or "will turn". And she discovered this by gathering all of the early translations of Scripture such as the Septuagint Greek, Syriac Peshitto, Samaritan, Old Latin, Sahidic, Bohairic, Aethiopic, and Arabic, to see how this word was rendered. And all of the early translations of Scripture, which were not made under rabbinical influence, render the word "teshuqa" as "turning" or "will turn" in Genesis 3: 16 with the single exception of the Arabic which renders the word "teshuqa" as "direction".

(Note: The word "teshuqa" is found a total of three times in the Old Testament, with the other two verses being Genesis 4: 7 and Song of Solomon 7: 10. Ms. Bushnell found that the word "teshuqa" was rendered as "turning" or "will turn" in these verses as well, with the exception of the Arabic which renders the word "teshuqa" as "moderation" in Genesis 4: 7, and the Samaritan which renders the word "teshuqa" as "lacking" in Song of Solomon 7: 10. Also, two renderings are unknown.)

So with the manipulations and mistranslations of the scribes, coupled with the more recent mistranslations of men, the current translation of Genesis 3: 16 that we have in our Bibles today is nothing more than a falsification of God's inerrant Word. Therefore, according to Katharine Bushnell, the following is the correct translation of Genesis 3: 16:

¹⁶"To the woman He said, 'A snare has increased your sorrow and your sighing. In sorrow you will bring forth children. You are turning away to your husband, and he will rule over you.'"

Now that we have the correct rendering of Genesis 3: 16, I would like to comment on each part. First, I would like to point out that God is not pronouncing a curse upon Eve. Rather, God is informing Eve that a snare has increased her sorrow and her sighing. And it is obvious that the snare He is speaking of is Satan. It is also important to note that the phrase "sorrow and sighing" is used in Isaiah 35: 10 and Isaiah 51: 11. In chapters 35 & 51, Isaiah writes that when God comes with vengeance to repay those who did evil, the ransomed of the LORD will find "gladness and joy"; their "sorrow and sighing" will flee away. So again, in the first sentence, God is informing Eve that Satan has increased her sorrow and her sighing, which started with

his trickery in getting her to eat from the tree. Moving along, we can also see that God is further informing Eve that these sorrows would continue throughout her life in two main ways. First, God warns Eve that she will now bring forth children in sorrow. What was to be a mutually agreed upon and joyful event would now be one filled with rape, physical pain, complications in childbirth, and the like. And secondly, God warns Eve that when she turns to her husband he will now rule over her. For God knew that Satan would also influence Adam to rule over his wife. The one flesh relationship that God had designed would be replaced with a hierarchal relationship; a relationship born out of evil.

Furthermore, I would like to say that men have placed a most abhorrent lie into our Bibles by switching Satan into God. By this lie, Scripture shows God pronouncing direct physical punishment on Eve via pain in childbirth, verses remote physical punishment on Adam via the earth being cursed. It also shows us that God is decreeing that the husband is to rule over his wife. As a result, one can only conclude that it was Eve who brought sin into the world. Therefore, it is this lie mixed in with the truth of God's Word (that sin entered into the world through Adam) that has caused a false doctrine to be created – of Eve being the first to sin but of Adam only incurring the blame because he was the “head”. Indeed, this lie has laid a false foundation upon which many more mistranslations of Scripture have been built.

Now that we have seen that it is actually Satan who brings destruction upon Eve, we must now ask, “Why does Satan single Eve out for harm? Why is he not also seen as bringing evil upon Adam?” The reason that Satan singles Eve out for harm is because Satan has a vendetta against Eve. He wants retaliation against her. But why would Satan have a vendetta against Eve? Well, if we read Scripture we will find that Adam did not name Satan as the cause of his transgression. He completely sheltered Satan. (Genesis 3: 12) Eve, on the other hand, named Satan as the one who deceived her. She called him to account before the righteous Judge. (Genesis 3: 13) And as a result of her accusation of him, Satan was given a sentence by the righteous Judge. (Genesis 3: 14)

Now if we study the judgment that God gives to Satan we can see that God cursed him more than all the cattle and all the wild animals because he deceived Eve. In essence, God was making him lower than animals. Now this part of Satan's punishment is to be taken literally. Satan was cursed more than all the cattle and all the wild animals because he deceived the woman. However, I would also like to point out that the next part of Satan's punishment is metaphoric in nature. For when God tells Satan ¹⁴“...on your belly you will go and dust you will eat all the days of your life...” we know that this cannot be taken literally because Satan is seen to walk the earth. (Job 1: 7, 2: 2) Satan is also seen standing at the right hand of Joshua in order to accuse him. (Zec 3: 1) Therefore, I believe that God uses metaphor here so that Satan can picture just exactly how low he is. And the picture is he will be on his belly. Therefore, he will

be prone, or prostrate, with his face to the ground. And his face will be so low to the ground that he will be eating dust. Furthermore, he will be this way forever—all the days of his life. So because Eve called Satan to account before God, Satan was forever cursed and made low by God. This again, is why he has a vendetta against her. For Satan hates his lowly place. He wants to be supreme over all creation; not lower than it. And since he can't be supreme, he wants to get back at her. As a result, he would aim his blows to her as a woman and a mother. He also would influence Adam to rule over her. Since he was made lower than all life forms because of her, he wanted to influence Adam to subjugate her in return. He wanted to return like for like.

Furthermore, I would like to say that this vendetta has also been carried out upon Eve's daughters. This is because women are a constant reminder to Satan that he has forever been made lower than all life forms because of Eve, a woman. So the woman being a reminder is why he has throughout the centuries inflicted his blows on women in childbearing. It is also why he has influenced men to rule over women and husbands to rule over their wives. He is still seeking retaliation against her. His hatred of her has never waned. And whenever we as women are being attacked by Satan in this way, we can know that it is because of a righteous decision (a decision to turn in the perpetrator) that a godly woman made thousands of years before.

Now I would like to comment further on the fact that the Bible shows Eve to be a godly woman and that it does not show the same for Adam. For if we read further God's words to Satan we can see that after God cursed Satan because he deceived Eve, God then also put enmity between Satan and the woman and between his seed and her seed. (Genesis 3: 15) Now it is important to understand here that Satan did not have any biological children. Therefore, his seed is clearly representative of those who are unrighteous. Eve's seed, by contrast, is representative of those who are righteous.^[3] So, for God to contrast Eve and her seed from Satan and his seed clearly shows us that God knew that Eve had a repentant heart and that she chose to stand on the side of righteousness. For if we revisit the way that Eve responded to God after she and Adam ate, we can again see that Eve rightly named Satan as the reason as to why she ate. By her accusation of Satan, she separated herself from him and aligned herself to the side of God.^[4] Adam, on the other hand, completely sheltered Satan and named Eve (whom he had given misinformation to) as the direct cause, and God (who is righteous) as the remote cause, as to why he ate. Adam showed no repentance before God and, as a result, he aligned himself to the side of Satan.^[5] So because Eve's response showed that she desired to be separated from Satan, God put enmity between them in order to show that they would not be allies in any way.^[6] Furthermore, if we keep reading Genesis 3: 15, we will find that God then pronounces that [one of] her seed, the righteous Messiah, will one day conquer Satan.

Therefore, as a result of Genesis 3: 15, we can see that Eve was constituted the progenitor of Jesus Christ, and of all believers, because of her repentance and faithfulness to God. ^[7]

So, we have seen thus far that Eve called Satan to account before God; that God cursed Satan more than all the wild animals because he deceived Eve; and that God warned Eve that Satan would carry out his vengeance against her. Now I would like to point out that in Genesis 3: 17-19, God curses the earth because of Adam and tells him that he will endure certain sorrows because of it. ^[8] For God had specifically told Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and he willfully chose to disobey Him. Now the reason that I point this out is because it is important to understand that God warns Eve that she will endure certain “sorrows” due to the revengefulness of Satan; however, God warns Adam that he will endure certain “sorrows” due to his own sin, since the earth is cursed because of him. He has no one to blame but himself. I would also like to add that women will not only feel the effects of the retaliation of Satan, but they also will feel the effects of the earth being cursed, as do men, for the very reason that they live upon the earth. In essence, women feel the effects of the retaliation of Satan due to the righteous decision of Eve to call Satan to account and women feel the effects of the earth being cursed due to the willful disobedience of Adam toward God.

Furthermore, I would like to say one more thing in relation to the words God states to Adam in verse seventeen, the words ¹⁷“...Because you have listened to the voice of your wife...” And that is, many have taken these words by God to mean that this shows that Eve persuaded Adam to eat the fruit and that she was at fault. However, it certainly does not mean this. For if we remember, Adam blamed Eve when he was confronted by God as to why he ate. Therefore, God states these words because He is responding back to Adam in a way that both includes and addresses the excuse that Adam gave Him. Indeed, we can see from God’s reply to Adam that God is telling Adam that his excuse isn’t valid because He had directly told him not to eat from the tree of the KGE.

Adam’s excuse: ¹²...“The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” (Genesis 3: 12 ^{NASB})

God’s reply: ¹⁷...“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you...” (Genesis 3: 17 ^{NASB})

So Eve certainly distinguished herself from Adam that day. She showed herself to be faithful before God, while Adam did not. And her faithfulness, I believe, is the reason for what we see next, in Genesis 3: 20. For in Genesis 3: 20 we can see that Adam called his wife’s name Eve because she was the mother of all the living. And I believe that Adam called his wife’s name Eve because God gave her the honorable name of Eve. For the Bible states in Genesis 5: 2, that

God named both the man and the woman “adam” (rendered as “Man” in the NASB) in the day when they were created. But on this day the woman became known as Eve. She distinguished herself from Adam because of her repentance, faithfulness, and trust in God, and God credited it to her as righteousness. As a result, she was the first person to gain eternal life after the fall. And this is why God renamed her Eve. She was now the mother of all the [spiritually] living.^[9]

Now some have made the claim that Adam was the one who named Eve. However, I do not believe this claim to be true because first of all, if Adam gave her the name of Eve then he would have been taking it upon himself to rename what God had already named. (Genesis 5: 2) Secondly, Adam was an unrepentant unbeliever. Therefore, I do not believe that he would have had the wherewithal, the wisdom, or the knowledge base to give Eve such a name since her name had special meaning. Nor do I believe that God gave him divine revelation since he was an unbeliever. And thirdly, the third chapter of Genesis seems to be written in the order of occurrence. And immediately after Adam called his wife’s name Eve, we are told from Scripture that God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and that He sent Adam out of the garden. Now these two events would have most likely occurred very soon after the fall. Therefore, they are indicative that Eve was renamed on the same day of the fall, soon after she was told that the Messiah would be from her seed. Furthermore, God is the One who had distinguished “Eve and her seed” from “Satan and his seed”, not Adam. Thus, it was God who established her as the progenitor of all believers which would correspond to her being the “mother of all the living”.^[10] So again, I believe that Adam called his wife’s name Eve because that was the name God had given to her because of her repentance, faithfulness, and trust in Him.

Eve and her seed = mother of all the living

Furthermore, I would like to say that Eve was not sent out of the garden as is routinely taught; for the Bible is abundantly clear that only the man was sent out (Genesis 3: 22-24); the one who was taken from the ground.^[11] (Genesis 3: 23) And he was sent out for the reason that God did not want him to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever. (Genesis 3: 22-24) Now it should be a little obvious here, why God did not want Adam to reach out his hand and eat from the tree of life. He was an unrepentant unbeliever. And just as the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” meant “spiritual death”, so also the “tree of life” meant “spiritual life”. Therefore, God did not want him to eat of the fruit because, now that sin was in the world, spiritual life could only come from repentance before God and believing in the One to come that God spoke of in verse fifteen.^[12] Now it is obvious that the mother of all the living, Eve, was not sent out of the garden because she had right to the tree of life; for she had already gained eternal life because of her repentance and faithfulness to God and her belief in the coming One.^[13] Now the reason that most people have assumed that Eve

was sent out of the garden is because she is seen in the next verse (Genesis 4: 1) as having [sexual] relations with Adam. But she had relations with Adam because she “turned” to be with him as God predicted she would. (Genesis 3: 16) Or as the Arabic translation puts it, she went in the “direction” of her husband.^[14] Therefore, it is clear that Eve did not harbor any ill will against her husband for the incorrect information he had given her. She forgave him and voluntarily “turned” to be with him when he was sent out of the garden by God.

Now, since we are on the topic of the fact that Eve turned to be with her husband, meaning she followed Adam out of the garden, I would like to bring up one thing in relation to Katharine Bushnell’s translation of Genesis 3: 16. As one can see, Ms. Bushnell translated the word “teshuqa” as “turning away” in Genesis 3: 16 rather than as “turning”. But the reason Ms. Bushnell has done so is because the Septuagint Greek, the translation that was deemed to be most accurate of the early renderings, rendered the word “teshuqa” as “apostrophe” in both Genesis 3: 16 and Genesis 4: 7, and as “epistrophe” in Song of Solomon 7: 10. The Greek word “apostrophe” means “turning away” while the Greek word “epistrophe” means “turning to”. Therefore, because the Septuagint Greek translated the word “teshuqa” as “turning away” in Genesis 3: 16, Ms. Bushnell did as well, and stated that the teaching, then, is that God was speaking warningly to Eve at this time (not to leave the garden) because He was telling her that she was inclining to turn away from Himself to her husband, and that if she did so her husband would rule over her. Ms. Bushnell also stated that because Eve did follow Adam out of the garden, she was the first to forsake her heavenly kindred for her husband by reversing God’s marriage law (Genesis 2: 24). She then goes on to say that if Eve had remained steadfast with God, Adam might, through the double influence of God and Eve, have returned (in repentance) to God in the garden. I, however, disagree with this analogy and believe that we are seeing a poor, and possibly biased (to show disobedience on Eve’s part), translation of the Septuagint here. Indeed, if God was warning Eve not to leave the garden because He wanted her to be separated from her husband until he repented, why would He not also say the same to believers in 1 Corinthians 7: 12-16? Indeed, it is clear from Scripture that God wants believers to stay with their unbelieving spouse (if the unbelieving spouse consents to live with them, which Adam did because he had relations with her) for the reason that they may save them. For God does not tell believers to stay away from difficult situations, but sends them out into the darkened world so that they can be a witness to others. Furthermore, Adam could have turned to God in repentance from anywhere outside the garden and God would have listened. Therefore, it was not his location that was important, but his heart. Thus, I believe that Eve left the garden in order to be steadfast with God. For Eve knew that, although Adam was an unbeliever, it was still God’s will that they be together as husband and wife so that she could be a godly influence on him. And we know from Scripture that Eve was a godly influence on Adam because in Genesis 4: 1 and Genesis 4: 25 Eve is seen giving God the glory (undoubtedly in front of Adam) for the children He had blessed her with. So, because I believe that God was not

referring to Eve turning away from Him in disobedience, and was merely referring to her following Adam out of the garden, I would simply translate the last sentence of Genesis 3: 16 as, "You will turn to your husband, and he will rule over you."

(Note: Even though the Septuagint Greek is considered to be the most accurate of the early renderings, it is not without its mistranslations. As Ms. Bushnell pointed out, the technical term used in Exodus 38: 8 and 1 Samuel 2: 22 is "serving women". However, the Septuagint Greek translators altered this term to "fasting women" in Exodus 38: 8 and dropped it entirely in 1 Samuel 2: 22 to erase any trace that woman originally had her place in the regular Tabernacle services, either as priestess or Levite.)

Now the question remains, did Adam ever repent? The Bible does not say. However, I believe a possible indication that Adam repented was the fact that Adam was in agreement with Eve in giving their newborn son the name of Seth (Genesis 4: 25, 5: 3). For I believe that after Cain killed Abel, a horrific family tragedy, Adam realized that he was an ungodly influence on his son Cain and that he needed to turn his life over to God.

In ending this section I would like to say that through the corruption of Genesis 3: 16, men have painted a picture of Eve that is far from the truth. Not only have they portrayed her as an ungodly woman and the one who caused "the Fall", but they have also portrayed her as causing her husband to sin. But Eve was indeed a very godly woman. And in my opinion, she is one of the godliest examples of women that we have in all of Scripture. For on that day many years ago, Eve was not seeking in any way to eat from the fruit of the forbidden tree. She ate only because she had misinformation about God's Word and was deceived. And when she was confronted by God, she did not return the blame to her husband, or bring forth the blame to God, but immediately repented before God and called Satan to account. By her repentance she aligned herself to the side of God so that God distinguished her and her seed from the evil one and his seed. And she held dear in her heart the words God declared about the One who was to come who would bruise Satan's head. Furthermore, because Eve chose to stand on the side of righteousness, God bestowed upon her great honor. He renamed her Eve and pronounced her the mother of all the living. Indeed, it was Eve who, by God, was constituted the progenitor of Jesus Christ, and of all believers, because of her repentance and faithfulness to God. Moreover, Eve did not harbor any ill will or bitterness towards her husband for the misinformation that he had given her or for his undeserved blame of her. But instead, she forgave him and turned to be with him, all the while knowing that their relationship would be different. And finally, Eve gave God the glory for the children He had blessed her with. Truly, she placed her faith and trust in Him all the days of her life.

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