

## The Origin of Christmas

Genesis 3; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-28-2021

### Origins

*What is the origin of Christmas?*

*2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century?* If we are talking about the origin of the celebration of Christmas in terms of when anyone began to celebrate Christmas in some way, that is one question.

*16<sup>th</sup> century?* If we are talking about the origin of our current cultural celebration of Christmas with all the familiar traditions, that is another question.

*From the foundation of the world?* And if we are talking about the origin of the true meaning of Christmas, namely, the incarnation, then that is another question altogether.

### The Fall of Mankind into Sin (1-6)

Some see this as a ‘myth’ of sorts but it has all the marks of historical narrative, even if the details are surprising and extraordinary. - 2 Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 3:1-6

Satan picked the best ‘tool.’ (*more* crafty – 1)

Was a talking animal not a shock to Eve? (the *serpent said* to the woman – 1)

Satan putting God in the worst light possible! (not eat from *any* tree – 1)

Was Eve adding to God’s Word? (or *touch it* – 3)

Satan calls God a liar (you surely will *not* die – 4)

Satan accuses God of keeping something good from them (you will be *like God* – 5) – John 8:44; Job 1:5, 11; 2:5, 9

Eve ate first, although Adam appears to be there with her (presumably after the serpent has left).

Eve evaluated the tree and its fruit (in light of what Satan said) and decided that disobedience was the best thing to do (when the woman *saw* – 6)

Eve ate first and then Adam had a decision to make: to eat or not to eat? Why did he eat?

Was he choosing Eve over God? (*she gave* also to her husband with her – 6)

The Bible says Eve was ‘deceived,’ but Adam disobeyed with his eyes wide open! He evidently knew full well what he was doing.

Adam and Eve had every advantage and still chose to follow the lead of an inferior animal!

*What is the nature of sin?* Sin is *disobedience* (Hebrews 4:6) to *God’s Word* (1 John 3:4) that is rooted in *unbelief* (Hebrews 3:19) in the goodness of God (hard thoughts) and fueled by the *idolatry* (Romans 1:25) of the worship of the creation rather than the Creator (false hopes)!

## **The Consequences of the Fall on All of Creation (7-24)**

Their eyes were opened (7)  
They knew they were naked (7)  
They tried to cover their nakedness (7)  
They hid themselves (8)  
They were afraid of God for the first time (10)  
Adam blames God by blaming Eve (12)  
Eve blames the serpent (13) – Deuteronomy 24:16; Romans 3:19-20  
The serpent is cursed above all animals (14)  
The serpent must crawl on his belly (14)  
The serpent will eat dust (14)  
The woman will have much pain in childbirth (16)  
The woman will desire her husband: To control him! (16) – Genesis 4:7  
The woman will be ruled by her husband: often abused by him! (16) – Leviticus 25:43; Romans 1:24, 26, 28  
The ground was cursed because of Adam (17)  
Adam will toil hard to make a living (17-19)  
Adam will eventually die (19)  
Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden (23-24)

## **The Promise that Rises Out of the Ashes (15)**

The serpent and the woman will be at odds (15)  
The serpent and the woman's seed will be at odds (15)  
The serpent's head will be crushed (15)  
Adam expressed his faith in God's promise through his naming of Eve as 'life' and the mother of all the living.  
God making Adam and Eve clothing through killing animals is a foreshadowing of the sacrificial system and ultimately the cross (21)

## **Three Trees**

*The tree of the knowledge of good and evil* = representing the desire to know both good and evil and then to determine one's own right and wrong and thus, be like 'God.'  
*The tree of life* = representing the gracious gift of eternal life  
*The tree of bruising* = (alluded to) that would bruise the heel of the woman's seed and crush the serpent's head = representing the cross of Christ

Christmas is the celebration of the 'seed of the woman' or the virgin birth of Christ which was necessary for the provision of the cross to crush the serpent and open the way back to the tree of life! – Matthew 1:20-23; Revelation 13:8 (NKJV)