

## Adam and Eve Disobey God

God gave Adam and Eve a garden called Eden. Every kind of beautiful tree and plant grew in this garden and there was delicious fruit on the trees. There were rivers in Eden, cool and clear, and fish swam in these rivers. Birds flew in the sky, and animals lived in peace, for they had enough grass and fruit for food. Nobody was afraid.

Adam and Eve were very happy in their garden. Adam took care of it and Eve helped him. Everything that grew was good, and all the animals were obedient and kind. God often talked to Adam and Eve, and He was with them in the garden. They were free to do anything they wanted and could eat of everything that grew in their garden, except the fruit from one tree.

This tree stood in the middle of the Garden of Eden. It was called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This was a special tree. God told Adam and Eve that they must never eat any fruit from this tree. This was the only thing that they must never do. As long as they obeyed God, they could live in Eden and be happy.

Now, when God made heaven, He also made angels -thousands and thousands of good spirits. The angels loved God, they were His obedient and good messengers and servants. But one of the angels became proud and wanted to be like God. Some angels listened to him and rose against God. The good angels fought them and made them leave heaven. The bad angel became the Spirit of Evil, and he always tried to undo the work of God.

The Spirit of Evil entered into the serpent, who was more cunning than any other beast. He came to Eve one day and said: "Is it true that you are not allowed to eat certain fruit in the garden?" Eve answered: "We can eat of any fruit except from this one tree: the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

The serpent then said: "If you eat from this tree, you yourselves will become like God." Eve looked at the tree. The fruit looked so beautiful and so good to eat. She wanted to taste it very badly. She stretched out her hand and plucked a fruit. She ate of the fruit and then gave it to Adam, who also ate of it.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Immediately everything became different for them. Everything changed. They became afraid. The animals in the garden also became afraid. Adam and Eve felt ashamed of themselves. They thought that it was because they had no clothes on, so out of leaves they made clothes for themselves.

Then they heard the voice of God in the garden and they hid themselves. God called to Adam: "Where are you?" Adam replied: "I heard You, but I hid myself because I have no clothes."

Then God asked, "Who told you that you should be ashamed to have no clothes? Did you eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?" Adam answered:

"The wife You gave me offered the fruit to me and I ate it." Eve said: "The serpent told me that it was good, so I ate of it."

Adam and Eve did not ask God's forgiveness. They did not say they were sorry, but they tried to pass their fault from one to another.

Adam and Eve's life in the beautiful garden was over. They had to leave it and go out into the world and work. From that time on, an angel with a fiery sword guarded the entrance of the garden which was called Paradise.

Adam had to work very hard out in the world to make a living from the earth where weeds and thistles grew as well as crops. Because he had to work so hard, the sweat would often pour down his face.

Eve came to know what it was to be unhappy, to be tired, and to be sick. The children of Adam and Eve and the children of their children and all the people that were born after them had to live this way.

But even as God closed the garden to Adam and Eve, He made them a promise. He promised that one day a Savior would be born who would conquer all evil and would again open the doors to "Paradise." We now know that this Savior was Jesus Christ.