

## The Fall of Man

### 2. Various Interpretations Of The Narrative Of The Fall of Man

“Some look upon the whole narrative as being an allegory. Adam is the rational part of man; Eve, the sensual; the serpent, external excitements to evil. But the simplicity and artlessness of the narrative militates against this view.

Others, again, designate the narrative as being a myth. It is regarded as a truth invested in poetic form; something made up from the folklore of the times. But why should these few verses be snatched out of the chapter in which they are found and be called mythical, while the remaining verses are indisputably literal?

Then there is the literal interpretation, which takes the account as it reads, in its perfectly natural sense, just as in the case of the other parts of the same chapter. There is no intimation in the account itself that it is not to be regarded as literal history. It certainly is part of a historical book. The geographical locations in connection with the story are historic. The curse upon the man, upon the woman, and upon the ground are certainly literal. It is a fact that death is in the world as the wages of sin. Unquestionably Christ, and the other Scripture writers regard the event as historical and literal: cf. Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-15; 1 Cor. 15:56.”

Matt. 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female.

Mark 10:6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

2 Cor. 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

1 Tim. 2:13-15 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

1 Cor. 15:56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

(Excerpt from The Great Doctrines of the Bible by William Evans, Chicago: Moody Press, 1949 [1912], 130)