

## **EPISODE NO. 5**

### **Gen. 3:1-24**

#### **Paradise Lost**

1 Now the snake was the most clever, wild creature that God, the One Who Is Always Present, had made. The snake asked the woman, “Did God actually say to you that you two could NOT eat from any tree in the garden!?”

2 The woman answered the snake, “Yes. We are allowed to eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, 3 but not from a particular tree near the center of the garden. God told us not to eat any fruit from that tree — we cannot even touch it. If we do, we will die!”

4 The snake said to the woman, “That’s not true! You will not die! 5 Why? Because God knows that whenever you two do eat some of it, then your eyes will be opened. Then you will become like God, knowing the difference between right and wrong!”

6 The woman could see that the tree was good for food, that it was beautiful to look at, and that it could make her wise. So, she took some of its fruit and ate it. Then she also gave some to her husband who was with her. He ate it, too. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened; they realized that they were naked. So, they sewed together the leaves of a fig tree to make coverings for themselves.

8 That evening, when the man and his wife heard the sound of God, the One Who Is Always Present, walking in the garden, they tried to hide themselves among the trees of the garden, away from the presence of the Always-Present God. 9 But God, the Always-Present One, called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

10 The man answered, “I heard You walking in the garden, but, because I was naked, I was afraid and hid myself.”

11 The Always-Present One asked, “Who informed you that you were naked? Did you eat some of the fruit which I commanded you not to eat?”

12 The man answered, “It was the woman whom You put here with me — SHE gave it to me from the tree. So I ate!”

13 The Always-Present One, God, asked the woman, “What is this you have done?”

She answered, “The snake tricked me. So I ate!”

## **God Judged Them**

14 Then the Always-Present One, God, said to the snake, “Because you have done this thing, you are banished from all livestock and all wild animals. From now on, you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dirt as long as you live. 15 I will put hostility between you and the woman, between your children and her child. Although her child will crush your head, you will bite his heel.”

16 Then God said to the woman, “I will surely increase your problems in having children. In great pain, you will give birth to babies. Nevertheless, you will still yearn for your husband, and he will be in charge over you.”

17 And God said to Adam, “Because you listened to your wife and you ate some of the fruit which I commanded you NOT to eat, the ground is now condemned. It’s your fault! As long as you live, you will have to work hard to make it produce enough food for you. 18 Instead, it will sprout stickers and thorns for you. And, you’ll have to eat wild plants. 19 The food which you do eat will only come to you through hard work until you go back to the earth from which you came, because you were taken from the ground. You are dirt, and you will return to the dirt!”

20 The man named his wife “Eve,” because she was to become the mother of every human being.

21 Then the Always-Present One, God, made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife. And He dressed them.

## **Adam and Eve Were Ejected from the Beautiful Garden**

22 After this, the Always-Present One, God, said, “Look, the man has become like one of Us; the man now knows the difference between right and wrong. He must no longer be permitted to reach out his hand and pick fruit from the Tree of Life, so that he could eat and continue to live forever!” 23 So, God, the Always-Present One, sent him away from the garden of Eden to plow the ground from which he had been taken. 24 And, God drove out the man and his wife. On the east side of the garden of Eden, God posted heavenly guards and a flaming, lashing sword to protect the pathway to the Tree of Life.