

Chapter Two – Adam and Eve and their First Sons

God gave freedom to Adam to pick the fruit of any tree in the garden except the tree which gave knowledge of what is good and what is evil.

“You will die if you eat from it,” God told Adam.

Adam and Eve were simple and innocent. They were not embarrassed even though they were naked. They lived happily in the garden until the day the cunning snake tempted Eve to try the forbidden fruit. Eve refused at first as she remembered that eating the forbidden fruit would bring death. However the snake lied to her and said, “You will certainly not die but will be like God who knows everything.”

Eve wanted to become wise so she ate the fruit. She even gave some to her husband. He also ate it. At once, they realized that they were naked. They covered themselves with leaves. They even hid themselves from God because they felt so ashamed of their nakedness. God asked Adam why he had eaten the forbidden fruit and he blamed Eve for talking him into it. Then God turned to Eve and asked her the same question and she blamed the cunning snake for tricking her.

Now Adam and Eve possessed the knowledge of what is good and what is evil. They did not need to live in the garden under the protection of God. The Lord God therefore sent them out of the garden and, from then on, they would have to work hard to produce their own food and bear different kinds of pain and suffering in the world.

Adam and Eve had two sons at first - one was Cain who became a farmer, and the other was Abel who became a shepherd. One day they both brought an offering for God. Cain did not choose the best fruits in his garden but Abel chose the best lamb of his flock, so that God was pleased with Abel’s offering but not with Cain’s. Cain became very angry. God knew about Cain’s anger and jealousy and warned him to control his emotions or else they could lead him to serious sin. Cain turned a blind eye to God’s warning and planned to punish his brother.

One day he said to Abel, “Come, let’s go for a walk,” and Abel agreed. When they were far out in the fields, Cain turned on his brother and killed him.

Later, God asked Cain where his brother was. “I don’t know. Am I supposed to take care of my brother?” he answered.

God condemned Cain for his terrible deed. He condemned him to become a restless wanderer on the earth. Cain had lost the friendship of God and went to live in a land located to the east of Eden. God, however, was good enough to put a mark on Cain to warn other people not to kill him. Later, he got married and built a city called Enoch which was named after his son.



Cain kills Abel

Questions:

1. The cunning snake tempted Eve to disobey God's order. Give an example of how people in our society today can act like the cunning snake.
2. In what ways might young people abuse their freedom? Give examples to explain.
3. What were the jobs of the first sons of Adam and Eve?
4. Why was God more pleased with Abel's offering than with Cain's?
5. Why did Cain kill his brother?
6. In your daily life, why is it important to control your emotions?
7. Write a prayer or a poem about 'Temptation'.