

If Adam wasn't there, it doesn't make him look any better because he still disobeyed — without any pressure from the serpent.

How did Adam and Eve realize they were naked? (3:7)

Loss of innocence leads to shame and feeling exposed. Every human being has, in some way, carried a sense of shame as a result of Adam and Eve's sin.

Did God literally and visibly walk in the garden? (3:8)

Perhaps not, because God is spirit. The sound of the LORD God ... walking in the garden is a way of describing the infinite God in human terms. In other words, God's presence was so real that it was as if they heard God's footsteps. However, God may have appeared to them as a theophany — a temporary manifestation or appearance of God.

and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly

Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text does not have "Let's go out to the field." ¹⁵ Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew *Very well* ¹⁶ *Nod*

and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^a and hers;
he will crush^b your head,
and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will make your pains in childbearing
very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth
to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."

¹⁷To Adam he said, "Because you listened
to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about
which I commanded you, "You must not eat
from it,"

"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food
from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for
you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."

²⁰Adam^c named his wife Eve,^d because she
would become the mother of all the living.

²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for
Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²²And
the LORD God said, "The man has now become
like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must
not be allowed to reach out his hand and take
also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."
²³So the LORD God banished him from
the Garden of Eden to work the ground from
which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove
the man out, he placed on the east side^e of
the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming
sword flashing back and forth to guard the
way to the tree of life.

Means wandering (see verses 12 and 14). ²² Or
who instructed all who work in ²⁵ Seth probably

LINK (3:15) He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel
This is an early hint of God's plan of salvation through the cross (Ro 16:20; Rev 12:9). See the article *How do I know Satan won't win in the end?* (Ge 3:15; below).

What do birth pains have to do with sin? (3:16)

Perhaps nothing; the conception and birth of children would remain a blessing from God (1:26). The emphasis here may be on the sorrow of raising children in a sin-tainted world rather than on the pain of childbearing itself.

How is a woman's desire for her husband a curse? (3:16)

Note that God did not curse the man and woman; he spelled out what would happen because death had entered the world through sin. Some see this part of the verse as a warning to women that they will be tempted to allow their desire for sexual intimacy to result in men taking advantage of them. Others see it as an explanation for a woman's struggle for control over her husband. The woman's sexual desire for her husband, as well as her desire to rule over him, would result in trouble and heartache rather than joy and blessing.

BIG IDEA 6: GOD'S WILL WHY HASN'T GOD GIVEN ME THE DESIRES OF MY HEART?

PSALM 37:4

Psalm 37:4 can seem pretty hollow when your personal dreams aren't coming true. But this verse is not a promise that you'll have whatever you want. This is a general promise, not a specific one. Your specific wants, like a desire to have a date this weekend or to see a movie your parents won't let you see, are not covered by this verse.

Instead, this verse is talking about submitting to God's will. When you love God above all else, God's desires become your desires. In other words, he'll give you your desires when they're shaped by a delight in him. When you love God above all else, your desires become what he desires: things like the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23).

How do you align your heart with God and submit to his will? Spend time in prayer and read your Bible. Get to know God, and your greatest longing will be to conform your life to his will.

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Why guard just the east side? (3:24)

The Bible doesn't say, though it seems this was the direction in which people moved away from the garden (4:16; 11:2). East may signify simply being outside the garden.