

Eve

I am Eve, meaning "Life." When I first opened my eyes, I saw the LORD. He was glorious and beautiful. Then he brought me to Adam who seemed to be just awakening. Adam resembled the LORD and was also beautiful. I was curious and then Adam spoke. "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man."

I found out that he had been created first and I was created so he would not be alone. He had given part of himself, a rib, to be fashioned into my body. We were indeed part of each other, in fact, together we made up a whole.

Adam told me of the LORD's commands, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." I think he added, "and you must not touch it," probably trying to make it stronger.

The Garden was not only beautiful but infinitely varied. We were always finding new things to experience. The trees were of all sizes and shapes. The rivers flowed from crystal-clear springs. The flowers and fruits were of endless varieties. And in the cool of the day, we talked with the LORD himself.

But to my eternal shame, I let myself be deceived. Everything in the Garden was good. So, when the serpent spoke, I was not immediately suspicious. The first words he used should have raised my suspicions. "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Of course, that was wrong, and I corrected him. But the next statement confused me, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Could the LORD be wrong? Not only wrong in a matter of fact but also wrong in the matter of what was good for us? I wish Adam had stepped in and confronted the lies and innuendos, but he did not. And after I had foolishly taken a bite, he also ate, and we were instantly changed. Yes, we had knowledge – but it was not wisdom. It was the loss of innocence and the gain of shame.

The LORD confronted us at our next meeting, and we were trying to hide. Why? Did we think he would not find us? There were to be consequences. At the time I did not know how small children like to say, "It's not my fault," because I had not yet had children, but that is exactly how we acted. I am now convinced that one of the reasons the LORD wills us to have children is so that we understand what he goes through with all of us.

My consequences were pain in childbearing and change in the relationship I would have with my husband. Adam was told of thorns, sweat, toil and eventual death. But in the curse of the serpent there was a ray of hope. One of my offspring would crush the serpent's head, although the serpent would bruise his heel. I pondered what that would mean and when Cain was born, both Adam and I thought this was the one. I said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." Well, he looked like Adam but was very small, of course, and pretty much helpless. We soon found that he would grow and develop.

We were probably too indulgent with our first born. Those of you with children, have you made that error? He was so cute, and we expected him to eventually be the hero of the story. Our highest hopes were dashed when Cain killed his brother. It is bad enough to be the mother of a murder victim, but to simultaneously be mother of the murderer is unbearable! Of course, when something bad happens, a parent will always take the blame and we were merciless on ourselves. Cain drifted away from the family and from the LORD.

But Seth was born, and we saw that God still had a plan and we needed to start following him from where we were. Seth and his family brought us much joy and we lived to see many generations who called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 2 – 5