



D. The isolation from God, through sin, of the first human beings and its consequences (Genesis 3)

The fall of the first human beings:

-at the deceiving advice of the devil, given through an animal (the serpent);

-Eve fell first, then Adam;

-their sin: disobedience to God's commandment entails:

- **laziness/slothfulness** – instead of implementing God's commandment, Eve wasted time by talking to the devil who wanted to know the secret (commandment) of God to man;
- **doubt about the sincerity/truth given to them by God, lack of trust in God** which came at the advice of the devil (man isolated himself from God in his heart);
- **gluttony of the stomach** („good to eat”), lust / covetousness of the eye („pleasing to the eye,” deceived by the exterior appearance of the fruit) and haughtiness of life or pride (desirable as it provides knowledge,” they want to be like God, to know, like Him, the good and evil);
- **lack of repentance** – they don't acknowledge their guilt and don't ask for forgiveness when God confronts them for disobeying His commandment.

The consequences of the original sin:

-**the loss of innocence / feeling of remorse** (they know that they transgressed, have separated themselves from the love of God and hide and lie);

-**shame** (they realized that they were naked / empty before God / they are nothing by themselves, separated from God's grace, but also see the nakedness of their bodies, avoid each other, cover themselves up with leaves, for their love and trust in one another has been altered);

-**fear for the divine punishment** (that's why they hide);

-**knowledge of the good and evil** (God is the good; the absence / loss of God is the evil);

-**cessation of love among people** (they accuse one another, the woman becomes submissive to the husband) **and toward God** (Adam blames God for giving him Eve and Eve blames God for making the serpent);

-**the beginning of a difficult life on earth**, limitation of man's dominion over the earth (hard work, fatigue);

-**expulsion from paradise**, from the face of God (the loss of the divine grace);

-**man's likeness to the animals** (enslavement of man's soul to the body through suffering, illness, death; to the earth through its lack of fruit, man's nourishment with the fruits of the earth only, copulation and multiplying of the humankind);

-**promise of a Savior** (made to Eve) = **the Protoevangelia** – the good news of Messiah's coming, who will resist temptation on our behalf;

The sin of the first human beings is called **the original / ancestral sin** because all people who came after them repeat it (inherit the sin by nature).

We become liberated / forgiven of this sin when we are baptized in the Orthodox Church and regain the grace of the Holy Spirit.

People continue to sin even after they are baptized, giving in to the temptation of the devils, but they become free again through Confession or Repentance.