THE FALL OF MAN

Introduction:
We believe that man was created holy with a perfect fellowship with God and that through deliberate disobedience he fell from that lofty position. Consequently, the whole human race fell, is totally depraved, and is under condemnation to eternal damnation by the righteous God of the universe. Genesis 1:27; Genesis 1:31; Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12; Revelation 21:8.

Opening Text: Genesis 3:6-24

I. The Creation of Man
We believe that man was created holy with a perfect fellowship with God and that through deliberate disobedience he fell from that lofty position.
Genesis 1:27 & 31 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."*

A. Man's Perfection
1. God created man in his own image.
   a. Man was created in the image of the nature of God, being perfect and innocent and possessing a unique characteristic which sets him apart from the animals, that being his ability to worship and have fellowship with his Creator.
      i. The human race is unique from the animals in that we possess an eternal spirit which is capable of having fellowship with God.
         - **John 4:24** *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*
      ii. Fellowship with God is a purely spiritual endeavour. The mode is prayer, the method is "through the veil" (Heb 10:20), the motif is to worship, obtain mercy, and find grace (Heb 4:16).
   b. Man's creation in the image of God does not refer to our physical form, but our spiritual nature.
      i. We were created in the image, or after the same pattern, as the nature of God, possessing a conscience, and the ability to love or hate, having mercy and compassion, and so forth.
      ii. We know God is a personal God because we are personal creatures created in his likeness.
2. Man was placed in a perfect environment called the Garden of Eden and was given dominion over all creation.
   a. The garden that God placed man in was wonderful.
      i. When God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden it was a perfect place to live. Due to the water vapour canopy above the temperature would have been just right. This would have

resulted in some very large and abundant fruits and vegetables.

ii. Adam and Eve were told that they could literally eat whatever they wanted except for the fruit from one particular tree that was in the middle of the garden. Everything else was theirs to enjoy and they had each other's company to sweeten the deal.

iii. On top of that, God talked with them in the garden, in the cool of the day (Gen 3:8). They had everything a person could ever need or want.

b. This was man's probationary period to see if he would choose to obediently fulfill the role God had given him or if he would choose to rebel against God.

i. The Garden of Eden presented a simple test to Adam and Eve. God had ordained that they should be able to eat any of the fruit they wanted to from all the trees of the garden except for the one in the middle of the garden. No doubt, this tree stood out in some way from the rest so that there would be no accidental eating of its fruit.

ii. The test was to see if Adam and Eve would choose to love and obey God or to try and elevate themselves and their authority over the Word of God.

- Pride, the foremost sin of Satan, led him to attempt to exalt himself above the throne, or seat of authority, of God.
  Isaiah 14:14 "*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."*
- Man's pride led him to exalt his himself above the Word and authority of God and eat the fruit in hope of obtaining some higher knowledge that would make man like God.
  Genesis 3:5b *"…then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."*

B. Man's Fall

1. The Word of God was Questioned

a. The Bible tells us that the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field, and the serpent came to speak to Eve.

i. From other passages (Rev 12:9 & 20:2) we find that Satan is described as "that old serpent". The New Testament also makes clear that the promise to bruise the serpents head is fulfilled by Jesus Christ in overcoming the demonic powers of the Devil (Col 2:15).

ii. We believe that it was Satan who entered into the serpent and deceived Eve into eating the fruit. (Otherwise, one would have to ask why the serpent who was part of God's perfect creation was rebelling against God.)

b. This subtle serpent questioned the word of God.

i. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"
   - To put it another way, "Is that really what God said, or did you just misinterpret it?"
   - This is the same ploy the Devil uses today with great success. There are some many corruptions of the Word of God through the numerous so called "Bible versions" that the Devil can easily ask the question, "Is that really what God said?" and then point you to another "version" that says something different.

ii. In verse 3, Eve responds to the serpent, but she adds to the word of God. God had said that they could not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but Eve added to that saying, "neither shall ye touch it."
   - First the authority of the Word of God was undermined, then the content of the Word of God was altered.

iii. Finally, in verses 4-5, the serpent declared God's Word to be false and called God a liar.
   - "Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

2. The Word of God was Rejected
   a. Eve was deceived into eating the fruit
      i. The Apostle Paul taught that Eve was deceived into eating the fruit, but Adam ate it in full knowledge which is why the sin nature is passed down to us through Adam.
         - **1 Timothy 2:14** *"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."*
      ii. Eve took the fruit, ate it, and then gave some to Adam who, having full knowledge of what he was eating, chose to eat the fruit anyway.
   b. There are three things that Eve noticed about the fruit which provide us with insight into what happened.
      i. She saw that the tree was good for food.
         - I John 2:16a *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh…"*
      ii. She saw the food that it was pleasant to the eyes.
         - I John 2:16b *"…the lust of the eyes…"*
      iii. It was a tree to be desired to make one wise
         - I John 2:16c *"…and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*
   c. Adam and Eve elevated their own knowledge and their own experiences over the authority of the Word of God.
      i. This has been the condition of man ever since.
      ii. True Christianity is a return to *sola scriptura*, the authority of the Word of God alone, above all else.

II. The Condition of Man

Consequently, the whole human race fell, is totally depraved, and is under condemnation to eternal damnation by the righteous God of the universe.
Romans 3:23 "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*
Romans 5:12 *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"*
Revelation 21:8 *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

A. Man's Sinfulness
   1. The sinfulness or man is sometimes described as total depravity. (We do not subscribe to the Calvinistic view of man's depravity)
      a. By totally depraved we mean that sin has affected every part of human nature. In our sinful state, we cannot make ourselves acceptable to God or earn salvation; we need God's grace. Though people may do good in an ordinary sense, none can produce the righteousness needed to reconcile themselves to God.
         i. When Adam chose to disobey God, he set the human race on a path of opposition to God.
            - **Romans 5:10a** *"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,…"*
         ii. Everyone since Adam has inherited the sin nature of Adam and, through their own sin, have been subject to death, both physical and spiritual.
            - **Rom 3:23b** *"so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"*
         iii. If you ask the average Aussie, they will tell you that they are essentially a good person. They are happy to ignore the "little lies" and other such "small" sins. They believe they are good enough for heaven just as they are.
            - **Psalm 14:1** *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."*
      b. Before a person can be saved, they must recognise that they are a sinner.
         i. When witnessing to the lost we must not be afraid to tell them that they have sinned and broken God's laws.
            - This is really unpopular today and that makes it difficult for us, as Christians, to address mans sinfulness because it is so unpalatable to men. But, unless we show men their sin, they will see no need for a Saviour.
            - One time, Pastor Ian Western was witnessing to a woman and she couldn't seem to admit she was a sinner and he finally had to say, "I guess you're just too good for

heaven because, according to the Bible, the only people in heaven are sinners saved by grace."

2. The sinfulness of man had separated him from God and destined him to the Lake of Fire.
   a. Our sin broke our fellowship with God.
      i. Our wicked works alienated us from God and even made us hateful toward God.
         - **Colossians 1:21** *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"*
      ii. Since God is perfectly holy, He cannot allow sin to enter his presence in heaven, nor can he have fellowship with sinners who are in a state of rebellion against him.
   b. The penalty for our sin is eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire.
      i. The Bible says that the wages, or penalty for sin is death.
         - **Romans 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
         - There are two aspects to this death.
      ii. The first death involved a spiritual separation from God in this life and a physical death at the end of this life.
      iii. The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ describes the second death.
         - **Revelation 20:13-15** *"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

B. Man's Hopelessness (Man cannot save himself.)
   1. The sinful condition of man has rendered us incapable of making ourselves righteous enough for heaven.
      a. No matter how hard we try to be "good" people, our righteousness will never be enough to get us into heaven, because even our good deeds are tainted with selfish motives and pride.
         i. **Isaiah 64:6** *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."*
         ii. This self-righteousness is evident everywhere from the people you try to witness to on the street, to the Tiktokers who video themselves giving money to homeless people because it makes them feel good about themselves and gets them more views and subscribers online. It is all tainted with selfish motives and prideful self-image curating.

2. Only God could save us from our sins and impute to us the righteousness we need in order to enter heaven.
    a. Our works cannot even contribute to salvation from our sins.
        i. The Lord Jesus Christ took the total penalty for our sin on himself.
            - **1 Peter 2:24** *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."*
        ii. Our good works have nothing to do with our salvation, otherwise we would have something to boast in before God.
            - **Ephesians 2:8-9** *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*
    b. The sinful condition of man can only be changed by the power of God.
        i. In Love God sent His Son to pay the penalty for our sin.
            - **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*
        ii. In His own mercy God saves us and washes us clean from all sin.
            - **Titus 3:5** *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"*
        iii. There is no other name by which we can be saved.
            - **Acts 4:12** *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*
3. If you have never prayer to God and sincerely asked him to forgive your sins and to write your name in the Book of Life, then I encourage you to do that today. Trust the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and a home in heaven.

Summary:

1. We believe that man was created holy with a perfect fellowship with God and that through deliberate disobedience he fell from that lofty position. Consequently, the whole human race fell, is totally depraved, and is under condemnation to eternal damnation by the righteous God of the universe.
2. While the fall of man totally corrupted him spiritually and morally it did not take away his ability to choose to accept or reject the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a choice that every individual must make.