

God Created Our Ability to Reason

International Bible Lesson

Genesis 3:8-21

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“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:8—KJV).

“They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:8—NRSV).

To disobey God is unreasonable. To think we can disobey God and then hide from God is more unreasonable. Satan knows God gave people the ability to reason. Though Satan gave Eve a poor reason to disobey God, he gave her a reason that she accepted without any discussion with Adam or God, and then she chose to disobey God. After Eve sinned, as Adam's wife, helper, and partner, she used her reason to persuade Adam to disobey God too rather than give Adam a good reason not to disobey God based on her experience.

Though some may use their reason to try to convince others and themselves that disbelieving and disobeying God is reasonable, most observers will eventually come to understand how disbelieving and disobeying God is unreasonable. Someone may try to give us what appear to be good reasons for not trusting God and the Bible, but the Bible, human history, and personal experience prove that trusting God and believing the Bible is the most reasonable path to follow.

God respects our ability to reason and choose. After Adam and Eve sinned, God asked them questions to help them develop their reason. Whereas Satan uses lies and people's ability to reason in order to deceive people, God invites us to use our reason to see how right and reasonable it is for us to obey God; then, after we come out of hiding and return to obedience, God promises He will cleanse us from sin (see Isaiah 1:18-20).

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Thinking Further

1. What are some of the ways sinners try to hide themselves from God?
2. When God already knew the answers, why do you think God asked the man and woman questions?
3. Why do you think the man was afraid of God?
4. Who did the man and the woman blame for their having sinned against God? How did sin have an effect on their relationship?
5. What two types of punishment did the man and woman experience? Do people today still experience these two types of punishment?