

Eve

"36 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD." Genesis 4:1 KJV

NUGGET - Eve's words regarding giving birth to Cain reflect her gift of faith from God. She was speaking in reaction to the promises of God. She believed God's words to her when she said, "I have gotten a man from the Lord." I used the King James Version of this because while it is more "stiff" to our ear, it is closer in phrasing to the Hebrew language here. Most modern translations follow the NIV, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." This is because the modifiers "*help of the*" make it easier for the English speaker.

Luther helps us understand the KJV rendering from many places in his lectures on Genesis, one in particular (Gen 35:18 in Vol 6; Luther's Works) says, "*Eve, when Cain was born said: 'I have acquired the man of the Lord.' She thought: 'The Lord Himself has come, who will bruise the serpent's head.' But not only was she mistaken...*"

The point is that in the Hebrew language Eve's words can be understood to reflect her belief that she had brought forth the Redeemer that God had promised when He spoke to Eve, Adam and the Serpent in The Garden. God had promised Eve there that she would have pain in child bearing and that from her seed would come One who would crush the head of the Serpent and the Serpent would bruise His heel.

The fancy word for God's promise there in [Gen 3:15](#) is

☉ Protoevangelium

God gives the first, or *proto*, promise of salvation or *evangelium* (in the Latin). This is God's promise that He will provide the cure of the sin that Eve and Adam brought into the world through their disobedience to God's law. So, why didn't she believe God before she sinned? We'll never know in this life and perhaps never. One thought might be that she, and we, have the freedom, the power to choose to obey God or defy Him.

God promises outcomes for both obedience and for defiance and we are free to choose those for ourselves. She chose to defy God and she chose to believe God. And just like [Abraham's faith](#) was credited to him as righteousness ([Rom 4:13-25](#)), the *faith* of Eve is what gave her trust in the promise of God that He would send a Deliverer to take on the punishment she knew should have been hers.

Yes, she was mistaken, as Luther pointed out, in believing that Cain was the Deliverer. But she was not mistaken in her trust in God to keep His promise to her. And for that she is our mother in the faith.

APPLICATION - God gives the gift of faith to those who will believe even to those who disobey Him.

1. Sometimes it's hardest to believe God's promises are for us when we have broken God's law. When you are struggling with this, eat an apple, and remember God's "Proto" promise to Eve.
2. Take some time to share a moment of understanding with a friend who is feeling dry in their faith and remind them gently of Eve's belief in the face of her disobedience.

PRAY - In humble gratitude ask God, despite disobedience, to fortify your faith.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom Rhodes

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

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*Going Deeper together. We meet in the **Fellowship Hall** during the Education Hour for discussion and prayer with all those who're able to come. If you're not able to make it Sunday, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments or questions so that we can have the benefit of sharing them together.*

GOING DEEPER

Eve is the mother of all the living and she is our mother in faith as well. Her faith in God's words of promise are the first words spoken by a human that show trust in God's word of deliverance. And God speaks His promise to the world on the day when we brought sin into the world!

Eve is also the first student of another human. Adam was instructed by God about the Garden restrictions. (See [Gen 2:15-17](#)) And as far as we know from scripture it was Adam who taught Eve what God had said. What we don't know though is whether or not Adam wasn't such a good teacher or Eve wasn't such a good student.

When Satan tempted Eve she didn't quite have the instructions from God correct regarding the tree of the knowledge of the good and evil. And Satan used her botched reply against her to entice her to sin. (See [Gen 3:1-7](#)) Adam of course tries to blame God giving him a wife that leads him to sin when they are discovered. See [Gen 3:7-13](#).

- What does it take to deceive someone? And why do you suppose it was Eve that Satan went after?

Now as we said in the nugget, God asks for obedience but supplies a promise to Eve and Adam when they fail and sin. (See [Gen 3:14-19](#)) Eve, when she gives birth to Cain, as we said, gives evidence that she believed God's promise to her to provide an offspring that would deliver death to Satan. She had the advantage of being in God's presence and hearing His words of promise to her.

And though she was disobedient she was also trusting in God's promise. By her words she speaks her trust. For us, sometimes it's hardest to believe God's promises are for us when we have broken God's law.

- How do the sacraments help us in this?

Eve is named by Adam in Gen 3:20 after the fall into sin. Before that she is referred to only by the feminine pronoun.

Eve is mentioned twice by name in the New Testament. In 2 Cor 11:3 and in 1 Tim 2:13. The [2 Cor](#) passage speaks of the deception of Eve by Satan as we've been talking about.

- When you look at the setting for that mention, who is Eve compared to and what does she teach us in that passage?

In the [1 Tim](#) passage the mention of Eve also speaks of her being deceived but also mentions something else. That something else has to do with why we don't allow women preachers in the LC-MS. It talks about the order of creation. And Eve as the second one created has a different role. Like in families with many children, there can only be one first born.

There is one more mention of Eve that might be useful at this point, speaking of families, to close with. In [Gen 4:25](#) she speaks one last time. This last mention of her in Genesis shows a maturing that has taken place in her from when Cain was born.

- What are some of the things that Eve teaches us regarding maturing in faith toward God?

In the peace of Christ, PR