

But that does not give anyone the right to simply take chances. You need not think God will protect you when you do things for which you have no warrant. He wants us to be careful and to avoid what is wrong and what is dangerous.

Of course you are familiar with how Eve took the apple or the fruit, whatever it was, and then she gave it to Adam and he ate it. Then we read that they hid--they heard the voice of God and they hid among the trees of the garden. They hid there so God would not see them! How foolish they were. Yet we all are equally foolish many times. We think we can **hide** things from God.

Then we come to a word that sounds strange. God said, Adam where are you? Did not God know where Adam was? Did the trees hide him so God could not see him? God asks the question in order to bring to their attention the fact that it was absurd for them to hide from God. The fact that He knew they were there even if He perhaps did not reveal the fact that He knew the exact spot where they were hiding. We so often try to hide from God, and people try to hide from God. They hide behind philosophical arguments, or theories, or ideas that deny the existence or power of God or deny the fact of salvation through Christ.

I've known people who say, Don't try to prove to anybody there is a God. You must just assume God. You are trying to put yourself up as a judge if you try to argue the proposition that God exists. Well I think that is very foolish approach. We are not trying to prove God exists. We are trying to remove the obstacles so that they will face the fact God exists. We are trying to show them the trees they are hiding behind, and that they can't hide from God.

I've sometimes said that a Christian should be a tree chopper, one who chops down the trees that people are hiding behind. Chops down the things that they think are concealing them from God. Well, they made their excuses and then God asked Adam why did you eat this, and he said the woman you gave me gave it to me. So he tried to hide behind Eve. Eve said the serpent gave it to me. God did not immediately answer. When Adam tried to put the blame on Eve, God turned to Eve. When Eve tried to put the blame on the serpent he turned to the serpent.

Here we have what is sometimes called a chiasmic arrangement. An arrangement where you go to this this and this and then you go back again to this, etc. in reverse order. God then immediately dealt with the serpent. He rebuked the serpent and told its punishment. Then he went to Eve and told her her punishment, and then --or he went to Adam and then to Eve. He went in just the reverse order in dealing with their excuses.

So we have here ~~would~~ what would seem to be unmitigated disaster. But there is a note of hope in it. In Gen. 3:15 we have very briefly a note of hope. This note of hope was the promise of the coming of Christ. It is found in v.15 where God said to the serpent I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.