

A woman with dark hair, wearing a brown tunic and a green shawl, is shown from the chest up. She is holding a large bundle of golden straw or hay in her right hand. Her gaze is directed upwards and to the right, with a thoughtful or reverent expression. The background is a dark, textured, mottled grey-blue.

The Mother of All Life

Genesis 1:27-4:27

A Villain Appears



- A villain appeared, promising a better life by simply eating the fruit of that mysterious and forbidden tree.
- The man blamed the woman and the woman blamed the serpent, but God held all three accountable.
- Punishment was shared equally:
 - The serpent must slink through life on its belly in the dirt.
 - Man must toil against stubborn, inhospitable land until his death.
 - To woman belonged pain in childbirth and the grief of being dominated by men.
- In the middle of *“the Fall,”* is the message of God’s redemption; life would go on, and it would happen through this same defiant woman.
- After their expulsion from the garden, Eve gave birth to their first son, Cain.

Eve

- Cain lured his brother Abel into the fields, attacked him, and killed him.
- The focus returned to Eve when she gave birth to a third son, Seth.
- Eve has been remembered most for that bite she took of the forbidden fruit.
- Throughout history it is a commonly held view that woman alone was the source of original sin, justifying the perpetual subordination of women.
- The vilification of Eve has been disastrous for women throughout history.
- God's grace extends to us no matter what, and Eve's story is the story of God's grace for humanity.

Grace

- Seth is early proof of God's grace.
- Grace does not just hang in the air like a cloud; it works in and through human beings.
- Eve served as the receptacle for grace.
- Seth was an act of God's grace and Eve was a knowing partner in this grace business; that is why Eve's name is so fitting: *"the mother of all life."*
- Keeping faith in God's goodness, Eve rose above it all, and another child was born and then grandchildren.

Conclusion



- We are here today because, through all her problems, Eve persevered with courage and resiliency.
- Eve received God's grace in faith.
- We defy God every single day, but the end of the story is not death; it wasn't for Eve, and it isn't for us, either.
- The amazing gift of God's grace is new life for those who receive it.