

The Fall: Part 1
Gen.3:1-13
14070-B September 10, 2014

Review. God created an excellent spiritual and material person—Us. Gen.1:26-31; 2:1-25.

- A. Created in His wonderful Image. 1:26 *Human life is intrinsically valuable*
 - A.1. Created, not eternal, self-existing, or “divine” yet meant to live forever.
 - A.1.a) Dust first, then made alive by sheer gracious inbreathing.
 - A.2. Created specifically and personally to be like Him.
 - A.3. *Material beings with God’s personal breath. Nephesh = Person. Not angels. Not animals. This is unique in the creation account.*

- B. Placed in His Excellent Garden/Tabernacle. 2:4-17. *Physical life and creation is good*
 - B.1. Garden like a living tabernacle, a living material place where God is center and Man communes with him.
 - B.1.a) This is Tabernacle imagery.

- C. Modeling His Loving plurality. A picture of Trinity. 2:18-24 *Love is at the center*
 - C.1. Marriage is a creation mandate, for all humans. Note 5 things about it.
 - C.1.a) **Universal.** All cultures have marriage.
 - (C.1.a.1) It predates all other “institutions.”
 - C.1.b) **Heterosexual.** This is also true in all cultures.
 - (C.1.b.1) Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve
 - C.1.c) **Monogamous** (Eve, not Eves) Matt.19:1-9
 - (C.1.c.1) No polygamy or polyamory
 - C.1.d) **Unified.** One Flesh rather than two. (Matt.19:6)
 - (C.1.d.1) Jesus specifies: No longer two but one
 - C.1.e) **Legal.** Public/Civic. Leave father and mother. This is official, culturally visible change in social status for both the male and the female. A civic reality
 - C.2. Purity, Intimacy, Legitimacy, Legacy (children) all totally holy and good. It’s all here.

- D. *Into this emotionally, physically and spiritually excellent reality comes—sin.*

- II. **Genesis 3:1-14. The Fall.** This is the actual purpose of the story so far, to explain evil in the world. It is also the background to everything else in the Bible. The fall of humanity and the need for radical, gracious forgiveness and reconciliation is the main plot line from here on in the scriptures.
- A. **Who is doing the tempting? Satan himself. (But seeming to be simply part of their world)**
- A.1. Serpent is Satan in physical form. (But Adam and Eve don't know this)
 A.1.a) Crafty/Smart. Hebrew = arum = smart and wise, in this case in the wrong way.
- A.2. Picks on the woman. Why?
 A.2.a) She was the way into Adam's heart.
- A.3. Adam was right there when this happened and didn't stop it. Why?
 A.3.a) Good question. He knew it was wrong and did not actually believe the serpent. (1 Tim.2:14)
 A.3.b) His relationship with her was more important to him than his relationship with God.
- B. **What is the nature of the temptation? 3 things to note.**
- B.1. The suggestion of Autonomy: replacing God's word with Man's word.
 B.1.a) Satan does not say, "listen to me and do what I say." He says, "Think for yourself without reference to God."
 (B.1.a.1) Of course, they amount to exactly the same thing!
- B.2. The Scorn of God's Person: impugning God's integrity and love.
 B.2.a) A scoffing question that impugns God's goodness in forbidding *anything at all*. "Is there anything God said not to do? Let's talk about that ..." God is being self-serving and holding out on you.
 B.2.b) Emphasizes God's *prohibition* rather than his *provision*.
- B.3. The direct denial of judgment. *You will not surely die*
 B.3.a) The first truth that Satan attacks is the idea of judgment for sin.
- B.4. *All three of these issues are live and active today in our culture*
 B.4.a) *Learn to identify them and resist them.*
- C. **What happens immediately? Relational destruction.**
- C.1. Break in relationship with God Himself. *The beginning of all death*
 C.1.a) Hiding from God within the creation. Hiding among the trees.
- C.2. Break in relationship with each other.
 C.2.a) This is broken immediately; shame (nakedness) is an immediate awareness.
- C.3. Blame-shifting and self-justification.
- III. **One Closing Thought: Note that they do not simply repent and ask forgiveness! Why?**
- A. **Because there is no category for repentance yet, because there is no hope of forgiveness yet, because there has been no sacrifice for sin yet.**
- B. ***God will have to fix this entirely by Himself. 1 John 1:5-2:2.***