

The Curse and the Exile
Genesis 3:14-24
14072-B September 17, 2014

- I. **Jesus had a low opinion of current human nature. Jn.2:23-24.**
 - A. Jn.2:23-24. They *believed* in him, but he did not *believe* in them. (both pisteuo)
 - B. In Mk.7 he says that the human heart, not the food, is the source of all defilement.
 - C. In Matt.5 he says that the motives are what cause all the violations of the Law. And that these heart realities are what is judged, not just the actions.
 - D. *Something's really wrong with the human heart. This is "original sin."*
 - D.1. Not just the "first sin" but the tendency to sin. It is universal.
- II. **The Creation was excellent. Ch.1-2. God created the world and people perfect.**
 - A. He created an excellent spiritual and material person—Us. Gen.1:26-31; 2:1-25.
 - B. He placed them in His Excellent Garden/Tabernacle. 2:4-17. *Physical life and creation is good*
 - C. He designed them to model His loving plurality. A picture Trinity. 2:18-24 *Love is at the center*
 - D. ***Into this emotionally, physically and spiritually excellent reality comes—sin.***
- III. **The Fall was our fault. Genesis 3:1-13. The human heart becomes corrupt. 3 things to note.**
 - A. The incitement to Autonomy: replacing God's word with Man's word.
 - A.1. Satan does not say, "listen to me and do what I say." He says, "Think for yourself without reference to God."
 - A.1.a) Of course, they amount to exactly the same thing!
 - A.2. This is actually Satan's sin and the origin of all evil. **Isa. 14:12-15, Ez.28:11-17**
 - B. The scorn of God's Person: impugning God's goodness, integrity, and love.
 - B.1. 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. Emphasizes God's *prohibition* rather than his *provision*.
 - C. The direct denial of judgment. *You will not surely die*
 - C.1. The first truth that Satan attacks is the idea of judgment for sin.
 - C.2. The denial of judgment insures the progress of human sin.
 - D. *All three of these issues are live and active today in our culture*
 - D.1. *Learn to identify them and resist them.*
- IV. **The Curse was Inevitable. God's word of "uncreation" Judgment. Reversing the good reality**
 - A. The nature of Curse = root: arar
 - A.1. If there is blessing, there must be cursing of evil. God's love is a holy love and he cannot bypass human sin (though he can be patient with it)
 - A.2. This word means to speak into reality the opposite of blessing. It is the verbal opposite of what God did in creation. God's word creates, but it also judges.
 - B. The Curse on the Snake.
 - B.1. The Snake = in the dust, symbolic of the destiny of Satan.
 - B.1.a) From wise to repulsive
 - B.2. Between the two "seeds"
 - B.2.a) Woman's seed is the righteous line (Able, who dies, replaced by Seth and the godly line).
 - (B.2.a.1) It culminates in One Man who defeats
 - B.2.b) Devil's seed is the unrighteous line (Cain's line)
 - (B.2.b.1) It proceeds toward destruction. And ultimately represents Satan himself.

C. The Curse on the Woman. 16

C.1. Pain in childbirth. It was not meant to be so.

C.2. Conflict in marriage. From cooperation to competition.

C.2.a) Her competitive Desire = tesuqah = desire, longing.

(C.2.a.1) See Gen. 4:7 used of the desire to overcome

(C.2.a.2) Also used of sexual desire (Song. 7:10), but that is probably not the main idea here

C.2.b) His forceful Domination.

(C.2.b.1) Mashal = domination, can be a harsh word.

C.3. *In the curse, woman at her worst is a nemesis to man and he at his worst a tyrant to her. Ross, p. 147. This verse is not the biblical rationale for male headship. Gen.2 is.*

D. The Curse on the Man. 17-19

D.1. The world will fight you tooth and nail.

D.1.a) The Curse on the earth is a subset of the curse on Adam

D.2. Physical death. Dust to dust.

V. **The Exile was Necessary. 20-24**

A. We could not be allowed to go on indefinitely in this living death.

A.1. Eve is the mother of humanity.

A.2. A play on words in Hebrew. “Eve” sounds like the Hebrew word for “living.”

A.3. Angels represent the inability of humanity to re-enter the blessed life on their own merits or works

B. **The nature of original sin: *It is a permanent heart problem passed from our original parents.***

B.1. From confidence and loyalty to skepticism and sin. Rom.1-3

B.1.a) Humans distrust God by nature now.

B.2. From love and unity to enmity and competition. Murder/War

B.2.a) From cooperation to competition

B.3. From Spiritual and material life to slow and certain death.

B.3.a) Like being sprayed with Roundup

VI. **The Grace is Evident. Is it all hopeless? No. God’s grace is here from start to finish.**

A. He pursues them. 8-13

A.1. Man’s status and relationships are changed.

A.1.a) Alienation from God and from each other. Death.

A.1.b) No repentance yet. (doesn’t know it is possible)

A.2. Yet the Lord comes after him. *Like a hero diving out of a plane after the one with no parachute.*

A.3. *He comes after you first. Faith is a response do something God does.*

B. He plans their rescue. 15

B.1. This is the story of the rest of the Bible—The Cross

B.1.a) The picture is a bloody personal conflict in which Satan dies (crushed head) but the man is “bitten” with venom.

B.1.b) It looks like God dies, but then he gets up and kills the snake.

B.2. Note: this plan precedes his word of curse to man and woman and earth!

B.2.a) God planned redemption since before humanity could imagine such a thing. Eph.1

C. He covers their guilt and shame. He initiates the clothing of their shame

C.1. They use leaves; he uses lives (animal).

C.1.a) His way works, temporarily but symbolic of a future permanence. (Heb.10:4)

C.2. Animal skins: the prototype of life-sacrifice.

C.3. Guilt is about what you have done.

C.4. Shame is about who you are. Does what you do affect who you are? Yes. Sin made humanity sinners. But where sin abounded, grace super-abounds. Rom.5:20-21

- D. He provides a release from the endless war with sin. Death.
 - D.1. By dying for us he delivers us, so that our death is entrance into the life we always wanted.
Living forever in a fallen state is actually hell.
 - D.2. If you live and believe in me you will never die. Jn.11:25

VII. How should this affect us as Christians?

- A. Grief and sorrow hurt us but do not surprise us. 2 Cor.1:8-9
 - A.1. Life is hard in this age. But God is good (not the other way around)
- B. Sin and temptation attack us but do not destroy us. 1 Jn.1:8-2:2
 - B.1. In Christ sin cannot destroy your eternal life. (Contra R/C theology)
- C. Guilt and shame plague us but they only correct us. Heb.12
 - C.1. Mature Christians are increasingly aware of their imperfections, yet this knowledge produces humble courage because we have nothing to lose and nothing to prove.
 - C.2. They drive us to the cross all the time, reminded of our rescue.
- D. Perfection and holiness haunt us, but only move us forward in Christ. Rom. 7-8
 - D.1. Reach always exceeds grasp for us. We are painfully aware of the need to be better, but since we know that Christ's perfection is ours we are free to resist the curse in the right ways.

VIII. Psalm 23.

- A. We live in the valley of the shadow of death, evil is here but we need not fear it because the Shepherd's staff and rod are there and he will insure our destiny