

Genesis series 2022 #3 (7.17.22) # 22057

Genesis 3

Paradise Lost

I. **Review. God created an excellent spiritual and material person—Us. Gen.1:26-31; 2:1-25. Note 4 things.**

- A. Created in His amazing Image. 1:26 *Human life is intrinsically valuable*
 - 1. Created, not eternal or self-existing or “divine”, yet meant to live forever.
 - 2. Created specifically and personally to be like Him.
 - 3. Likeness = similar but not identical.
- B. Enjoying His personal presence.
 - 1. We were created to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (WSC #1)
 - 2. They walked with the Lord (Jesus before the incarnation) daily.
- C. Modeling His Loving plurality. A picture of Trinity. 2:18-24 *Love is at the center*
 - 1. Marriage is a creation mandate, for all humans.
 - 2. God’s plan: Purity, Intimacy, Legitimacy, Legacy (children) all totally holy and good. It’s all here.
- D. Placed in His Excellent Garden/Tabernacle. 2:4-17. *Material life is good.*
 - 1. Garden like a living tabernacle, a material place where God communes with man in goodness and beauty (1:31)
 - 2. The instructions to Adam and Eve:
 - a) Do be fruitful and multiply. 1:26-31
 - b) Do cultivate and use the garden. 2:15-16
 - c) Do trust me and my word. 2:17.
 - (1) Don’t take on God’s prerogatives: eat of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. 17

II. **Into this emotionally, physically and spiritually excellent reality comes...sin.**

III. **Genesis 3:1-24.** This is the actual purpose of the narrative 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. (2 Cor.5:21)

A. **Who is doing the tempting? Satan himself.**

- 1. **Serpent is Satan in physical form. (Rev.12:9, 20:2)**
 - a) *But Adam and Eve don’t know this, the snake is not repulsive yet and appears to be one of the animal companions in the good garden.*
 - b) Satan is a real spirit creature, a fallen angelic being of great power in this age.
 - c) Crafty/Smart. Hebrew = arum = smart, shrewd, in this case in the wrong way.
 - d) *Interesting that smarts can be turned to the wrong purposes.*
- 2. **Picks on the woman. Why?**
 - a) Maybe because she was the way into Adam’s heart.
- 3. **Adam was right there and didn’t stop it. Why?**
 - a) Good question. He knew it was wrong and did not actually believe the serpent. (1 Tim.2:14)
 - b) *He probably didn’t want to lose Eve. But he did not see himself as her protector here.*
 - c) *His relationship with her was more important to him than his relationship with God.*
 - d) *Interesting that he was a liability to her as well by not stepping in and interrupting the temptation. He abdicated his spiritual responsibility and failed her*
- 4. **Both Eve and Adam failed here.**
 - a) She believed the serpent and influenced Adam away from the Lord.
 - b) He did not believe the serpent (1 Ti.2:14) but influenced her by not leading and protecting spiritually.

B. What is the nature of the temptation? 3 elements.

1. The suggestion of autonomy: replacing God's mind and word with Man's mind and word.

- a) The Tree of Knowledge represents the authority to decide right from wrong, which is God's prerogative only.
- b) This is not being "like" God (which they already were, in His image and likeness), it is being *equal with God—autonomous*.
- c) Satan does not say, "listen to me and do what I say." He says, "Think for yourself without reference to God."
 - (1) Of course, they amount to exactly the same thing!
- d) *God's word (expression of his mind) sustains the universe (Heb.1:3). To tear away from that sustaining source is to begin to die in a dimension we cannot comprehend.*
- e) *God did not say, "if you eat of it, I will kill you." But "if you eat of it, you will certainly die." If we as creatures in God's image are separated from the sustaining mind of God (through his Word) we will die naturally, because we do not have eternal life in and of ourselves. We did not create ourselves and we cannot sustain ourselves eternally.*

2. The scorn of God's character: impugning God's integrity and love.

- a) A scoffing question that impugns God's goodness in forbidding *anything at all*. "Did God really/actually say you couldn't eat from the trees?"
- b) Emphasizes God's *prohibition* rather than his *provision*.

3. The direct denial of judgment. You will not surely die

- a) The first truth that Satan attacks is the idea of judgment for sin.

4. All three of these issues are alive and active today in our culture

- a) *Learn to identify them and resist them.*

C. What happens immediately? Relational destruction.

1. Broken relationship with God. The beginning of all death

- a) From confidence and loyalty to skepticism and sin. Rom.1-3
 - (1) We distrust God by nature now.
 - (2) We run from him, into creation, hiding among the trees.
- b) From eternal life (we were created for this) to eternal death.
 - (1) Physical death, separation of our spirit/soul from our body.
 - (2) Spiritual death, separation from God himself.

2. Broken relationship with each other. From cooperation to competition.

- a) From love and unity to enmity and competition.
 - (1) *We were created to love and be loved, to trust and be trusted—and we have been broken off from that reality.*
- b) *Note the Blame-shifting and self-justification. Excuses.*

3. Broken relationship with the self. Worship of the Self.

- a) The self has become the Self, the dominant reality. Enlightenment?
- b) On a human level, this simple switch of loyalty from God and His word to us and our word is the source of all the evil in the world.

4. Broken relationship with the material world. Pain, toil and death.

- a) The good world we were created for now eventually kills us.
- b) Work becomes toil. Gravity wins in the end...dust to dust...
- c) Rom.8:18ff. groaning of creation.

5. Broken relationship with time. Death looms and there's no going back. 3:22-24.

- a) Humans will not get back to Eden on their own.
- b) *Death hangs over us and makes time our enemy.*

D. All of these realities are easily seen in our age and all through human history.

1. Original Sin is demonstrable and the best explanation for the condition humanity is in. Rom.5:

IV. One Closing question: 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.

1. They attempt self-justification (blame-shifting)
2. They make their own shame-covering. Fig leaves. They see no hope ... yet.

B. But God has a plan. How do we know? Three things...

1. He preserves their life (though they do live in a fallen world now).

- a) They live with the curse of the earth (Rom.8:18ff)
- b) They will face death in this age as predicted.

2. He makes a real garment for their shame. 7, 21

- a) Leather Tunic (21 ketonet) instead of leaf loincloth (7 chagor)
- b) Home-made covering does not work!
(1) God's garment of righteousness is the only answer.
- c) Animal skins? Their friends? Pointing to the sacrificial reality.

3. He promises the ultimate defeat of death and sin. 3:15.

- a) Humans did this, and a Human will rescue us. Jn.16:33

C. *Because The fall of man did not change the heart or the character of God... There is Hope! The Gospel of Christ!*

1. Eph.2:1-10