

Title: The Fall of Man

Passage: Genesis 3

EXPOSITION

Overview

- I. The Satanic nature of the fall (v.1-5)
- II. The human effects of the fall (v.6-13)
- III. The divine consequences of the fall (v.14-24)

I. The Satanic Nature of the Fall (v.1-5)

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Serpent / Satan

Revelation 12:9

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

2 Corinthians 11:14

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

- Satan is discrete, cunning, crafty, and deceitful. He can pretend to be a "Christian" voice.
 - Be suspect with anything from him.
- His first action? Satan first goes to the woman and treats her as the leader.

Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?

- Satan pretends to quote God's Word to evoke a negative reply from Eve.

Genesis 3:2-3

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."

- Eve begins speaking on her own authority on Adam's behalf.

How should Eve have responded?

- Compare: Jesus response to temptation
 - repeatedly points back to God's Word

Matthew 4:3-10

And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

- Our view of the Word of God is key. We must know God's Word thoroughly and accurately.

1 Timothy 2:12-14

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

- God's original pattern/design: Adam was formed first, then Eve.
 - Order was not punishment for women but restoration of God's original design.

1 Corinthians 14:33-34

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.

- "should keep silent" = not teach men
- The Law is to be applied as God's design and for His purposes.

Genesis 3:4-5

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Sin offers us nothing new but heartache.
- "You will not surely die" - but she already is an eternal being
- "Your eyes will be opened" - but her eyes already opened by knowing God
- "You will be like God" - but she is already made in His image.
- Temptation rather re-directs one's focus and ambition to the self.

II. The Human Effects of the Fall (v.6-13)

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- Satan tempts those around those he wants to take down.
- Sin is contagious.
- Adam was present - he wasn't tricked but saw everything plainly.

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- Desires of the flesh = saw fruit as good for food
- Desires of the eyes = saw the fruit was delight to the eyes
- Pride of life = tree was desired to make one wise

Ephesians 5:25-26

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

- Adam should have interjected himself between Eve and Satan. He should have clarified what God had said.

Cost of Adam's Passiveness:

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin cloths.

- euphoria resulted in dysphoria
- Effect of sin occurred after Adam's sin

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

- we all have sin from Adam's sin.
- The effect of sin has been dysphoria:
 - Misperception of self
 - Twisted desires
 - Discontentment

Genesis 3:8-9

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

the LORD God walking in the garden

- second person of the Trinity
- God came because they wouldn't come to Him

hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God

- Sin's effect: hiding from God in shame or guilt

But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

- God comes graciously and tenderly - "Where are you?"

- God did not come destroying in judgment but instead comes graciously.

John 6:37

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

Adam's reply:

Genesis 3:10

And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

- Sin brings unhealthy and distorted fear.

God's response:

Genesis 3:11

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

- God is bringing out Adam's heart to draw out the truth.

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Genesis 3:12

The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

- in sin, we blame others.

Romans 1:18-19

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Romans 1:28-32

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Genesis 3:13

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- In the midst of situation, God still dignified the woman by talking to her.

- God treats each individuals as an individual. (Not guilt by association or as a group)
- But sin shifts blame (environment, circumstances, others).
 - “The devil made me do it” = false confession
 - But: “I ate” = truth of basis of guilt

III. The Divine Consequences of the Fall (v.14-24)

Satan’s curse:

Genesis 3:14

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

Before, Satan was a dazzling being

Isaiah 6:2

Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Isaiah 14:12-15

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!

How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

After: he is cursed to the ground:

Psalms 72:8-9

May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!

Micah 7:17

they shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the LORD our God, and they shall be in fear of you.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Galatians 4

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

1 John 3:8

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

- No specific curse for the woman. Unpleasantness but no curse.
- Why? She was deceived. But Satan and Adam made their actions intentionally.

Genesis 3:17

And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

- Curse of the ground/environment

Romans 8:20-22

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

- Due to sin, life is hard for both men and women.
- Hard for men to lead. Hard for women to submit.

God's Redemption Unfolding:

Genesis 3:20-21

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- God restores relationship between Adam and Eve.
- Eve will still live and have children.
- God provided for recovery: God made garments of skin (God drew first blood as killed an animal to cover Adam and Eve)

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 32:1

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalms 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Genesis 3:22-24

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- God banishes Adam to rescue him.
- Only way for sinners to be saved: through grace through faith in Christ.

Hebrews 7:25

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Psalms 78:35

They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.