

# God's Big Story: The Fall

## Genesis 3

An outline of a sermon preached by  
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The world is in a mess

- all evils found in the world
- evils in me

Where did they come from? Why so much selfishness? Destructiveness?  
Greed? Deceit? Unfaithfulness? Hatred? Prejudice? Abuse? Family fights?  
Wars?

Genesis 3 tells us

- What the text says – Some mysteries left unexplained – it would be pointless to conjecture.

Review Genesis 1 & 2

- God
  - Creation
  - Man & Woman – beautiful in paradise
- One command to test - boundaries
- Why?
- Goldfish must stay in water or die
  - Boundaries give freedom - like a fence around a playground – limits freedom yet gives freedom

Genesis 3 – snake – God made

- from rest of Bible know
- origin of evil
- behind this – sin in heaven
- Satan – devil – his angels

3 choices for origin of Satan:

1. Always been—this cannot be because it would be dualism. Only one infinite being.

2. Created evil—this cannot be because that makes God the author of evil.

3. Created good and fell—Satan once an angel of God who sinned against God. Indications in Scripture

Satan used

- Serpent
- Later Satan called serpent, Rev. 12:9, “Satan is father of lies” – John 8:44

The snake talks –

- unusual
- donkey talked to Balaam (Num. 22:28)
- Adam had talked to name all the animals
- Satan talks – Adam right away should have known something was wrong

Serpent talks to Eve –

Why Eve? – to both. “you” is plural throughout

- Raises doubt? All trees?
- Sin is selfish desired coupled with a lack of confidence that God will take care of us
- Knowledge of good and evil is in God – 3 22 – so means “The tree whose fruit gives man astonishing ability to deal with problems – make his dreams come true.” God uses this ability for good – man uses it for selfish uses.

Eve said we can eat of all trees except one, do not touch it or eat it or we will die. God not say do not touch it. Her words are not as strong as what God said to them. God said, “shall surely die.”

Serpent

- Not surely die – 3 letters different, only one word-“not”
- Promise – be as god – move up
- Know good & evil – experience power & control (like said of God in 3 22)
- what man can do

Woman looked – “not wrong to look”

1<sup>st</sup> step to sin – man – consider it – contemplate it – smell books – nose about smell – smell food.

Good to look at - lust of eyes

Good for food – lust of flesh

Make one wise – pride of life

“I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor. 11:3). We are not immune “the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (I Peter 5:8)

Later 3 avenues of sin (I John 2:15-17)

Jesus faced similar temptations in Matt. 4

- Lust of eyes – notions of world
- Lust of flesh – bread
- Pride of life – casts self off temple

Jesus says no – It is written...

Eve could have said – some – “No, God said...”

Adam right there with her – could have spoken up – protected his wife, keep her from terrible sin.

- He did nothing
- He did nothing

Saying nothing and doing nothing in presence of temptation of sin can be a big mistake.

Woman took & ate – she believed serpent – she was deceived. It was a choice. Satan not coerce “Satan made me do it” God not coerce. Choices – have consequences.

- What was temptation?
  - She wanted more
  - She wanted to be like God
  - She wanted to be in control
- self-rule
- independent
- do things my way
- wanted all experiences

Instead brought misery – doubt – quit – shame – Lost everything  
Separated from God – loss of innocence.

Eve not say, “I hate God – I want to rebel” No – more subtle – wanted more for herself – God has more for me – Temptation today – what is the dark side like? What am I missing? Feelings, pleasure, experience, “I want more.”

Gave to husband – he ate – why? No sinner likes to be alone  
Let’s us go together – share everything.

Adam not deceived (I Tim. 2:13-15)

He sinned open-eyed

Wanted to be with Eve

Could have led her back to God but he did not

What happened?

Eyes open – heart understood, experienced guilt – something’s wrong

Separated from self

Separated from others

Emphasized differences

- “We’re naked” conscience of private parts – wanted to cover up
- Made fig leaves – “britches” says one old translation – loin cloth
  - o Big leaves
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest profession – first is farming, second is sewing
- hid in garden
  - o run from God
  - o hide my self – cover up my sin (Theological separation)

God came – anthropomorphic terms – only way to know God

“Adam, where are you?”

1<sup>st</sup> question by God

1<sup>st</sup> thing God says since creation

God knew – not for information but to get Adam to think – starts with Adam because he is head – 1<sup>st</sup>

“I realized I was naked & hide myself”

“Who told you? Have you eaten the fruit?”

Shows separation – not say Yes at first – he never said, “I have sinned.”

Shifted blame – “The woman you gave me – the woman – all her doing

You gave – really you – and I ate – never said “I have sinned – forgive me”

So goes to woman and she blamed serpent

To serpent – no question to him

- cursed

- eat dust – not literally but like “eat my dust” “another bites the dust” – it means total defeat (Isa 65:25; Micah 7:17)
- crawl on belly – already did—God did not change his mode of locomotion or his diet
- crawl on your belly as you will be the lowest of low
- now symbol of fear – Indiana Jones in pit – Snakes!
- My mother & snakes – everything looked “snaky”
- Article in Houston Chronicle talks about snakes out now-copperheads, camouflage – danger
  - Your seed & woman’s seed – descendants be in a perpetual battle – woman’s will win – promise hope
- your seed his heel
- her seed your head (Rom 16:20)
- woman’s seed will prevail

### Now to woman

Pain in childbearing – Mercy: the birth of a baby is God’s vote that the world should go on

Desire to husband & he will rule over you

Descriptive – not prescriptive or proscriptive

Marriage & children – most women desire to have children brings need of a man & man abuses woman

### To Adam

Cursed is ground – not Adam, ground

Thorns & thistles – not create already there outside garden

Cast out into it

In sweat of face, eat bread – Separation from nature

Dust your are – molded & shaped like children working with play dough – Ecological separation

Dust return – made from dust go to dust, work with dust in gardening – becomes your grave, separated from life – Biological

- couple reached for all & lost it all

Adam named woman Eve – “mother of living”

- promise – world continues

God gave skins to cover and protect man

- animals died – man lived
- cover up man – protect him
- Prototype of sacrifices

- God cared for man – before he cast them out he took care of them  
Man lived – Adam 930 years

What about death?

Did God relax rule? Did God have mercy?

Or is this what it meant? Perhaps it is that God has mercy

Tree of life – live forever as a sinner – miserable, wrecked life – how long –  
they don't know – Maybe till flood? Never mentioned in rest of Old  
Testament or New until Revelation – tree of life in heaven.

NT – goes back to Adam

Compare to Christ – Rom 5:12

I Cor. 15:45

What was lost in Adam restored in Christ

Paradise lost to paradise regained

Sin brought separation & division

1. Psychological—man felt shame and guilt
2. Sociological—man separated from others, blamed others
3. Theological –man separated from God. Sin is sin – not a mistake –  
Christ did not die for mistakes--Confess, acknowledge sin  
Greatest loss not paradise but fellowship with God
4. Ecological—man separated from nature
5. Biological –man separated from life, begins to die

Christ heals all this

1. For psychological separation—God brings Peace – forgiveness –  
no condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
2. for sociological separation—God brings Unity – Eph 5 of husband  
and wife – 2 & 4 of people – Gal 3:28
3. For theological separation—God brings new birth, salvation, child of  
God, someday with God forever – face to face
4. For ecological separation—God brings new heavens & new earth  
eventually
5. For biological separation—God brings eternal life and no death in  
the resurrection—Live forever in Restored bodies (Rom 8:22-24)

3 chapters from beginning of Bible – the story of the fall

3 chapters from end of Bible – the destruction of Satan – evil—God's new  
world

## God's big story

- Sin is real
- Sin is disobedience to God
- Sin is selfishness – doing what I want, not God's way
- Sin brings consequences
- All evil in world result of sin
- We humans are in a mess
- God cares for us – loves us – provides for us – protects us – works with us – saves as in Christ

A little picture of that – noises in attic – rumbling – seen coons in yard beside bird feeder – stay out there – not in house – one small opening – came in – what to do? Called pest – yes coon tracks all over attic in dust - \$\$\$ - traps – caught one – banging around – went upstairs – little coon – small dog size – scared – frightened – got cage down – took outside – opened trap – let him go – punishment & mercy  
- God has mercy on us – find God – Mercy if we turn to God  
John 3:16

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