

The Fall of Man and the Promise of a Redeemer

Genesis 3:8-24

Genesis 3:8-24 - *"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

⁹ *Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

¹⁰ *So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*

¹¹ *And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*

¹² *Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."*

¹³ *And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"*

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ *So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.*

¹⁵ *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

¹⁶ *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."*

¹⁷ *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake. In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.*

¹⁹ *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."*

²⁰ *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

²² *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim (that's a class of angels) at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life"*

Background Notes

How long were Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in their unfallen state, before they sinned? We don't know, because the Bible doesn't tell us, but probably it was not very long. Remember, the command to be fruitful and multiply was given in Genesis 1:28, and that was before the Fall, but no children had been conceived yet. So their state of innocence probably didn't last long.

One question that always comes up is, "What would have happened if Adam and Eve had not sinned?" Well, I suppose they would have lived forever in their unfallen state. That's why we see that the tree of life was put off limits to Adam and Eve after they sinned, so that they would not live forever in their fallen state. Verses 22-24: "*Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'—*²³ *therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.*²⁴ *So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim [angels] at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*" So Adam and Eve sinned, and most likely you and I would have sinned before long, too, if we were in that same condition and had been tempted the same way.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, they fell from their state of innocence. Before the Fall, they were able to sin or able not to sin - they had a free will. After the Fall, they were no longer able *not* to sin, because they now had a sinful nature. And that sinful nature has been passed on to every human being born since then, with the exception of our Lord Jesus. Exactly how that sinful nature (which we all have) is passed on, genetically or otherwise, we don't know. However, as a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience, sin and death came into this perfect world that God had created. Romans 5:12 says, "*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*"

Verse 20 says that Adam gave his wife the name "Eve," because she was the mother of all living. Have you heard of the "Eve gene"? In our bodies we all have a substance called mitochondrial DNA. It is inherited only from our mothers. Recent genetic studies of the mitochondrial DNA have shown that all human beings descended from the same woman! This evidence of an "Eve gene" is certainly strong support for the truth of Genesis 3:20 - that Eve was the mother of all humans.

Doctrinal Points

1. The judgment of God was displayed because of the Fall of man.

The events of Genesis 3 and the disobedience of man resulted in the judgment of God upon mankind and judgment upon Satan. The evidence of this judgment is still displayed in this world. A woman's pain in childbirth is one result of the Fall.

Genesis 3:16 says, *'To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception. In pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."*

The last part of verse 16 is not easy to interpret. There are several interpretations, depending on your view of the word that is translated "desire." I lean in the direction that the word "desire" here is used in a negative sense, in the same way it is used in Genesis 4:7 where God told Cain that sin "desired" him. In other words, part of the judgment was that woman would desire to dominate man, and there would be friction between men and women as a result. The "battle of the sexes" is the result of the fall of man.

Verses 17-19 demonstrate that the sweat, toil, thorns and thistles involved in making the land produce crops were not part of God's original intention. The difficulties of farming the land display God's judgment on man's disobedience. Even the animal kingdom has experienced the curse because of man's sin. Verse 14 says that the serpent was cursed more than other animals. In other words, all the animal kingdom came under the curse, and all animals were affected - but especially the serpent. The evidence of God's judgment is displayed every time you see a snake slithering along the ground. It reminds us of God's judgment against Satan. The judgment of God was displayed because of the Fall of man.

2. The grace of God was displayed because of the Fall of man.

Where do we see the grace of God in this chapter? Well, first of all it's seen in verse 15, where we have the first promise of the Redeemer: *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

Satan's "seed" refers to all of Satan's agents, including demons and unbelieving people. The Lord Jesus said to the unbelieving Pharisees in John 8:44, *"You are of your father the devil"* (John 8:44). So the seed of Satan includes all demons and evil unbelieving people.

The seed of the woman, specifically, is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who took on full humanity. There may even be an indication of the virgin birth in the words "the seed of the woman."

A Calvary's cross, the seed of the woman crushed Satan's head. Crushing the head is fatal. Satan was defeated when our Lord Jesus died on the cross for our sins and broke the power of sin and death.

What does it mean, that Satan would "bruise the heel" of the Redeemer? A bruise on the heel is painful, but not fatal. The Lord Jesus had to face suffering and death in order to defeat Satan so that we could be redeemed - but He did not remain dead! So we certainly see the grace of God displayed in Genesis 3 with the first promise of the Redeemer. We also see the grace of God displayed in the fact that God came looking for Adam and Eve after they sinned, and He clothed them (v21). What a beautiful picture of salvation! God looked for them – He sought them out even though they were in a sinful state. He took away the fig leaves of Adam and Eve's own making, and covered them with the skins of animals. And animals had to die to provide the covering.

I'm sure you can see the spiritual picture here. God is looking for lost people *"The Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost! As a result of Christ's death, God can clothe us with garments of salvation. "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD. My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness"* (Isaiah 61:10). The grace of God was displayed because of the Fall of man.

Practical Application

The Lord's first question to us is still, "Where are you?"

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

That is the first question asked in the Bible. The good news about that question is that God came looking for Adam and Eve. The sad news is that Adam and Eve were guilty and lost and tried to hide. Then Adam made excuses - he blamed Eve. *"Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate"* (v12). Notice that Adam blamed God as well! *"The woman whom You gave to be with me..."* (v12). Then Eve blamed the serpent. *"And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate"* (v13). The excuse - "The devil made me do it!" - has been used many times since the Garden of Eden.

God asked the question, "Where are you?" even though He certainly knew where Adam and Eve were hiding. The real point of His question was "Where are you in reference to Me?" Because of sin, there was no longer any close fellowship between God and mankind.

"Where are you?" is the Lord's first question to us, and God asks that question of every one of us. "Where are you?" Not, where are you as to your physical location, or where are you as to your business career, or where are you to your church affiliation – no! Where are you in your relationship with God?

Do you know the Lord? Are you walking with the Lord, or have you lost your close fellowship with Him? Are you hiding from God because of some problem or sin in your life? Why not confess that sin? Why not bring that problem before the Lord and be restored to fellowship with the Lord? The Lord's first question to us is still, "Where are you?"