

God of Creation | Genesis Ch. 1-11

Session Five: Genesis 3 | Paradise Lost

Big Picture Question:

Why is there sin and suffering?

Why does our God allow sin and suffering?

These are questions we do not know the answers too, but there are a few things we can know as we consider it:

- Evil is not good
- Evil must be ultimately for God's glory and our good, or evil wouldn't exist
- We can trust God
- His creation is good because He is good

Introduction of Chapter 3

- Yahweh Elohim- both a personal and transcendent God
- "Serpent"- understood to be the devil
 - John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer *from the beginning*, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Sin introduced

- Satan casts doubt on the truthfulness of God
 - "Did God actually say..."
- Eve adds to the truth: Eve halfway corrects him, but adds to the words of God (overstates)
 - Legalism: The Pharisees added to the truth, and it became a lie
- Eve diminishes the truth
 - License: acting as if God doesn't hate sin
- Satan says the opposite of the truth
 - Flat denial: needs a willing listener to take it in
 - Satan suggests that God is withholding something good, but we know that is not the character of God

The nature of sin

- Common pattern of sin
 - I see it
 - Desire is inflamed by seeing
 - Fix our eyes on worthier things
 - I want it
 - The fruit is practical, beneficial, and beautiful
 - It is not necessary or allowed for her though
 - I take it

- I eat it (take it inside of me)
 - The external thing cannot fix the inside, but we commonly believe that sin is an outside to inside pattern
 - The gospel is an inside to outside pattern
 - As our heart and desire is transformed, so will our actions
- We recruit others into our sin so that we don't have to have shame alone
 - Adam sees Eve, take the fruit, but she does not surely die
 - Does this mean God is a liar? No- she is already beginning to die
- Shame/Nakedness
 - They made a flimsy attempt to cover their sin

The Lord's response

- He comes into the sanctuary
 - He is Lord God with them
- God initiates the dialogue
 - He is omniscient, He knows where they are already
 - He is drawing the man into dialogue for the purpose of drawing him to repentance
 - This is an act of grace, patience, and long-suffering
 - When God gives us an opportunity to confess, let's be quick to meet him with honesty
- The blame game
 - Adam blames eve
 - Eve blames the serpent
- There is no dialogue towards the serpent because there is no redemption for the serpent

The curses

- Serpent
 - Doomed to the dust
 - Adam was pulled from the dust
 - Condemned to a life of humiliation and despair
 - Enmity between the serpent and the woman
 - "I will put..." like "let there be...": God is commanding this
 - Eve will no longer see the serpent as a potential friend
 - "enmity"= ill-will, hatred, a mutual antagonism
 - The Protoevangelium
 - The prophecy of Christ
 - From now on the woman will strive to bring forth someone who will crush the serpent
 - Spoken immediately after the first sin is committed
 - God cannot wait to say "I will make provision"
- Woman
 - pain in childbearing
 - Not just physical pain in childbirth...
 - Eve will give birth to the first murderer

- The command of being fruitful and multiplying will be frustrated for her
 - Her desire will be for her husband and he will rule over her
 - They were created to co-labor
 - Now there will be competition between them
- Man
 - Cursed is the ground... by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
 - His ability to joyfully work and keep the garden will be subverted
 - Adam will return to the dust
 - “The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”
 - “Eve”= life-giving
 - In the midst of all God said, Adam realizes there is hope that woman will bear the one who will crush the serpent.

God provides the first Atonement for sin

- Garments of skin
- Sacrifice of an innocent animal to cover the shame
- God provided the first and *last* sacrifice for us

God won’t let them eat from the tree of life

- Let him not be trapped eternally in a state of sin
- Redemption must come first
- This is a mercy

God sent them out

- ...from the sanctuary of delight
 - where there was peace, communion, and delight
- God sent them out to work the ground from which Adam was taken
- They must be driven from the garden
- Cherubim and flaming sword
 - Exodus 26
 - Eastern gate, worked into the curtain, cherubim
 - On Veil between holy place and most holy place
- God defends his holiness, even when we don't

Jesus as the New Adam

- Romans 5:12-18

The 1st Adam	The 2nd Adam (Jesus)
Adam gave physical life to the human race	2nd Adam gives eternal life to the human race
Adam was given dominion over the earth	Given dominion over all things

Given a bride after being put into a deep sleep and brought back to wakefulness	Laid in a ground after being put to death, is raised to life and given the bride of the church
Endures a pivotal testing and fails	Endures a pivotal testing and is perfectly obedient, obedient till death on a cross

- Tree of knowledge of good and evil
 - It is in both stories
 - surely in no other place of time was this tree more purely displayed than on a cross on a hill on a Friday
 - Surely nothing else in human history so clearly showed us the knowledge of good and evil than the perfect goodness of Christ worn down to the dust by the wickedness of man
 - It was a tree that separates us from the presence of God, and it was a tree that restores us to the presence of God
- Ushered back into the presence of God
 - Revelation 22- a picture of the new heavens and the new earth
 - John is given a tour by an angel
 - Some has already been regained to us
 - we live in the already but not yet
 - Already we enjoy some of the fruits of the spirit, but we know we still war with sin
- Jesus Christ exhales the Spirit of God
 - With Christ's dying breath he made it possible that the Spirit would live in us