



# THE STORY OF THE WORLD



## The Fall Genesis 3

### Main Idea

Mankind's disobedience ruined relationships – between people/God, man/woman, humanity/creation – but God already had a plan to redeem and renew Creation.

### Overview

#### **I. The Deception vv 1-5**

- 'That ancient serpent': the Devil, Satan, the Accuser (Revelation 12:9)
- Serpent twists God's words, lies, and sows doubt about God's goodness
- Temptation: you can become 'like God'; desire for autonomy
  - Repudiating God's authority to determine what was best
  - Not so much wickedness as foolishness
- God's order disrupted
  - the woman should not have listened to a subordinate creature (Gen 1:28)
  - the man should not have been passive, allowing the woman to lead into error

#### **II. The Transgression vv6-7**

- The woman coveted the fruit: to satisfy her appetite, attractive to look at, and it would give her something to be proud of (compare 1 John 2:15-17)
- Lost innocence. Before: naked, safe, no shame. Now: exposed, fearful, ashamed

#### **III. The Accounting vv8-13**

- They try to hide: guilt as well as fear
- The man blames the woman; the woman blames the snake; one sin often leads to more

#### **IV. Judgement vv14-19**

- A three-fold curse, with a promise hidden inside!
- Vv17-18: the curse disrupted the harmony between mankind and the natural world
  - Romans 8:18-25 a time of frustration and futility, for us and the created order
- V 16: the curse affected the relationship between man and woman
  - birth of children now painful; marriage now an arena of rivalry/domination
- vv14-15: the curse against the serpent: hostility between humanity and the Evil One
  - One of the woman's offspring will fight the serpent, and though wounded, will prevail
  - Romans 16:20 "the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet".

- The perfections of God’s character (justice, goodness, holiness etc) demand a response to sin, which cannot be tolerated or ignored
  - The curse was both punishment and part of God’s plan to win us back
- “I will put”: God did not abandon us. He had a plan to redeem and renew
- Vv20-21 glimmers of hope: Eve, ‘the mother of all living’
  - God made clothes out of skin: God cared, and provided

#### **V. Implications vv22-24**

- Mankind shut out from fellowship with God: expelled and excluded
- Original Sin is inescapable (Romans 5:12), except for Jesus, who had no human father
- All our heroes will be flawed (Psalm 146:3); Jesus is the only one worthy of worship (Hebrews 12:2)
- Our culture’s assumptions are wrong; People are basically untrustworthy; Humanity is not improving morally over time; ‘Better policies’ will not fix the sin in our hearts
- Our real problem is our sin; our real enemy is the Evil One

#### **VI. How the story will finally end**

- Victory through Jesus’ death and resurrection: “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:19
- Future resolution: Rev 22:3 “No longer will there be anything accursed”

#### Questions

Discussion Starter: *Why do most people prefer to avoid words such as ‘evil’ and ‘sin’? How else do they explain these realities?*

1. Read Genesis 3:1-6.
2. How does the serpent go about deceiving Eve? How is that similar to the main ‘deceptions’ that are current today, which make Christians stumble or prevent people responding to the Christian message?
3. What were the factors that contributed to the woman’s decision to take the fruit and eat it (cf. 1 John 2:15-16)? How does this inform our temptation today? How are we tempted to define our own “good” like Adam and Eve?
4. If we consider that ‘foolishness’ is as much a trigger for sin (if not more so) as ‘wickedness’, what areas of vulnerability do you recognize in your own life? What will you do to reduce your vulnerability
5. If you had been there, knowing what the woman and man were about to do, what would you have said to them?
6. Read Genesis 3:7-19. What is the result of Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God’s gracious rule and provision?
7. What are the various relationships affected by the curse? Why must God curse, and not just overlook the rebellion?
8. What’s the significance of “I will put” in verse 15?
9. In what ways does the curse of Genesis 3 still affect you? In what ways can you escape it?
10. If “our real problem is our sin”, what hope does the Gospel offer the non-Christian dealing with really severe problems (such as violence, destitution, addiction)?
11. How can we counter complacency when it comes to dealing with sin in our lives? How can we help each other in this area?

Accountability Question: *In what ways does the knowledge of Christ’s final victory affect how you live your life this week?*