

Sermon Series: The Big Picture

Sermon title: The Fall

Scripture reading: Genesis 3:1-7

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Introduction:

In Genesis chapters 1 & 2, we have the 'Pattern of the Kingdom' of God. God's people (Adam & Eve) are in God's place (Garden of Eden) living under God's rule. The Creator King of all things is living in peace and harmony with his subjects in his kingdom. Things are just as they're supposed to be.

God in his goodness has provided for them well (Genesis 2:9), which is what a good King is supposed to do. They are free to eat from all of the trees in the garden; all of them, including the 'tree of life'. But, there is one tree that Adam (Eve wasn't 'built' yet; *lit Hebrew*) must not eat of, the 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil'. If they eat of this tree they will *surely* die.

As we get to Genesis chapter 3, we have an introduction to a new character. The *Serpent*. He burst onto the scene unannounced and with few details.

Who is this Serpent? Why is he talking? What do we know about this Serpent? We know a few things:

1. He is clever or crafty. (3:1)
2. He is *talking* to the woman. (3:1)
3. He is questioning God. (3:1 “Did God say?”)
4. He first twists God’s word a bit. (God’s word was positive and filled with blessing and provision, “You shall eat of every tree...except one.” Serpent says, “You shall not eat of any tree”.
5. He lies and says God is lying. (God: “You shall surely die.” 2:17 Serpent: “You will not surely die.” 3:4)
6. He questions God’s goodness and provision. God is withholding something from you. 3:5
7. We know from the New Testament that the Serpent is or is under the power of “[the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world](#)” **Rev. 12:9**

I. God the Creator put on trial.

To better understand Adam and Eve’s fall into sin (and subsequently our fall into sin), we must first see that it is God himself who is being accused. It is against the Creator’s character that the following charges come. As we dive into the text we’ll see 3 lures used here to entice Eve to question God.

I think it’ll be clear to us that any time we are caught in sin, these are the baits that are used. We are tempted to:

- 1. Question God’s word.**
- 2. Question God’s goodness.**
- 3. Quest for independence.**

1. Question God's word.

In verses 1-4 this is what we see. The Serpent questions what God has said and he wants Eve to question it also. *“Did God actually say?” v.1 “You will not surely die.” v.4*

And she's pretty confused. She misquotes God's word a bit herself. God put 2 trees in the midst of the garden and Eve says that God said, *“You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree (singular) that is in the midst of the garden.”* So, she isn't sure what God said it seems. Secondly, Eve adds something God didn't say, *“Neither shall you touch it, lest you die.”* God didn't give the command to Eve, but to Adam. Part of the problem may be that Adam didn't teach his wife the word very well. She wasn't alive when God gave the command.

This is how temptation works. God says one thing. We may not know what he says very well, so we get caught pretty easily. “Uh, um...didn't God say this or that?” One lesson is that if we don't know God's word, we can't know the difference between truth or error. But at other times, we simply question whether God's word is right or we simply do what we want to do.

You see, here in the first pages of Genesis, God has defined what is right and true. Clear boundaries are there. Satan says, “God's word is not true.” Once Eve (and we) question God's word, we are in big trouble. That's why we talk all the time about getting in the Bible. You are defenseless without the sword.

“Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” **Matthew 4:4**

The Serpent gets Eve to **Question God’s word** in verses 1-4 and secondly he gets her to:

2. Question God’s goodness.

That’s what is going on in verse 5. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

“God is keeping something from you!” “God doesn’t want you to have what is good!” “You can’t trust God to be good!” Boy oh boy, is this not something we can relate to? *‘God isn’t giving me what I need!’ ‘God isn’t giving me what I want!’ ‘He’s withholding something from me!’* And if we go that route it isn’t long before we throw off God’s rule and provision and just say, *‘I’ll take care of it myself!’ ‘He can’t come through for me.’ ‘He’s too slow!’*

God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed. They had perfect fellowship with God. They had dominion over all creatures. They had a beautiful home that God had built just for them. And that wasn’t enough!

It’s just like us.

All of us right now can probably think of a way that we are wrestling with this right now. *“I need this. God hasn’t given it and I don’t like it.”* But does God the Creator owe us created beings anything? Is not everything a gift?

And yet he provides for us. What does his word say in the New Testament?

“My God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

The Serpent gets Eve to **Question God’s word.**

He gets her to **Question God’s goodness.**

And she embarks on a **Quest for independence.**

3. Quest for independence.

Look at verse 6. Eve saw that it was good. Eve saw that it was a delight to the eyes. Eve saw that it was to be desired for wisdom.....she took and ate.

It doesn’t matter what she sees or feels in verse 6! God had said, “NO”!

She questioned God’s word. *“I am not sure if God’s right.”*

She questioned God’s goodness. *“I’m not sure if God’s providing well enough.” “I’m not sure he can be trusted.”*

And that leads to a quest for independence. *“I don’t want to live under God’s rule.”* Adam and Eve now are defining for themselves what is right, true and good.

Adam is just as guilty. He is the one who was given the command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and he doesn’t seem to have *disciplined* Eve very well. Sin enters the world.

The pattern of the kingdom becomes the perished kingdom.

What are the immediate effects for Adam and Eve?

- guilt and loss of innocence (verse 7)
- hiding from God (verse 8)
- fear (verse 10)
- destruction of relationships (verse 12 & 13); blaming others for their mistakes.
- Even blaming God. (verse 12) Adam said, “you gave that woman to me.”

As if it is God’s fault. Well, what is God’s response?

II. God brings judgement.

-For the serpent, humbled to the lowest place. For the head of the Serpent, a death blow to the head.

-For the man and the woman both....labor pains. For her pain *in* labor and delivery of babies and for the man pain *through* labor. Back pain and sweat in his work. Both of them struggle in the one flesh union of marriage as Eve will strive against her husband’s leadership and Adam will blame Eve for his sin. For both of them physical death. Dust they came from and dust they shall go.

But the greatest judgement is this: because they refused to live under God’s rule, they are not God’s people from their very core and they must leave God’s place.

And this judgement wasn’t just for them but for the whole human race; every person including you and me.

Romans 5 says this,

“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—

Romans 3:9-12

“All..are under sin. None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:23

all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:1-3

you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind and were by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind.

So, Adam and Eve have a big problem and so do every one of us. All mankind from birth is sinful.

We are not God’s people. We are exiled from God’s place because we all refuse to live under God’s rule.

Yet, as tragic as this is....we see something else at work besides God’s judgment.

III. God brings mercy.

At the end of chapter 3 we see God show great mercy and care even in the midst of judgment.

1. God covers their sin temporarily. God makes clothes, tailor made clothes out of skins for Adam and Eve. (3:21) There's a good indication here that there was a sacrifice made to provide a sin covering, literally. God takes the initiative it seems to make the first sacrificial offering for sin. And it wouldn't be the last!

2. God protects them from a worse state.

Why did God drive them from the garden of Eden?

What does it say?

“Lest they take from the tree of life also and live forever.” But wouldn't it had been a good thing for them to live forever? Wouldn't that fix things?

They would've lived forever in their sinful state!

3. God promises future deliverance.

Genesis 3:15. There will come one from the woman's offspring who will crush (not the Serpent's offspring) but the actual head of the Serpent himself. In doing so, he will receive a wound but will himself conquer.

Here, in the first pages of the Bible we have the first glimpse of a promised deliverer. But who is he? All through the rest of Genesis we are looking and asking, Is this him? Is it Cain? Is it Abel? Is it Seth? Is it Noah? And we find that they are all sinners like Adam.

Well, you remember last week I said that when we look at the box top the puzzle gets much clearer. We look at the New Testament and we know that Genesis 3:15 speaks of Jesus Christ.

For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 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.

Through the first Adam, we all inherited sin. Yet God promised to send another, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, who would remove sin for those who believe in him.

And Jesus made a way for us to be God's people again..to be reconciled to God.

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.