



Week 12: Understanding the Old Testament: THE FALL

MV: *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Gen 3:15)*

EVERY aspect of God's creation has been tainted or distorted by sin

Pain, rebellion, brokenness, hopelessness, despair

We are in a battle DAILY and we feel it

Genesis 1 & 2 are great but Genesis 3 shows us "The Fall"

SUDDEN TURN

Gen 1 & 2 are as God intended. There is PERFECT fellowship with God, with each other and with creation.

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1)

Satan wanted Eve to feel that God was depriving her of something, bringing about distrust, unbelief and rebellion

Satan promises her good things.

Life was already full of good things! How can you do better than perfection?

Satan promised goodness APART from God

It was a subtle twist but it worked.

SATAN IS SUBTLE

Satan doesn't go in with a full frontal assault. It's subtle, it's not what we expect and it seems good oftentimes.

He deceives people with false promises (Father of Lies)

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

Satan takes evil and makes it look good. He twists the truth.

Satan enters the Biblical scene as part of God's creation, so he is NOT all powerful. He is a created being and alive only because God allows it. We shouldn't be terrified of him but be wary of his lies and manipulation.

"Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I

ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings." (Eze 28:12-17 NIV)

"12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." 15 But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. 16 Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, 17 the man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?" (Isa 14:12-17 NIV)

Satan tempts Adam and Eve with the opportunity to decide for themselves the difference between good and evil

But only the Creator gets to decide what's good and evil (Counter Culture)

God makes man dependent on Him, a good thing but sin involves the right of governing ourselves.

Sin is always a declaration of autonomy.

God had given them words to follow but they failed to see God's word as the supreme authority (sound familiar?)

They decided God's word had lesser authority, putting their own desires above His.

When we disobey His commands, we are rejecting His authority and asserting our own

The World Became a Different Place

- separated from God
- separated from each other
- separated from Creation

They now hid from God

They were exiled from the Garden

There was now shame, distrust, blame

There would be pain in childbearing, the ground would be cursed, and toil instead of joyful work

God cursed:

- the serpent—crawl on belly and enmity between it and man (specifically Christ and all mankind in general)
- Eve—cursed with pain in childbirth and strife with husband
- Adam—pain and frustration in working the ground and strife with wife
- Creation—thorn and thistles; groaning in futility as Paul says; immediate spiritual death and eventual physical death

They lost it ALL!

You may think this is so harsh over one piece of fruit, but the outward act reveals something sinister inside—rebellion, idolatry, pride

Adam and Eve made a conscious choice to REBEL

From Cain to Babel

The Fall spirals downward

Cain kills Abel

Lamech pens a poem about being more vengeful than Cain

Sin and Rebellion spread so fast that by Genesis 6, God felt the need to destroy the whole world
"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created--and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground--for I regret that I have made them." (Gen 6:5-7)

God will start all over with Noah and his family

You'd think they'd get it right this time after witnessing the devastation of The Flood

But soon ALL of humanity joins in rebellion against God @ Babel

- the unite themselves in the effort
- they want to make a name for themselves
- they want autonomy for themselves

God destroys the fruit of their rebellion

Humanity's ability to accurately represent God to live as his IMAGE BEARERS is seriously in question.

The Story Continues Despite Sin

God could have ended the story right there

ASK: Why didn't God end it there?

The stage is set for God's plan of redemption. It started earlier:

Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Gen 3:15 NIV)

The offspring is singular....Satan vs. Jesus and Jesus wins.

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." (Rom 16:20)

God makes a covenant with Noah

"But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you." (Gen 6:18)

"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you" (Gen 9:9)

God is saving a people for Himself....