

God's Covenants

The Covenant of Redemption

Key idea:

In the fall, humans broke God's covenant and fell under the curse, but God promised to redeem humans from the curse through the coming Seed of the woman.

Key text:

Genesis 3:14–19

So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 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.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Key points:

1. Satan, in the form of a serpent, lied and deceived Eve, questioning God's Word and His motives. Adam and Eve failed to trust God and expelled Satan and then disobeyed God's covenant command.
2. The Fall did not only affect Adam and Eve but all humans descended from them.
3. In our fallen condition we have lost fellowship with God, His creation, and one another, and brought His just anger and curse upon ourselves. As a result, we are subject to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

4. While pronouncing the curse to the serpent, God gave the covenant of redemption to Adam and Eve, promising to work redemption for fallen humanity.
5. The Promised Seed in Genesis 3:15 is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, Who is born of a woman, does battle with Satan Himself, fulfills Adam's call in the covenant of creation and redeems a people for God!

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How do we know that this was not an ordinary serpent in Genesis 3? Who does Scripture identify as working through the serpent?
3. What method does Satan follow to introduce doubt and then to encourage disobedience? Have I ever experienced something similar in my life? How should Adam and Eve have responded? How should I respond?
4. Why did the fall affect our relationship with God, humanity, and the rest of creation? What does this teach me about the nature of covenant? About the nature of sin?
5. Romans 5:12, 19 teaches that Adam's sin affected all of his descendants. Why did the Fall affect all humans descended from Adam and Eve? What does this teach me about the nature of sin? About the nature of covenant?
6. Why does God give the promise of the Coming Seed to redeem in the midst of the curse on the serpent? Why does He not make the statement directly to Adam and Eve?
7. How do I know that the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman refers to a whole group of people who are sided with either the serpent or with God?
8. How do I know that the seed of the woman refers to a single person Who will strike a fatal blow on Satan and his kingdom? How do I see this idea unfold in the rest of Scripture? How important is this promise of the coming "seed" who will fulfill God's covenant and inherit all of the promised blessings?
9. How is the promised redemption related to the covenant of creation? Is it just a "spiritual" redemption, or does it restore more than just human souls?
10. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

Preview of next week: The Covenant of Preservation (Genesis 6:17-18; 9:1-11)