

Theme: 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.

## I. Intro - Auschwitz 75th Anniversary

- A. 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz recently
- B. How could humans do such a thing?
- C. Two answers: inherent to humanity, or some type of fall
- D. Scripture is clear - something went wrong!
- E. Question 14: Did God originally create humans so sinful and guilty? No. God originally created them good, made in His own image, able to glorify and enjoy Him forever.
- F. What happened? Is there any hope of change? How?

## II. The Fall of Humanity

- A. A fateful conversation and action!

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'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" Genesis 3:1–3

- 1. Beware talking serpents - something wrong here!
- 2. Slander against God: He won't let you eat anything!
- 3. Eve responds with God's Word (a slight change)  
"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.  
<sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4–5

- 4. An outright challenge to God's Word
- 5. An accusation against God's character
- 6. A lie regarding our true nature, freedom, and reality
- 7. Adam should have "guarded/taken care of the Garden" - and driven the serpent out right then!  
When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:6
- 8. The way of temptation - doubting God's Word and motives so that what is forbidden looks good, pleasing, and desirable - when it leads to death!
- 9. She took, gave, & they ate: breaking the covenant!
- 10. What will happen for violating the covenant?

- B. The results of the fall - the curse

- 1. The fall disrupted our relationship with humanity  
Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Genesis 3:7

The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Genesis 3:12

- a. Their nakedness now embarrassed and scared them so they covered themselves
- b. They begin blaming one another for their sin
- c. Humans still have the same call and responsibilities, but they will now be difficult and full of pain

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." Genesis 3:16

1. Still family and childbearing - but pain and conflict
  2. This ultimately leads to conflict, breakdown of family, and even murder (Cain and Abel, adultery, divorce)
2. The fall disrupted our relationship with creation
- 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. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> 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." Genesis 3:17–19
- a. The ground no longer willingly produces
  - b. A struggle ending in death and our return to dust
  - c. We still must subdue, rule, work, and care for the creation, but there is now a major level of frustration, futility, and pain in the effort.
3. The fall disrupted our relationship with God
- Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." Gen 3:8–10
- a. When God approaches they run and hide
  - b. Perfect love and fellowship is now replaced with fear

- c. This is actually the root of all the other maladies, for when we are no longer in a proper relationship with God everything else falls into confusion and ruin.

### C. The extent of the fall

1. The fall affects every area of the covenant of creation - and thus every aspect of our lives
- Question 17: What then is the effect of God's judgment upon our fallen condition? 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.
- a. Because God's covenant of creation covered all of life, our violation of the covenant affects all of life.
  - b. Our relationship to God, creation and one another have all now been changed.
2. The fall affected not just Adam and Eve but all humans
- Question 15: Then how did humans become sinful and guilty? Our first father Adam sinned when he willfully disobeyed God. This fall has poisoned our nature so that we are born sinners, guilty before God, and since then we all choose to disobey God as well.
- a. This is why Cain murders Abel, humanity falls into chaos, and we do evil to this day.
  - b. We can not isolate our educate our way out of this for the problem is us. See Romans 5:12-21
  - c. When we listened to Satan and disobeyed God, we joined Satan in his rebellion. Our sin is nothing less than treason on a cosmic scale.

### III. The Covenant of Redemption

#### A. God promises to work redemption for us

“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.” Genesis 3:15

1. Contained in the curse upon the serpent/Satan - ultimately about God’s rulership & Satan’s rebellion
2. God is promising to undo our wicked rebellion
  - a. We had doubted God’s Word of command, but He gives a Word of promise
  - b. We had doubted God’s motives and foolishly trusted Satan, but God is promising to deliver us from Satan
  - c. We had joined Satan, but God will bring enmity between us and Satan
3. The enmity will continue through the seed of each
  - a. Just as sin and the effects of the fall continued through the generations, so would God’s covenant of redemption.
  - b. The “seed/offspring” is not physical but spiritual
    1. Satan has no physical offspring
    2. Cain & Abel - one sides with Satan and one with God  
Do not be like Cain, who belonged to (literally - FROM) the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. 1 Jn 3:12
    3. The “seed” of each side can be traced through Scripture  
You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. 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

- c. The “seed/offspring” is ultimately One Person Who will do battle with Satan himself and win redemption

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

1. The word “seed/offspring” can be used for both singular and plural
2. We have seen the plural references in Scripture
3. But note “he will crush your (singular) head”
4. This is not the Seed of the woman doing battle against the seed of the serpent, but rather the Seed of the woman defeating the Serpent himself.
5. Note that the Seed of the woman will be stricken (heel), but in His suffering He will utterly strike and destroy the Enemy (head). (same verb)
6. Side note - this verse was viewed Messianically at least 200 years before the time of Jesus!

#### B. The covenant of redemption and the rest of Scripture

1. This is the first reference to the coming Seed Who will fulfill the call of humanity in the covenant of creation, conquer Satan and sin, and bring redemption for God’s people.
2. The rest of Scripture, and the rest of the covenants that structure Scripture, are the unfolding of this promised Seed.
3. This reveals the central message of Scripture  
The central message of the Bible is that God is bringing glory to Himself through the Person and work of Jesus Christ as He creates and redeems a people in whom He lives by His Spirit so that they will glorify and enjoy Him forever.

4. Here begins God's unfolding Promise and work to redeem us, and to fulfill the original covenant of creation.
5. This unfolds through many "seed" of the woman such as Abel and Seth, and many "seed" of the serpent such as Cain and Judas, but ultimately it is focused on the Seed, Jesus, Who is born of a woman, does battle with Satan Himself, and redeems a people for God!
6. A picture of Eve and Mary - Genesis 3:15 fulfilled!
7. This Seed will also be the 2nd Adam, for He will fully and finally fulfill the call of the covenant of creation and bear the penalty of death for Adam's transgression.

#### IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see that God is a Redeemer?
  1. Our actions deserved only judgment & rejection
  2. But God intervenes and promises redemption
  3. This is Who God is and how He acts - redemption
  4. Don't let your sin cause you to hide from God!
  5. Don't make excuses or cover for sin - confess!
  6. Respond to God's covenant of redemption!
  7. Do I know God wants to work redemptively in my life?  
He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32

#### B. Communion - The Table of Redemption (Tony)

##### The Covenant of Redemption

Genesis 3:14-19

February , 2020

Communion

2 Timothy 1:2

Teaching keywords: Covenant; redemption; fall and curse; 2nd Adam

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:2

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. <sup>15</sup> 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."

<sup>16</sup> 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."

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> 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." Genesis 3:14–19