

RESPONSIVE READING

Genesis 3:16-24 NLT

Pastor:

¹⁶ Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”

Congregation:

¹⁷ And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

Pastor:

¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

Congregation:

²⁰ Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live. ²¹ And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

Pastor:

²² Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!”

Congregation:

²³ So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

Pastor:

²⁴ After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?

Heaven's Answer to Sin's Problem, Part 2

Open:

Last Sunday, we took the helicopter view of the sentence upon Satan in the Garden.

- We got the big view, the overview ... the prophetic words of **Genesis 3:15** are fulfilled in Christ ... and what He started, He will finish.
- Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil ... as if a cosmic chess game was being played ... Satan said “check” and with one move God said, “Checkmate.”

Hebrews 2:14-18 NLT ¹⁴ Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

¹⁶ We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

- By dying, He satisfied the requirement of sin's penalty.
 - In rising from the dead, it shows the Father accepted the payment and death is conquered.
 - In living He shows us how to handle life and its challenges.
- Yes, the Promised Seed is Jesus ... He takes the fear of death away and one day, He will crush the enemy ... “checkmate!”

➤ Adam and Eve were guilty of sin ... our choices have consequences:

– Each is sentenced:

(A) Ladies first, Eve

Genesis 3:16 NLT Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”

NKJV To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

– Just as she gave birth to sin ... she will have pain in childbirth.

✓ Though she is guilty of introducing sin to mankind, she will also be privileged of bringing the “Promised Seed” into the world ... who will deliver us from sin’s curse.

– As for “her sorrow” of bringing children into the world and raising children..

✓ Normally: She is more tender, delicate and sensitive than man.

✓ Her “make up” is such that she feels deeper than man.

✓ She is more intuitive, understanding people’s needs, feelings and pain.

✓ More in touch with her feelings, she is often quicker to turn to God for help.

✓ Being the more sensitive one can also be the cause for more grief.

✓ Her heart is heavy for her children.

✓ Of course, there is pain in the delivery process.

➤ As to which translation is best in the 2nd half of Vs. 16 ... From the:

– Positive view: **Your desire shall be for your husband.**

✓ A woman longs for a man who will love her and cherish her ...

✓ Her desire is for a close relationship, and it pulls the man to her ... this holds the family close together.

- √ I'm not saying men don't want this ... I'm saying it is higher on her priority list.
 - √ Ex.: Is that not why teenage girls spend more time talking about boys than boys do girls?
- She wants emotional closeness; he wants physical intimacy ...
Ladies: don't give physical intimacy without commitment ... lest you end up feeling like a prostitute.
- √ Key: Men: the better you meet her emotional needs, the better your sex life.
- Negative view: **You will desire to control your husband ...**
- √ Herein lies the struggle of many marriages ... who is in control ...
 - √ Many women desire to control their husbands ...
 - Pout to get their way, silent treatment, manipulate, withhold sex ...
- It is God's design that the man be the leader in the home. "**He will rule over you.**" (Remember: Eve failed when she removed herself from Adam's leadership.)
- √ Protect, guide, provide, set the pace ... he is out front blazing the trail.
- The husband is to walk with God, love and lead his wife and in a similar way the church.

(B) Men: Adam front and center

Genesis 3:17-19 NLT ¹⁷ And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. ¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."

– Man was going to have to work harder ... the earth would not yield its fruit so bountifully and effortlessly.

√ Work will now require sweat, pain, endurance ...

√ In the area where man receives his greatest significance, he would now face his greatest challenge.

* While it's true, mankind did not die immediately upon eating the forbidden fruit ... he would eventually die.

– “To dust you will return.”

– The ground over which you walk and work will one day claim your body again.

– Death continues to haunt us today; it robs us of loved ones; it can feel so final ... but in truth, it's the passageway that leads into eternity.

* Thankfully, the passage doesn't end here ... just when the sentence is about to overwhelm us, we see how death can be overcome.

(1) **A prophetic word**

(2) **A work of grace**

– Picture a courtroom scene: the judge has announced the sentence for the crime ... there stands Adam and Eve in their “fruit of the looms” ... fig leaves.

Genesis 3:20-24 NLT ²⁰ Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live. ²¹ And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife. ²² Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” ²³ So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. ²⁴ After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

– Though man forfeited the right to live in this perfect garden, we see God did not give up on man.

A) Adam's Confession

- Adam gives a name to his "life partner." Up to this point, she is referred to as: female (1:27), helper (2:18), wife (2:24-25), but most often as woman (3:1-2, 4, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16).

√ Timing (right after the sentencing of sin) and the meaning of "Eve" is significant.

- Her name means: to live, give life, the mother of all living.
- This indicates Adam's faith in God's promise ... he believed she would have children, and this would be the means by which the "Seed of the Woman" would come and bring salvation.
- Though Adam would not have understood all that was involved, he demonstrates simple faith in God's promise.

→ You don't have to be a theologian to go to heaven, but you do have to place your faith in the Promised Seed ... the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Her name: "Eve" also lays to rest ... were there other people on earth in other places? She is the mother of all living, not the mother of some living.

√ This sin must have occurred early on as no children have yet been born.

B) Adam's Covering

- Their "self made" fig leaf clothes would not do.

√ God would cover their shame (sin) by sacrificing an animal.

√ It may have been He selected a couple of sheep and slew them right in front of Adam and Eve.

- Never before had blood been shed.
- Of course, this was but a temporary covering ... a shadow of things to come.

Hebrews 9:22 NLT ... Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

- Since the penalty for sin is death (**Romans 6:23**), one would have to die to satisfy the payment.

→ In order to be made right with God, Jesus (Promised Seed) shed His blood for us.

→ By accepting Him as my Savior, my sins are covered (paid for) and I am made right in God's sight.

* While Scripture doesn't come right out and say it, I believe it is obvious:

– God taught Adam and Eve the right way to approach God.

✓ A sacrifice would have to be made, blood would have to be shed.

✓ They would teach their children who in turn would teach their children.

✓ We see this being carried out in the Tabernacle and later the Temple until we get to the New Testament when the "Promised Seed" would lay His life down.

Hebrews 7:27 NLT Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins.

→ Once the perfect sacrifice was made, no other sacrifice was necessary.

C) The Garden is closed to man: off limits.

– Why is man being kicked out of the Garden? Evicted.

– Had man been allowed to remain in the Garden, he would have had access to the tree of life ... meaning he would have been trapped in this fallen world.

✓ Like the fallen angels, incapable of death, forever alienated from the fellowship of God.

✓ What does God do? **NKJV Vs. 24** He drove out the man.

- All who choose to put their trust in Christ will find on the other side of death a closeness with God not interrupted by sin.
- Thus death for the believer is not to be feared but to be embraced.
- So that man wasn't sneaking over the "fence," God found it necessary to put an angel at the gate to guard the entrance.
 - Cherubims guarded the throne of God (highest of angelic rank) and may well have been placed there should Lucifer want access?
 - √ The angels' presence says something of the seriousness of sin and to ensure man was not allowed in ...
 - √ Sin cannot co-exist in a "perfect paradise."
- * It would seem likely that in the years that follow ... Adam and his family would travel to the gate of the Garden and there before the presence of this angel offer a "blood sacrifice" and there worship God.

(1) A work of grace

(2) The right way to worship

Genesis 4:1-7 NKJV Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected (accepted) Abel and his offering,⁵ but He did not respect (accept) Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶ So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?⁷ If you do well (do what is right), will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

- Mentioned are the first 2 children: Cain and Abel, the self-righteous and the God-righteous.
 - One relied on his works, and the other on a blood sacrifice.
 - Both were born of fallen parents, outside of Eden.
 - Both had a sin nature and stood in need of a Savior.

- Cain's name indicates faith = to acquire or possess ... she recognized this little man came from the Lord.
 - She recalls the promise of God ... from the woman would come He who would crush the serpent ... Promised Seed.
 - Perhaps she thought this child would deliver her and Adam from the curse of sin?
 - Maybe he could make things right and they could re-enter the Garden?
 - It would soon be evident this "first-born son" was not the "deliverer."

- Then Abel is born ... seems they are close in age, if not twins ... note the progression: **Vs. 2 Then she bore again.**

- Their choices of occupation provided the basic necessities of life... clothing and food ... that of a shepherd and a farmer.
 - No doubt Adam had taught them ... he had learned from God how to clothe his family with animal skins as well as how to till the ground.

- * Not only did Adam teach his boys how to work but how to worship.

- Family picnics at the Garden gate, talk of sin and how it offended God ... the promise of a deliverer and how sin is covered ...

- As the boys grew up, they too would worship God on their own. **Vs. 3 In the process of time ...**
 - They brought their offering ... where did they bring it?
 - We can't say for sure but may I speculate: At the Garden gate.

√ This was the place where Adam and Eve had known God face to face.

- It is the parents' responsibility to teach their children where and how to worship God.
- I can hear Adam tell his boys:
 - Because of sin, we need a suitable covering.
 - Fig leaves made with our own hands were unacceptable.
 - God provided the covering by shedding the blood of an animal.
 - It is therefore necessary that man approach God by way of a blood sacrifice.
 - Why?
 - √ God said, the penalty for sin is death.
 - √ Justice demands sin's penalty be paid.
 - √ Mercy is available only after justice is satisfied.
 - √ Grace is the offering of Jesus.
- Both boys believed in God: one approached God by offering the best he could produce (vegetable basket), and the other through a blood sacrifice.
 - If you are relying on your own efforts to make you right in God's sight, you are in trouble.
 - It's only by relying on the shed blood of Christ you can be made right.

* Abel was a picture of Jesus:

- Both were shepherds.
- Both presented their offering to God.
- Both were hated by their brothers for no reason.
- Both were killed because of envy.
- Neither died a natural death.
- Both suffered a violent end to life.

Close:

- * Adam and Eve teach us: sin has consequences.
- * If we believe God's Word, there is hope ... both now and in eternity.
- * The only acceptable covering for sin is through a blood sacrifice.
- * Place your faith in Jesus Christ and worship Him with a heart made clean.

Next Week: Brother Against Brother. Genesis 4:8-16.

Message Notes
Pastor Ralph Schneck
First Baptist Church of Lexington
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