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## **Biblical Theology, Lesson 4**

### **The Fall: Paradise Lost**

*Read: Gen. 3*

As we've seen over the last couple of weeks, we were created *to know God*, to draw near and live with Him. We were created to be His People and to live in GOD's Place, the first temple, where God and Humanity could together, in perfect paradise, forever. We were made in God's image, to know, represent, reflect, enjoy, and glorify God. We were made to represent God as little kings and queens, rightly ruling over Creation and exercising dominion in a way that reflected and glorified GOD. We were made to be little priests - serving and worshiping God as we lived in His place, even "working" and "keeping," or "guarding" the Temple, the Garden of Eden, and expanding it throughout the world, filling it with more and more people who rightly knew, loved, worshiping, and obeyed God.

In short, we were made to *know God, to love and be loved by Him; to enjoy Him and glorify Him forever*. We were made to *draw near to God and have a relationship with Him*. But unfortunately, that relationship would be broken. And this happened because humanity broke *GOD's Covenant*.

We talked about that Covenant of Works God made with Adam and Eve last week, but let's briefly review it:

#### **I. The Covenant of Works (Review)**

**A. Obey, they would live forever (Gen. 2:9)**

**B. Disobey, they would surely die (Gen. 2:16-17)**

#### **II. Covenant Broken By Distrusting and Disobeying God (Gen. 3:1-7)**

##### **A. The Enemy in the Garden: Lies About God**

1. A snake entered the Garden; this is Satan, later described in Revelation as a "dragon"
2. Adam was commanded by God to "keep" and "guard" the Garden of Eden - when this enemy serpent came in to twist God's Word and tempt Adam and Eve to sin, they should have slain the dragon! Adam should have

protected his wife! They both should have trusted God, obeyed His Word, and guarded the temple of Eden.

3. But they didn't - they listen to the lies of Satan. Satan doubted God's goodness and twisted His words. Satan made it sound like God was holding out on Adam and Eve - the same ploy he uses today, to make us think that God is holding out on us, and that true happiness and goodness is found outside of God's Word, that we'll truly be happy by disobeying God's Word and choosing Sin.

#### **B. The Origin of Sin: Doubting God's Goodness, Not Trusting in Him, and Disobeying His Word**

1. Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan's lies and not believe in God's Word. They doubted God's goodness.
2. They disobeyed God and broke His Covenant.
3. All sin begins here: with *doubting that God is good and loving; that thinking that we know better than God; by listening to the lies of Satan instead of God; by trying to be gods ourselves, and dethrone God as our King.*
4. Adam and Eve sinned, and immediately faced the consequences.

### **III. The Consequences of Sin (Breaking God's Covenant) for All Humanity**

#### **A. Broken Relationship Between Mankind and God**

1. Under God's wrath - guilt and shame; broken relationship (**Gen. 3:7-10**)
  - a) They immediately feel guilt and shame
  - b) Shame symbolized by them trying to cover up their nakedness
  - c) Their guilt is symbolized by them hiding from God
  - d) Humanity no longer God's people
2. Mankind kicked out of God's Place, the Garden of Eden (**Gen. 3:22-24**)
  - a) Because of our sin, guilt, and shame, our relationship with God is broken and we can no longer know Him, draw near, or live with Him as His people
  - b) Kicked out of the Garden; mankind can no longer live with God in His place

3. God's promised curse is fulfilled: *death enters the world*

a) *Physical death*

(1) Just as God promised, physical death surely comes to Adam and Eve and all their descendants

(2) this is the point of the genealogy of **Gen. 5**; we see the repeated refrain "and he died"

b) Points to humanity's *spiritual death*

(1) Cut off from the tree of life, so that they can no longer live in paradise forever (Gen. 3:22)

(2) Cut off from eternal life - under God's eternal wrath - *Hell*

(3) The painful reality of what's going on here is explicitly stated in *Eph. 2:1-3*:

"And 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."

(4) No longer children of God, but children of wrath

**B. Broken Relationship Between Man and Man**

1. Sin comes into the world and breaks our relationships with each other, so that we no longer rightly love each other; sin corrupts and distorts all of our relationships this side of the Fall

2. Sin distorts our marriages; we talked about how the image of God includes being "male and female" - here, we see that our humanity is broken, meaning that our marriages are distorted by sin

a) As the man, Adam should have been the leader by protecting his wife and taking responsibility. Adam blames Eve, rather than taking personal responsibility (Gen. 3:12)

b) The woman's curse (**Gen. 3:16**) - Our sin makes us abuse and detest our God-given, complimentary gender roles, so that women have the temptation to reject their husband's leadership and be in

charge, and men have the temptation to *neglect* biblical leadership, either by being too passive and not taking responsibility (like Adam) or by being abusive tyrants and not being self-sacrificial, servant-hearted leaders. That's what this verse means

3. Sin distorts all relationships, bringing hatred into the world instead of love - the tragic point of Cain and Abel, in chapter 4

### **C. Broken Relationship Between Man and Creation**

1. GOD's curse on Adam (**Gen.3:17-19**)
2. No longer in paradise - all of Creation is fallen and cursed
3. Famine, sickness and disease, natural disasters, bad weather, animals that eat us, weeds and thorns, etc.

## **IV. Application - What Does this Mean for us Today?**

### **A. Original Sin**

1. When Adam and Eve sinned, we sinned. We all sinned in Adam and are born with a sinful nature. We are all sinners.

#### **a) Rom. 5:12**

### **B. Total Depravity**

1. We are all born with a sinful human nature - every single person is born a *sinner*.

#### **a) Rom. 3:10-18**

2. Doesn't mean everyone is as bad as they could be; but it *does mean* that everyone is "depraved," so that everything we do, apart from Christ, is warped and broken by sin
3. No one is born "good." Everyone is sinful. No one chooses good or GOD on their own. Even the good things we do, apart from Christ, are stained by sin. We need GOD's grace.

### **C. All Mankind Under the Wrath of God**

1. Summary: Humanity no longer GOD's people and kicked out of God's place, because mankind broke God's Covenant. Sin, Satan, and Death reign in the world. Human beings no longer properly represent, reflect, love, or glorify God; our relationship with Him is broken. Sin runs

rampant, and so do its consequences: sickness, natural disasters, evil, pain, and death itself. Creation itself is broken. All people are now sinful and born as enemies of God, bent to rebel against Him. All people now physically die. And all of this shows us that we deserve God's wrath; physical death points us to the reality of *eternal death* - eternal judgment in Hell. But, thankfully, the story doesn't end there

#### **D. We Need God's Gracious Redemption/Salvation**

1. God also promises *future grace and redemption*, which ultimately comes in Christ Jesus. Christ has come to reverse the curse of sin and redeem fallen humanity - even fallen Creation! He has come to fix our broken relationships between us and God, us and each other, and even us and the created world. He has come to forgive us from our sins and evil, fallen human nature. He has come to break the tyranny of Sin, Satan, and Death. Christ has come so that all who repent and believe in His good news become God's People ( a *new humanity*, rightly imaging God by becoming more like Christ), to return to God's Place (a *new Garden of Eden* in the *New Heavens and Earth*, where sin, sickness, and death are no more), under a New Covenant - the covenant of Christ, accomplished by Christ's life, death, and resurrection on our behalf.
2. And all of that is promised here, in Gen. 3, where the story of redemption is set in motion. But we'll leave that for next time, when we begin our third part in the story: *Redemption*.