

A World Longing for Restoration

A Promise given of Redemption

Genesis 3:8-24

1 John 2:16-17 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

- The need for more.
- The need for comparative beauty. (This _____ makes life more attractive).
- The need for independent knowledge. (Like God, but without God).

The great unraveling.

- Personal internal unraveling in the human person (vs. 7).
- Relational unraveling...
 - between humanity and God (vs. 8).
 - between the man and the woman (vs. 12, 16).
 - between humanity and creation (vs. 17-19).
- Ultimately leading to the experience of death (vs. 22).

Before the human body was a transparent window to the inner person; now it can be regarded as an object, separate from the person.

A fracture has take place communally and psychologically.

Hebrews 4:13 No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.

The order of the events are now dealt with in reverse order.

Serpent -> Woman -> Man

Man -> Woman -> Serpent

Is God aware of what has happened?

His desire is to move humanity toward deep reflection and repentance.

vs. 10, The man responds to God.

“I heard you and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

The man (and the woman) have not simply broken a rule.

They have willfully disregarded the very Creator of their existence.

They have chosen to trust themselves or something else which ruptures their relationship with God.

The origin of self determination...

I will not allow you to define for me what is right and what is wrong, I will make my own ethical judgments.

vs. 12, The corruption has tightened its grip.

“The woman you gave to be with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.”

This is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.

Pure joy, elation, gratefulness, completion...

Has turned to...

Blame, guilt, corruption, separation...

vs. 13, The woman responds to God.

“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Avoid responsibility -> blame someone else.

Remember the intentional structure created by the author:

Serpent, Woman, Man

Man, Woman, Serpent

Serpent, Woman, Man

vs. 14, You are cursed - arur (אָרַר)

- This term is strong and it is an act of divine judgement.
- The serpent is being cut off from God's favor.
- The serpent moves from naked/cunning (arum) to humiliation and unending struggle.
- The serpent is completely vulnerable and without God's covering.
- The serpent's future is total defeat (strike / crushed your head).

vs. 15, The first prophecy of the Savior to come.

God is not acting out of anger.

God is fully engaged in creating a pathway for restoration.

Galatians 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say "and to seeds," as though referring to many, but referring to one, **and to your seed**, who is Christ.

The OT is continuously asking, "Who is the seed? Are you the seed?"

1 Samuel 7:12-13 When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Side Note:

- Deborah -> a prophetess and judge of Israel (Judges 4:4).
- Barak's response, "I will only go if you go with me."
- Deborah, "I will gladly go, but you will receive no honor on the road you are about to take, because the Lord will sell Sisera to a woman" (Judges 4:9).
- Sisera is fleeing from Deborah and ends up in the presence of a family he views as safe (family of Heber).
- Jael acted quickly and while Sisera was sleeping drove a stake through his head (Judges 4:21).

A Song of Deborah, Judges 5:24 Most blessed of women is Jael

Fast Forward -> Elizabeth is speaking to Mary

Luke 1:41-42 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** Then she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and your child will be blessed!"

The hope of the promise taking place because of the brave, active obedience of faithful women.

vs. 16,

Notice: The woman is not personally cursed.

- The process of birth will be painful.
 - The original relationship between the man and woman was of perfect unity, equality, mutuality. This is what the woman is longing to go back to, but rebellion has inserted hierarchy. No longer along side but over.
- The pain of the birth of every child is a reminder of the hope of the coming Messiah.
The word became flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)

vs. 17, Because of you the ground is cursed. Important detail: The man is not personally cursed.

- The ground will be resistant to cultivation by humanity.
- It will be a place of frustration and labor.
- The consequences to his actions are real and difficult.
- He will experience pain, hard work, and death (mortality).

Desire -> God given desires have been derailed

- The man will work the ground (God given desire), but now the ground will make it harder for the man to gather his food.
- The woman will bear children (God given desire), but now terrible pain will be experienced in childbirth.

Moving forward, in their experiences of frustration, will they be reminded to depend on God's wisdom and not on their own perceived wisdom?

vs. 20, The man names his wife Eve.

- This is not representative of Adam's authority over Eve.
- This is actually the author giving a clue of hope to the reader (the name is optimistic).
- Adam speaks as to what he views as part of her identity.

Genesis 16:13 So she named the Lord who spoke to her: "You are El-roi," for she said, "In this place, have I actually seen the one who sees me?"

vs. 21, More grace - the objective is restoration, not condemnation.
The Lord God made clothing, he clothed them.

Isaiah 61:10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord, I exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness, as a groom wears a turban
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Galatians 3:27 For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.

vs. 22-24, He must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.

2:16, You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.

Another meal will remind us of the washing, renewing, and clothing of God's people.

The meal reminds us of what Jesus has done for us.

The seed has come.

The seed has provided reconciliation.

The seed has once again opened the gate for eternal life.

Remember: What is eternal life?

To know God, to be in relationship with him and to experience all the goodness of that relationship both in the present age and the age to come.