

## Protoevangelium—The First Gospel Outline

### *Genesis 3:8-15*

- I. A world alienated from God.
  - A. When you lose who God is you lose who you are.
  - B. God doesn't leave us in alienation.
- II. Context.
  - A. All of God's creation was created good.
  - B. God created man, the garden, woman, marriage, and it was all good.
  - C. God gave the man and woman free with just one prohibition—Not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
  - D. The serpent—one of God's created animals inhabited by God's fallen angel Satan.
  - E. The serpent through his craftiness tempts Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit—they fall to the temptation!
    1. Their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked (V. 7).
- III. It could have been different: The alternatives Adam and Eve faced.
  - A. Two choices:
    1. To obey God and to believe He knows what's best for them even though they had NO evidence of what the consequences of disobedience might be.
    2. To disobey God—the preferred choice of Adam and Eve.
- IV. The extent of their sin.
  - A. Romans 5:12-19.
    1. Through Adams sin all mankind has sinned.
    2. Death reigned from Adam to all mankind.
    3. Two key words:
      - a. **“Trespass”** or transgression—to step over a boundary (external).

b. **“Disobedience”**—a refusal to hear (internal).

V. The results of the act.

A. They lost their holiness.

1. Psalm 51:3-4

2. Psalm 90:8

a. All sin results in a loss of holiness.

B. The loss of fellowship with God (3:8).

1. Psalm 16:11.

2. *“Where are you?”*

a. He’s reminding them that He desires their fellowship.

b. He wants them to see their sin.

c. Psalm 32:3-7.

C. The desperation of sinners (3:12-13).

1. Put the attention on someone else.

2. Never taking personal responsibility for sin.

a. Adam—*“The woman YOU gave me...”* (3:12).

b. Eve—*“The serpent deceived me”*...

D. God curses the serpent—and all of creation (3:14).

1. The curse is irreconcilable—*“all the days of your life...”*

VI. God’s solution: The Protoevangelium (3:15).

A. God put “enmity” (hostility) between all the descendants of Eve and Satan’s follower: the saved and the unsaved.

B. God will “bruise” (crush) the head of Satan—a death blow.

1. John 12:31.

C. Satan will “bruise” Jesus Christ on the heel—a temporary injury.

**Jesus bruised on the cross—in recovery three days—  
Raised on the third day**

## Protoevangelium—The First Gospel Pastoral Notes

### *Genesis 3:8-15*

Years ago there was a very famous Supreme Court case...Planned Parenthood VS Casey... where justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the majority opinion... His words have been immortalized...28 words:

*"At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."*

Those words caused a firestorm in that day... 1992... it would be one thing had justice Kennedy said something like... *In America you have the legal right to worship as you believe without harassment...* we would agree with that I think... but that is not what he said...

He said... you have the right to decide what God looks like... you have the right to decide what is right and what is wrong...for you... whatever you want to believe about your existence and life's meaning...that's all good... you have the right to decide all that.

But if you come to this church... we open the Bible and we learn that the God of the Bible says... *"no you don't!...You don't have that right...I designed you...I created you...I created the universe... I will define your existence... I will define your meaning in life... I will define what is right and wrong."*

It is because of words like those that there wasn't a traffic jam coming into the church parking lot this morning!...those are not words people want to hear...*"True freedom is found when you erase all those limiting absolutes...reject the God of the Bible and you will be free!"*

I have to admit... I read over and over again what I just said to you and I felt a tinge of harshness in those words...

*No...you don't have the right to decide what I—God look like...you don't have the right to invent any god you desire... I created you... I created the universe... I will define your existence... I will define your meaning in life... I will define what is right and what is wrong!*

That sounds harsh because that is so very counter-cultural... Kennedy's words are what our culture embraces... preaches... and lives by...it's the religion of the day... I'm so used to hearing what the culture is preaching...so flooded with cultural propaganda that the God of the Bible sounds a little extreme...harsh.

But look at the world that has embraced Kennedy's words... it's a mess... it's broken... it's not getting any better.

What has happened is a world that has been alienated from God... the moment we lost God... there was a deep...radical... spiritual and psychological dislocation... what we are finding out... **when you lose who God is... you lose who you are**...if we were created by and for God and we have left God... it is no wonder things are a mess.

All this is what chapter 3 of Genesis addresses... what happens when man is alienated from God...A willful alienation I might add... but Genesis 3 doesn't leave us hopeless... in the very beginning of human history... God revealed his plan of redemption.... This is a very insightful passage...

A quick review for context... Genesis 1 and 2 God created the entire universe and it was all good... it was perfect... He created man... he was good... God created a perfect garden him to enjoy and to live off of...God did not want man to be alone... so He made a helper for him... woman...she was good....everything was good.

They were married... the first marriage... (2:25) **They were both naked and were not ashamed**....shame did not exist. We turn the page to chapter 3 and everything changed.

God gave the man and woman the whole world... they were to enjoy it... they were to be fruitful and multiply...they were to cultivate the land and enjoy the fruit of their labors... their labor was not laborious.

God told them that every tree in the garden... thousands and thousands of trees was for them to eat from...totally free to eat from all the trees... but one.... God place the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the center of the garden with the command to not eat from that tree.... **ONLY THAT TREE**... because if you do... ***you will surely die***.

Amazing freedom... liberty!... with one small little boundary... amounting to a piece of fruit.

We went through those first seven verses last week... we were introduced to the serpent... one of the members of the animal kingdom that God had made... apparently an upright walking animal...

We know that one of God's most beautiful special angels was Satan... Satan because of his pride and because of his influencing 1/3 of all the angels to join forces and battle the remaining 2/3rds... resulting in defeat... were cast out of heaven...

Out of God's presence... evil flourishes... a **definition of evil is the absence of God**... remove God and what's left is evil... I don't think it was long after Satan's expulsion from heaven that he entered into this serpent... and started working on the woman.... Eve.

You know the story... the serpent... crafty... uses his craftiness to tempt Eve... to turn her back on God...to alienate her from God... and eat the fruit of the forbidden tree....she does...she eats the fruit... Eve takes a little of the fruit... puts it on a nice little dish...a little garnish... all fancy and everything...*here Adam... have some fruit.*

He eats it... (7) **And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.**

They both ate the fruit and now... their eyes were opened... they could now see what they could never see before... they could see what they didn't even know existed... they could see.... Evil.... The perfect garden... the perfect world... would never be the same... evil had arrived.

***Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 3:8-15***

This passage through the ages has been known as the *proto-Evangelium*... *proto* means "the first" or "the original"... *Evangelium* is Latin for "gospel"... the Good News.... **The first gospel**.... This is the first time in the Bible where the Good News is found...

Before time began... God knew what would happen in that garden...we call it His decreed will... He knew man would disobey Him resulting in **alienation from Him**...by definition, Alienation— *the state or experience of being isolated from a group or an activity to which one should belong or in which one should be involved.*

Adam... Eve **should have been** in fellowship with their creator Lord God...they should be involved with Him... but now they are isolated and not involved with Him...

He...God... also knew He had a plan of salvation... the moment sin entered into the world... God revealed his plan of redemption.... It is in these eight verses.... As we shall see.

**The one who does sin is of the devil, because the devil sins from the beginning. The Son of God was manifested for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8**

**Read Genesis 3:8-15**

I have some headings to keep me organized... the first one is.

**I. It could have been different: The alternatives Adam and Eve faced.**

I want to look at this for a moment because it brings up a reality for you and for me...when we're facing temptation to sin.... Adam and Eve had two choices....we have the same choices.

**1. To obey God and to believe He knows what's best for them even though they had NO evidence of what the consequences of disobedience might be.**

How many of us live like that?... *God, I have no idea what's around the corner... I can't see where all this is headed... but I'm going to obey you regardless...I don't know why you gave me this command... but I will obey it regardless...I believe everything you command is good for me....it is for my benefit and for my good...*

We want to be like that...BUT....We WANT to understand what God is asking before we jump into it... *why do you want us to do that God?... what's the point?...* when I was a child my least favorite answer my parents would give me was *Because I said so!*....That's not a good reason!... it's not a reason.

There are 613 commandments directly from God in the first five books alone... most of them were commanded by God with no explanation....Adam and Eve had a commandment before them directly from God...it was just one... wouldn't be nice if in all of life there was only one command you had to obey...and if you did... life would be perfect?...that was their situation!

they were expected to simply obey it... He told them if they disobey it they will surely die... but they didn't know what death was....Of course they chose alternative...

**2. To disobey God**...to disobey God is to declare that we have a right to *define my own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.*" ...sound familiar?... we have a right to make our own decisions, to define what's right and what's wrong and create our own destiny!

YOU ARE FREE to make decisions... but you are not free to create your own reality... because reality is going to cancel out your made up reality...God's commands are based on reality.... How the world REALLY works... you can go against that reality... Adam and Eve chose to go against reality....thinking that would give them complete liberty...

And by doing so... that amazing freedom they had in the garden was lost...they had only one restriction against millions of free options.... They chose the one restriction... now the entire garden is damaged....a loss of an enormous amount of freedom.

## **II. The extent of their sin.**

We read this last week... let's turn there again.. Romans 5...Paul shows us the extent of what happened in Genesis 3:

**12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin,** consequences God warned Eve about **and so death spread to all men,**(we're all from Adam's seed... we're all descendants from Adam and his contaminated DNA has spread to all of us....

**so death spread to all men because all sinned—13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.**

Adam, as the head of the human race, caused every person after him to be born into a fallen condition or sinful state. This effect of Adam's sin is known as original sin and is often referred to as inherited sin.

All human beings have inherited a sinful nature through Adam's original act of disobedience

In addition to receiving a fallen nature... all people who came after Adam have been credited with the guilt of Adam's sin... That is the meaning of imputed sin. An imputation is an attribution or a crediting of something... Imputed sin is Adam's guilt attributed to or credited to us. All humans are counted as having sinned in Adam and thus deserving the same punishment for sin as Adam.

Imputed sin affects our standing before God (we are guilty, condemned), whereas original sin affects our character (we are morally ruined). Both original and imputed sin make us subject to God's judgment.

**14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the trespass of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But...** because sin is now in the world... all men will die...

The word **trespass or transgression** is the picture of a line in the sand... and God says *don't go over that line!*... but you go over the line... you trespassed you overstepped the boundaries. It is an outward act of disobedience... that's what Adam did.... He stepped over the line God drew...

Down to verse 19 we see another word... **For as through the one man's disobedience the many were appointed sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be appointed righteous.**

**Disobedience** comes from the word **to persuade**... literally meaning **a refusal to hear**... now see this... one is an inward act... a refusal to hear... *disobedience*.... The other is an outward act... to step over the line... *transgression*.

Get this... when we are tempted and then we sin... there is an inward act of our will... **we refuse to listen to God**... we refuse to do it because HE SAID SO... we refuse to do it because it doesn't make sense... because it goes against MY reality I've made up... we are not listening to what God has said.... That's where it begins... in the heart... *disobedience... refusal to hear*.

Which then moves to the outward act of stepping over the line that God drew.... When we step over God's line... we are transgressing in the footsteps of Adam.... Adam and Eve faced two alternatives... they didn't listen to God.... so they transgressed by eating the forbidden fruit.



Alternatives to deciding.... To Acting on it... an inward outward act of will....outward action... so we see the extent of the act... what were the results of the act....

### III. The Results of the act.

Adam and Eve in their original state were good... perfect.. set apart for God... they were holy.

#### 1. They lost holiness

I think when a believer sins... they immediately feel the results of the sin... back up to verse 7... right after...immediately after they sinned... **And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.**

Psalm 51... convicting Psalm of David...

Psalm 51:3-4

**3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.** David had refused to hear God... and he stepped over the line...inside outside...what is wrong with us is that every time we sin?... we are proving **we are in rebellion with God**...*I don't want to listen to You... I am going to disobey You... and I will do whatever I want to do!!!!*

We are in rebellion with God. that's our problem! **4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and pure when You judge.** David sins and he is aware he is naked before God.

Psalm 90:8 **You have set our iniquities before You Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

Don't miss this.... All sin results in a loss of holiness... it doesn't matter the sin... large or small... What Adam and Eve did was a "little" sin... they ate a piece of fruit that God told them not to...a little sin...but can you get over the ramifications of that little sin?

*I don't sin much... I don't sin the big ones...sure a few of the smallish sins once in a while but I'm pretty good actually...*Adam and Eve ate one piece of forbidden fruit...with cosmic ramifications.... What does this tell us?... there are no little sins!...**ALL SIN RESULTS IN A LOSS OF HOLINESS....** Only holy people can be in the presence of the holy God...

If you are tainted by ONE sin...you are completely contaminated and in great need of cleansing... we may have a scale rating our sins... these sins aren't as bad as others...we do that because we don't want God to see us how we really are!... like the two in the garden.... We want to cover ourselves with leaves so God can't see us.

EVERYTHING IS NAKED AND EXPOSED TO HIM!.... Immediately Adam and Eve knew something was wrong... Verse 8 is one of the most disturbing verses in the Bible... we read that God was **walking in the garden in the cool of the day...**

it's a picture of God wanting to be in fellowship with His people...and He could be in fellowship because they were holy....It's quite possible that this is referring to a regular event on God's calendar... to walk in the garden.... Spending time with the man and woman.... Fellowship... but this time His people aren't where they should be....so another very huge result of the act is:

## **2. The loss of fellowship**

**8. Then they heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden in the cool of the day and the man and wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God in the midst of the trees in the garden.**

Hiding from God... this is the tragic state of every person in the world!...nobody wants to be in the presence of God!...they know something is wrong... and the last place they want to be is in the presence of the Holiest One...the original design of the garden was for man to have fellowship with God...you only have fellowship when you are close to Him.

God wants to be with them... but they're doing everything they can to hide from Him...one of the greatest tragedies from that garden was the loss of fellowship with God...because of our shame we hide from Him...

Because of our ongoing sinful habits we don't want Him to see us... we feel distant from Him because we don't spend time in His word.... So we are not in fellowship with Him...

**Psalm 16:11 in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasure forevermore. .**

### **3:9. Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"**

Can you imagine God saying to you *Where are you?*... I think those are haunting words!... for omnipotent God to ask me *where are you?* Of course... the question is not for the purpose to gain information... God knows EXACTLY where Adam is...

*Where are you?* Is not so God can find out Adam's location...the question is for Adam... it was for Adam to give careful thought to where he was.... Hiding from God....God is probing his conscience!...*Good question God... why am I here?*

How many of us in this room this morning... is God saying *Where are you?...**Why are you doing what you are doing?...* *I want you back!*... I don't think there's judgement in God's question... I

think there is compassion... He wants Adam back... Romans 2:4 **The goodness of God leads to repentance...**

*Where are you?* Two things

### **1. He's reminding them that He desires their fellowship.**

God is pursuing Adam... He could have just ignored him... after all he turned his back on Him... But God wants His people in fellowship with Him... this was carried out through His Son in the New Testament... same thing here:

Luke 19:10 **"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."**

### **2. He wants them to see their sin**

For God to be in fellowship with them... he must find them and bring them back... but they must acknowledge their sin!... God wants them to see the root of all their problems.... **Disobedience with God...**

Psalm 32 the difference between hiding and confessing your sins.... David again...

**3 When I kept silent about my sin, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.**

**4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; working on the conscience...guilt.... My vitality was drained away as with the heat of summer. Selah.**

Out of fellowship with God.... Loss of personal holiness... caught in my sins... God is saying *Adam...David... where are you?...* what God wants is for Adam to say what David said.

**5 I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I did not cover up;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to Yahweh;"  
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah.**

**6 Therefore, let every holy one pray to You at a time when You may be found;  
Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.**

**7 You are my hiding place; You guard me from trouble;  
You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.**

**Instead of hiding from God in the bushes.... Hide in God Himself!**

*Where are you?* This is what Adam said:

**3: 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."**

Adam felt guilty... because he was guilty!

Guilt is good!...feeling guilt is a good thing... guilt lets you know there's something wrong with your soul... guilt is a sign that is saying STOP IT!... It used to be when someone came to see me and said I feel so guilty... I would say... *don't feel guilty... you shouldn't feel guilty...* now if you come into my office and tell me *I feel so guilty* I'll say *Praise the Lord*

You shouldn't be happy in your sin!!

**I was afraid because I was naked...** *Adam you never were NOT naked!...* but now... he had great shame... and there was nothing that would cover his shame.

**11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"**

God is giving Adam the chance to come clean...nobody told Adam he was naked... that was his conscience talking... for the first time in human history...man defied God...did not obey the one command and felt the guilt of it all... a feeling never before experienced by man!

**Have you eaten from the tree...**not a question... it was another statement... like mom asking *Did you eat all the cookies in that jar?* Not a question... an accusation and condemnation  
Another result of that act:

### 3. The desperation of sinners

Sinners never want to confront their sins... they will do whatever it takes to conceal them... Adam and Eve resort to the blame game...My how they loved each other!... listen to their responses to God as they continue to hide.

**12 And the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave to me from the tree, and I ate."**

Take the attention off of himself and point to a different direction... never taking personal responsibility...putting it on someone else.... He choses Eve... his wife!.... now... I can give Adam a bit of compassion... think about it.....

Adam in chapter is the only human on the planet... life was good... he goes to sleep...and when he wakes up he's married!...none of us ever experienced that!...Adam plays the blame game... he blames two others... his wife...she lured him in... and God Himself... **The woman whom You gave to be with me.**

Nobody wants to take responsibility for our sins... Adam would rather choke to death than admit his sin to God... the concealment of sins is still the condition of the human heart today...we do whatever we can to place the blame off of ourselves.

Last week my head was spinning when I heard a news conference commenting on the recent Hamas wretched execution of six young hostages actually blaming Israel for the deaths...

*God you made me this way*

*It's my parents fault*

*Its genetics fault*

*Its my educations fault*

*It's the gender you made me*

*It's the job*

*It's my sexual orientation*

*It's the wife YOU gave me!*

Eve's no better...

**3:13 Then Yahweh God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."**

That's classic! *The Devil made me do it!*

The damage of the sin had been done... and God now hands out some judgement... we'll see most of these next week... the consequences of the sin... but here's the judgement on the serpent

**14 And Yahweh God said to the serpent,  
"Because you have done this,  
Cursed are you more than any of the cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you will go,  
And dust you will eat  
All the days of your life;**

I hate snakes!... When I was eleven years old in Boy Scouts...we were on a campout in a snake infested area... I awoke in the middle of the night from a rattle snake that crawled into my sleeping bag with me!

**Cursed are you more than any of the cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat all the days of your life!**

Not only is the serpent cursed but all the cattle... the domestic animals as well... as is all the beast of the field... the wild animals... in other words all of creation...Condemned to slither on his belly makes him the lowest of creatures...eating dust would be an offense to the Jews... **all the days of your life**... this condemnation is irrevocable!

#### **4. God's solution**

Now we come to the protoevangelium....

**15 And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her seed;**

God is going to put constant hostility...enmity... between the serpent and the woman...to expand that...and not only the woman... **Your seed...** is the children of darkness... those who are of Satan... **Her seed** are the children of light... there are only two groups of people in the world... you are either of darkness or you are of light... children of God...

this hostility will be between the serpent and all who will come from Eve... put yourself in that group. there will be a constant battle between those in Satan's camp and those in the Lord's camp... The unsaved and the saved.

This explains all the conflict in the world today...people... we are in the fight of our lives... Ephesians 6:12

**12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.**

The enmity...the conflict between Satan's seed and her seed is ever escalating... up until this point in verse 15... your seed and her seed... referring to all that are of darkness or light... but in Hebrew... "seed" it is singular:

**He shall bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise him on the heel."**

What's God talking about?....

**He** God is going to bruise "**you**" the serpent on the head.... Bruise here is "to crush"... the head.... God is going to.... In the future... give a devastating blow to the serpent's head... a fatal blow!

Is this not good news?...

John 12:31 **Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.** That's good news...but how is God going to deliver this death blow?.... through His Son Jesus Christ!

**Hebrews 2:14**

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, **that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**

**1 John 3:8**

**The one who does sin is of the devil, because the devil sins from the beginning. The Son of God was manifested for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**

Jesus did it by going to the cross...

**He shall bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”**

*Satan...before you get this death blow to your head...you're going to bruise Jesus on the heel... if you are planning where you want a snake bite on your body.... They say the heel is the best place!*

It's the furthest body part from the heart... a bruise on the heel would hurt.... Just for a little while... this is a great picture... Jesus bruised on the cross... went into recovery for three days in a tomb... recovered on the third day!... resurrection!

Satan suffers a fatal blow... Christ's death devastated the devil!!!!

**JESUS WAS NOT A VICTIM ON THE CROSS... HE WAS A VICTOR ON THE CROSS.**

In the midst of all the junk going on in the world today...we have some very, very good news! At the same time the world is devastated by sin... God presents us His perfect salvation in His Son Jesus Christ.

Some of you are hiding this morning... there's no need for you to hide...God is calling for you.... *Where are you?...*He knows EXACTLY where you are... do you?... God has provided the way of salvation for you... you don't have to live in condemnation... you can have salvation.

If ever there was a reason to be a child of God... this is it! ...***now is the day of salvation!***