

The Story–Week #13
The Eden (or Fall) Narrative
Genesis 2:4-3:24

Our Rules for the Road

1. The Bible was written for me but not to me.
2. The Bible is a library with different literary genres (**Narrative, Poetry** & Discourse)
3. The Bible must be read in Context (Ancient, Situational & Biblical)
4. The Bible must be read with an understanding of language and words (Repeated words drive dominant **patterns & themes**)
5. The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus

Paradise Lost
Genesis 3:15-24

- **From Entering Eden to Eviction from Eden**
- **The effects of the Fall**
- **Separation from God and His Purposes**

I. God's Pattern of Pursuit (Genesis 3:8-22)

Genesis 3:8 “Then the man and his wife **heard the sound of the LORD God** (Yahweh Elohim) as he was **walking** in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) among the trees of the garden.”

Genesis 3:9 “And LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) called to the human and he said to him, **‘Where are you?’**”

Genesis 3:11 “And he said, **‘Who told you that you are naked?’**”

Genesis 3:13 “And LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) said to the woman, **‘What is this you have done?’**”

- **Who is the pursuer? God**

Genesis 5:24 “Enoch **walked** with God...”

Genesis 6:9 “Noah **walked** with God.”

Genesis 17:1 “The Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; **walk** before me and be blameless.’”

Leviticus 26:12 “I will **walk** among you and be your God, and you shall be my people.”

- We can follow this pattern right to Jesus we reconnect to God and His Purposes.

1 John 1:7 “If we **walk** in the light as he himself (Jesus) is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of **Jesus** his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

II. God’s Pattern of Penalty (Genesis 3:14-19 & 23)

Genesis 2:16 “**When you** eat of it **you shall** surely die.”

Separation from God Presence and Blessing Consequences

1. To the Serpent - The Battle of the **Seed**

Genesis 3:14-15 “So the LORD God said to the **serpent**, ‘Because you have done this, **Cursed are you** above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put **enmity** (Hatred and hostility) between you and the woman, and between your **offspring (seed)** and hers...”

“It seems likely that the author intends these words to be read as **programmatically** and foundational for the establishment of the **plot** and characterization of the remainder of the book. In the **narrative** to follow, there is to be **war** (“enmity”). The two sides are represented by two seeds, the “seed” of the snake and the “seed” of the woman. In the ensuing **battle**, the “seed” of the woman will crush the head of the snake. Though wounded in the struggle, the woman’s “seed” will be victorious. **There remains in this verse a puzzling yet important ambiguity: Who is the “seed” of the woman?** It seems obvious that the purpose of verse 15 has not been to answer that question, but rather to raise it.”

— John H. Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch As Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary*

- The “Seed of the Serpent” are those who **rebel** from the knowledge of the LORD and seek to **live independently** from God and His purposes and are characterized by **deception**.

Genesis 4 & 5 will expose the two seeds:

- 2 Genealogies: Seth to Noah (seed of the woman) & Cain to Lamech (Seed of the serpent)
- The whole Narrative of the Old Testament is carried on this plot conflict. (Babylon, Egypt, Assyria etc...)

A New Testament reference (leads to Jesus):

Matthew 23:29 & 32 (Jesus) “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!... **You snakes! You brood of vipers!...**”

Romans 16:18-20 “**Such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. ... I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.**”

- The “Seed of the Woman” (Eve) are those who seek to stay in relationship with God (walk with God) and **live dependently** on Him.
- People will be the seed of the serpent/satan BUT, they are not our foe/enemy to fight against. **The battle is not against them but for them.**

Ephesians 6:11-12 “**Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle (Battle or conflict) 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 realms.**”

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT) “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of **Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.**”

(NIV) “...who is the **image of God.**”

Romans 12:21 “Do not be overcome by **evil** but overcome evil with **good.**”

- Christ’s New Community (The Church) fights for, not against those separated from God.

2. To the Woman - The Battle of the Sexes

Genesis 3:16 “To the woman he said, ‘I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.’”

The 1st half of the consequence:

“I will make your **pains in childbearing** very severe; with **painful** labor you will give birth to children.”

Tim Macey (The Bible project) gives us a more clear translation of the verse and make the following points:

Genesis 3:16 “I will greatly multiply your **grief and your conception**, in **grief** you will birth children.”

1st. The word “grief, pain” (Hebrew *itsabon*) **IS NOT** the Hebrew word for **labor pains**, but for emotional anxiety, physical grief, frustration and distress.

The same word *itsabon* is used in the next verse (Genesis 3:17) to refer to the frustrating toil the man will experience in the field (see also Genesis 5:29; Isaiah 14:3).

2nd. The word translated for “childbearing” is the noun (Hebrew *heryon*) and is always used for “conception” and is **explicitly NOT labor pain**.

“[The word *etseb*] is used of emotional pain and the pain involved in work. It can also be used of a more generalized kind of pain. It is never used elsewhere in the Old Testament, however, to refer to labor pains, or ‘birthpangs.’ Conversely, there is a well-established vocabulary which is routinely used for labor pain: *tsarar* (צָרָר), *khebel* (חָבַל), and *khul* (חוּל)... If we take our lead from the meaning of *etseb* (עֵצֵב) elsewhere in the Old Testament, Genesis 3:16 **refers to the agony, hardship, worry, and anxiety of the circumstances in which children are conceived, born and raised, and in which they die...** This is the same word’s clear meaning when describing the man’s work in the field in the very next verse (Genesis 3:17).”

— Iain Provan, *Pain In Childbirth?*

The point is, this pain is **the agony, hardship, worry, and anxiety of the circumstances in which children are conceived, born and raised, and in which they die...** and is seen in almost every story throughout Genesis.

The 2nd half of the consequence:

“Your **desire** (Negative) will be for your husband, and he will **rule** (negatively) over you.”

This is a reversal of God’s Ideal

The man “ruling” the woman is the precise opposite picture of God’s ideal in Genesis 1-2, where male and female rule together (Genesis 1:26-28), and where the woman is set apart from the animals not as the man’s inferior but as his equal (from his “side”).

“The rest of the book of Genesis is a series of narrative embodiments of this interpretation of Genesis 3:16. **Every generation** will experience moments where a woman desires power and control over her husband, which is met by a response of manipulation and power play in return: Abraham and Sarai (Genesis 12:10-20 and Genesis 12:16), Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 27), Jacob and Rachel and Leah (Genesis 29-30), Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38), etc.” — Tim Mackie

A New Testament reference (leads to Jesus):

Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

- Christ’s New Community (The Church) is to reestablish ruling together NOT over one another.

3. To the Man - The Battle for Survival

Genesis 3:17-19 “To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, “You must not eat from it,” Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful (*itsabon*) toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 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.’”

The Point is, this pain is the agony, hardship, worry, and anxiety of the circumstances in which food is gained and sustained...

Genesis 3:23-24 “So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”

A New Testament reference (leads to Jesus):

Matthew 6:31-33 (ESV) (Jesus says) “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

- Christ’s New Community (The Church) is to care for one another’s needs.

III. God’s Pattern of Provision for Humanity (Genesis 3:15b & 20-24)

Genesis 3:15b “...he (masculine singular) will crush your (the serpent’s) head, and you will strike his (masculine singular) heel.”

HELP WANTED - SERPENT CRUSHER

- Genesis 5 - Genealogy from Adam’s son, Seth to Noah

Genesis 5:28-29 “Lamech... fathered a son (his seed) and called his name Noah, saying, ‘Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.’”

- Genesis 11 - Genealogy from Noah's son Shem to **Abram**

Genesis 22:17-18 (NASB) *"I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your **seed** as the stars of the heavens and as the sand, which is on the seashore; and your **seed** shall possess the gate of **his** (masculine singular) enemies. And in your **seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..."*

A New Testament reference (leads to Jesus):

Galatians 3:16 *"The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say 'and to seeds,' meaning many people, but 'and to your seed,' meaning **one person, who is Christ.**"*

John 6:47 (MSG) *"Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life.... I am the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever!"*

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

Take a few minutes to check in with each other to see how everyone is doing, then do the following mixer and questions.

Ice Breaker/Mixer Q: Answer either of the following: Can you share a time when you experienced the effects of sin: 1) when you felt distant from God's presence and blessing, 2) you went into some kind of hiding or 3) you felt naked (Vulnerable) or shame?

Pastor spoke this week about patterns in the scriptures that rise out of Genesis. Take some time to answer the following questions and how you have experienced some of the three patterns presented in this weeks message (The Pattern of: pursuit, Penalty, and Provision)

1. Throughout the Biblical Story God pursues mankind. How was God kind with Adam and Eve in His pursuit of them and how has he been kind to you
2. The pattern of walking with God seems to be a clear indicator of intimacy with God (i.e. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, King David and Jesus with the 12). What are you learning about walking with God in greater intimacy?
3. The pattern of penalty for sin starts on the 3ed page (chapter) of the Bible. How can you see the effects of sin in the three areas covered in this week's message: The Battle of the Seeds, The Battle of the Sexes, and The Battle for Survival?
4. The scriptures teach us that Christ has paid the penalty of sin and He wants His Church to Partner with him to reverse the effects of the fall/sin. How can you and I partner with God in each of the following?
 - Christ's New Community (The Church) fights for, not against those separated from God.
 - Christ's New Community (The Church) is to reestablish ruling together NOT over one another.
 - Christ's New Community (The Church) is to care for one another's needs.
5. God's pattern of provision is ultimately met in Jesus who has restored access to the Tree of Life (John 5:24 & 6:47-51) What do you think the metaphor of eating means in Genesis 2-3 & John 6?

Genesis 3:24 *"And the LORD God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.'"*

John 6:47 (MSG) *"Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life.... I am the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever!"*

Take some time to pray together.