



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

Work? A curse due to sin, or a part of being made in God's image?



In the Beginning

- We know that part of God's judgment pronounced on Adam was that his work load would be increased.
- Genesis 3:17 “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.”



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- We are told this – ““Let us make human beings in our image, *to be like us.*”
- And, we are told this, “On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, *so he rested from all his work.*”
- Made to be like God, and God worked – is it as simple as saying that work is part of God’s intentions for us?



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- Would/could we really be satisfied in a heaven, or on earth with nothing to do?
- Rev 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, **and his servants will serve him.**
- Even in this life work can serve some very godly and noble purposes.



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- Eph 4:28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, ***that they may have something to share with those in need.***
- 1st Tim 5:8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- Conclusion – ***work is a gift from God to serve Him, others, and is even a part of our testimony.***



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Was Adam with Eve when the serpent approached her?



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- Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; *and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*
- There are reasons to believe that Adam was with Eve when the serpent spoke with her, and reasons to believe he wasn't.
- What is beyond dispute is that they both ate and both sinned.



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- It all centers around the phrase, “and she gave also to her husband with her”.
- A plain reading of the text could easily lead us to conclude that Adam was right there with Eve when the serpent spoke to her – and he may well have been.
- Silly rule #1 about forming our doctrines – *we hold on tightly, sometimes too tightly, to what we were first taught.*



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- We should state at this point that just as it does not matter why Satan chose to approach Eve instead of Adam, not much changes either whether the first couple was together or apart for Satan's play on Eve.
- That said, however words matter and especially the words of God.
- There are several plausible possibilities around "who was where" when the serpent approached Eve.



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- **Plausible possibility #1** – Adam was with Eve and silent, disinterested, or whatever when the serpent and Eve were conversing.
- **Plausible possibility #2** – Adam was not with Eve for the conversation, but he was “with her” when she ate from the tree.
- **Plausible possibility #3** – Adam was in the vicinity (nearby), but not close enough to hear or be part of the conversation.



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- **Plausible possibility #1** – Adam was with Eve and silent, disinterested, or whatever when the serpent and Eve were conversing.
- If this one is true then Adam was a real slug in that he was charged first hand by God to care for the garden and God's one command.
- If he stood by and allowed Eve to be deceived without intervening, then he would be behaving like a fallen man even before the fall.



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- **Plausible possibility #2** – Adam was not with Eve for the conversation, but he was “with her” when she ate from the tree.
- This is probably the most widely held among conservative theologians because it seems unlikely that Adam would just stand by and not even engage the serpent with resistance or at least curiosity.
- It helps to explain why the NT tells us that Eve was deceived, but Adam wasn't. (1st Tim 2:14)



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- **Plausible possibility #3** – Adam was in the vicinity (nearby), but not close enough to hear or be part of the conversation.
- This view is not all that different from #2 other than to try to reconcile the “with her” phrase to the events of the Genesis 3.
- In this view, Adam is certainly “with her”, but not close enough to be culpable for not engaging the serpent.



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- What is important to me is not so much which view you may hold, but that you care enough to notice the subtleties of the Word of God.
- Matt 5:18 “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.”
- 2nd Tim 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”



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Why was Eve's sin not dealt with as harshly as Adam's?



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- Rom 5:12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.
- Note that our inherited sin problem comes from Adam and not from Eve – Eve was deceived, but Adam sinned with his eyes wide open.
- So why is that Eve's being deceived gets her “off the hook” so to speak?



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- Could it be a simple matter of justice?
- Genesis 18:25 “Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! **Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?**”
- All of the scenarios one can come up with that seem to pose problems for our understanding of God’s judgment upon sin can be answered with “justice”.



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- How many times and versions of the “are the heathen lost?” argument have you heard?
- Someone is born on an island, never hears the gospel, and they tried to live a good life – will God send them to hell?
- The answer is found in the justice of God – He, the Judge of the universe will do the right thing, and Eve is evidence of that.



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- Eve sinned, but not as blatantly as Adam did – God, in His justice, seems to have made an allowance for the fact that she was deceived.
- Being deceived became a mitigating factor in how God dealt with her – He didn't treat her as an innocent person, but He also didn't judge her as harshly as Adam.
- So whatever scenario is raised about how God will deal with "X", the answer is that He will deal justly with "X".



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“We do know that no person can be saved except through Christ. We do not know that only those who know Him can be saved by Him.”

C.S. Lewis

**The mentally
impaired.**

**Aborted babies!
Those who die in
infancy.**

**Those who
have never
heard?**



In the Beginning

The Fall of Man



In the Beginning

- For the next couple of weeks we will be looking at the fall of mankind and the disastrous results of the fall.
- You will hear me say multiple times in the next couple of weeks a few phrases that I want to stick with you.
- All of them are phrases that point to the awful, terrible, devastating, results of sin being exceedingly sinful!



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- When you see heartache, failure, disease, crime, poverty, injustice, death and the like, I want you to remember that God never intended for any of those things to be!
- When we see any of the above let us remember that sin is always, and 100% of the time, responsible for all suffering.
- When we see sin I want us to remember the fall and that God had, and has, a world in mind for us that is different from the one we have - night and day different!



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- Genesis 3:1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” 2 “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. 3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’” 4 “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. 5 “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”



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- Genesis 3:6 The woman was convinced. *She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her.* So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.
- 1st John 2:16 *For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.* These are not from the Father, but are from this world.



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- So at this point in the garden temptation we have Satan taking possession of a serpent and he is asking questions that he believes will lead Eve to question the character of God and the Word of God.
- *In the big picture his line of questioning to Eve is aimed at convincing her that God is not good.*
- He wants her to believe that God has His silly little rule about one tree to keep her from the “good” life.



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- Why do we teach toddlers that stove tops are “hot”?
- Is it because we want them to have cold hands, or is it because we want to spare them from the pain associated with active stove tops?
- John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy” – Satan wants to destroy the creation of God and, if he is to succeed, he will need the cooperation of God’s highest created entities; people.



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- But Satan has a problem – if he openly advocates for what he wants, no one will want to buy what he is selling.
- The logic of choosing sin, death, and destruction over Eden, and life everlasting just does not work.
- So, he has to be shrewd, he has to be deceptive in order for his plan to have a chance.



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- Sadly, as we know from the rest of the chapter, his plan works – and, for a brief time, maybe even better than he hoped.
- You see Satan probably assumed that one act of corruption was all that it would take to seal the fate of God's creation for all of eternity. (after all, it was true of him)
- What he never saw coming, at least as far as we know, is that God had already planned one act of obedience that would destroy all of the devil's work for all of eternity.



Questions

