



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:5 “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.”
- Remember Lucifer’s sin – he wanted to be like God.
- Evidently, he found an argument that worked for more than just himself – *he found something in Eve that could not resist the supremacy of self as well.*



In the Beginning

- What is interesting is that this whole “supremacy of self” thing worked on Satan before there was any sin, and it worked on Eve before their was a sin nature.
- This must say something about the power of sin that before any of God’s creations had a predisposed inclination to sin, we failed.
- As Paul said in Romans 7 “sin is exceedingly sinful”.



In the Beginning

- It begins to be evident at this point that the serpent is trying to erode Eve's trust in what God said, and he is also attacking the idea that God is good.
- His argument is that God is keeping you from something that would enrich your life, and even make you independent of God.
- By being like God you won't need God and that idea is an intoxicating one that drove Lucifer's rebellion and brought about the fall of man.



In the Beginning

- And there is also the noble idea that to eat from the tree was really nothing more than fulfilling the will of God because He wants us to be like Him, doesn't He?
- Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.
- God wants us to be like Him, He doesn't want us to be Him!



In the Beginning

- *What about this tree itself – and what about the fruit of the tree, what was in it that was so deadly?*
- We are not told what kind of tree it was – in fact, what its fruit was is irrelevant for there was nothing toxic in the tree itself - *it was very good.*
- *The tree turns out to be a test for mankind* – will this creation of God, made in His image, be able to stand?



In the Beginning

- Remember Satan's claim – “you will be like God, knowing both good and evil”.
- He was partly right – *they would know good and evil, but not in the way they thought, but in a way in which they never thought!*
- God does not know evil by experience – Adam and Eve will know evil in the worst possible way, by experience.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.
- So it seems that the instant Adam and Eve fell they also experienced shame at being naked – *interesting on its face because they had never worn so much as a stitch of clothing before.*
- Before the fall, nakedness was not mentioned – after the fall to be naked in public is to be considered shameful.



In the Beginning

- There is really not much of a mystery here – men are aroused sexually by sight.
- I do not think it is any more complicated than that – if everyone ran around naked, sin would be even more of a problem than it is.
- Today it seems like the world's goal is to see how close they can come to being naked without being arrested.



In the Beginning

- Why aprons about their waists? Why didn't they make shoes or hats? Why not gloves? 😊
- Because there is no shame associated with being shoeless or hatless – there is, however shame associated with having one's sex organs exposed.
- And this shame is attached to the introduction of sin into the world – all illicit forms of nakedness are tied directly to sin.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” 11 “Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” 13 Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”



In the Beginning

- “When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden.”
- *A curiosity question – if God is a Spirit, and He is, then why is it written that they “heard” the Lord God walking?*
- Could it be that the One Adam and Eve were familiar with was an OT appearance of Jesus? (Christophany)



In the Beginning

- Genesis 12:7 *Then the Lord appeared to Abram* and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.”
- Genesis 16:7 *The angel of the Lord* found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. 13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, “*You are the God who sees me.*” She also said, “*Have I truly seen the One who sees me?*”



In the Beginning

- “So they hid from the Lord God among the trees.”
- How silly does it seem to us that they would try to hide from God? How silly it must have seemed to them as well, but they choose to hide instead of choosing to repent.
- *One would think that the first thoughts to cross their minds would be “I am so, so, sorry, please forgive me”.*



In the Beginning

- Look, when the stakes are high, life and death high like they were, *surely Adam and Eve will confess and throw themselves upon the mercy of the Judge, won't they?*
- No, instead, they choose to hide from God rather than deal with their sin and in doing so they are behaving like the ordinary, everyday, garden variety sinner – because that is what they had become!
- This condition can be summed up in a word, “depravity”.



In the Beginning

- Rom 1:21 is a general description of the mind of the unsaved – “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”
- “Darkened” is the Greek, “skotizw” and it means to cover in darkness.
- *As a practical matter it means that our natural bent is not towards sorrow and repentance, but towards denial and defiance.*



In the Beginning

- And add this to your understanding of the allure and power of sin – *in an instant, two people who once spoke with God face-to-face suddenly decide that facing Him again is to be avoided like the plague.*
- That is a darkened and depraved mind – that is why often the last thing our unsaved friends and neighbors want to hear is that God wants to befriend them.
- *The One they need the most is mostly the same One they never want to encounter.*



In the Beginning

- “Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”
- God is not really wondering where Adam and Eve are – He knew exactly where they were.
- **He is offering grace to them** – He is making a natural opening for them to repent, but they seem to have no interest even when faced with a death sentence.



In the Beginning

- He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” 11 **“Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”**
- God continues to probe and woo His lost ones by asking a “leading” question – almost as if to say to them, **“look, since you will not confess, let me lead you to say the hard thing you need to say”**.



In the Beginning

- The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”
- Adam’s first inclination as a sinner is to avoid accountability and shift blame away from himself.
- *Adam’s defense is that if he is to blame, he is only partially to blame because after all, God gave Eve to him and she gave him the fruit.*



In the Beginning

- So let me get this straight Adam, when Eve gave you the fruit from the tree you were to avoid, you had no choice – you had to eat it?
- You are bigger and stronger and yet we are to believe that you had no choice since Eve gave you the fruit?
- I'll bet all women wish they had that kind of power over their husbands!



In the Beginning

- Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”
- Now it is Eve’s turn to avoid accountability – “look, the serpent (whom you God, created) deceived me.”
- This is the “I am just this dumb little woman” defense where Eve suggests that she too had no choice because the serpent lied to her. (so if someone lies to us, we are “off the hook”?)



In the Beginning

- Both the man and woman had no viable defense that would render them innocent – Eve had a mitigating circumstance, but she was still guilty.
- We have not changed much, if at all – mankind still wishes to avoid accountability for our sin and we still, in our ways, try to hide from God.
- In the end, you can neither run nor hide from a God who is omnipresent.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
- Here we have judgment pronounced on the serpent and upon Satan, himself.



In the Beginning

- The judgment on the serpent is mostly symbolic – from that time forth the all serpents, which probably walked on 2 or 4 legs in the garden, will have to crawl.
- There is also this common and widely held hatred for snakes – I don't think I know of any other specie so despised as are snakes.
- Why is that? Does it have something to do with the curse of Genesis 3?



Questions

