



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- In Genesis chapter 3 we will see the words “enmity”, and “hostility”, and “cursed” ... indicating that part of what sin brought about was an ongoing struggle.
- There will be a struggle between the seed of the woman and the serpent.
- There will be a struggle between the man and the woman.
- And there will be a struggle between the man and the ground.



In the Beginning

- “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.”
- This is a pivotal verse in the bible – of course all scripture is inspired by God and is His word, but **this one is the first mention of the gospel in the bible.**
- The theological term is “**protoevangelium**” – and this is an integral part of the judgment on Satan.



In the Beginning

- “He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
- The most prevalent teaching from this phrase has to do with *the proportionality of the two “bruises”* – one is much, much, more severe than the other.
- One is inconsequential and temporary while the other is deadly and permanent. (heel versus head)





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- Now notice this – God begins by talking about Satan and the woman, and He even mentions their seeds.
- But, *then God shifts the conversation by introducing a third party to the equation – God speaks of a “he”.*
- What? There is no “he” unless He is talking about Adam, and that is not the case – yet all of sudden, seemingly out of nowhere there is a third party, “he”.



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- My mind goes to Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace into which Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown for what was to be their execution.
- **And in the midst of the furnace there is an additional entity – that entity was no other than Jesus, the Christ, and the “he” of Genesis 3:15 is the same One.**
- ***This is why we look at Genesis 3:15 as the first mention of the gospel – it literally introduces Jesus.***



In the Beginning

- *Genesis 3 then contains the account of the most devastating event in history; sin, and it also points to the most redemptive act in history; Calvary.*
- Satan takes his best shot and misses – he loses and what we see today are the results of his failure.
- *The judgment on Satan was the prophecy of his ultimate doom that would accomplished in time on Calvary.* (delayed in time, but just as sure)



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:16 Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”
- Now God turns to Eve and pronounces judgment on her and upon all of the women that would follow her.
- The first part of her judgment is the one that gets the most attention (pain in child birth), but it is the second part that will cause women the most pain.



In the Beginning

- “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth.”
- *Since this is a judgment, it is fair to assume that in God’s original plan, bearing children would be painless or at least a lot less painful.*
- Pain aside, giving birth to children is still, to this day, a dangerous, life threatening, proposition for both mother and child.



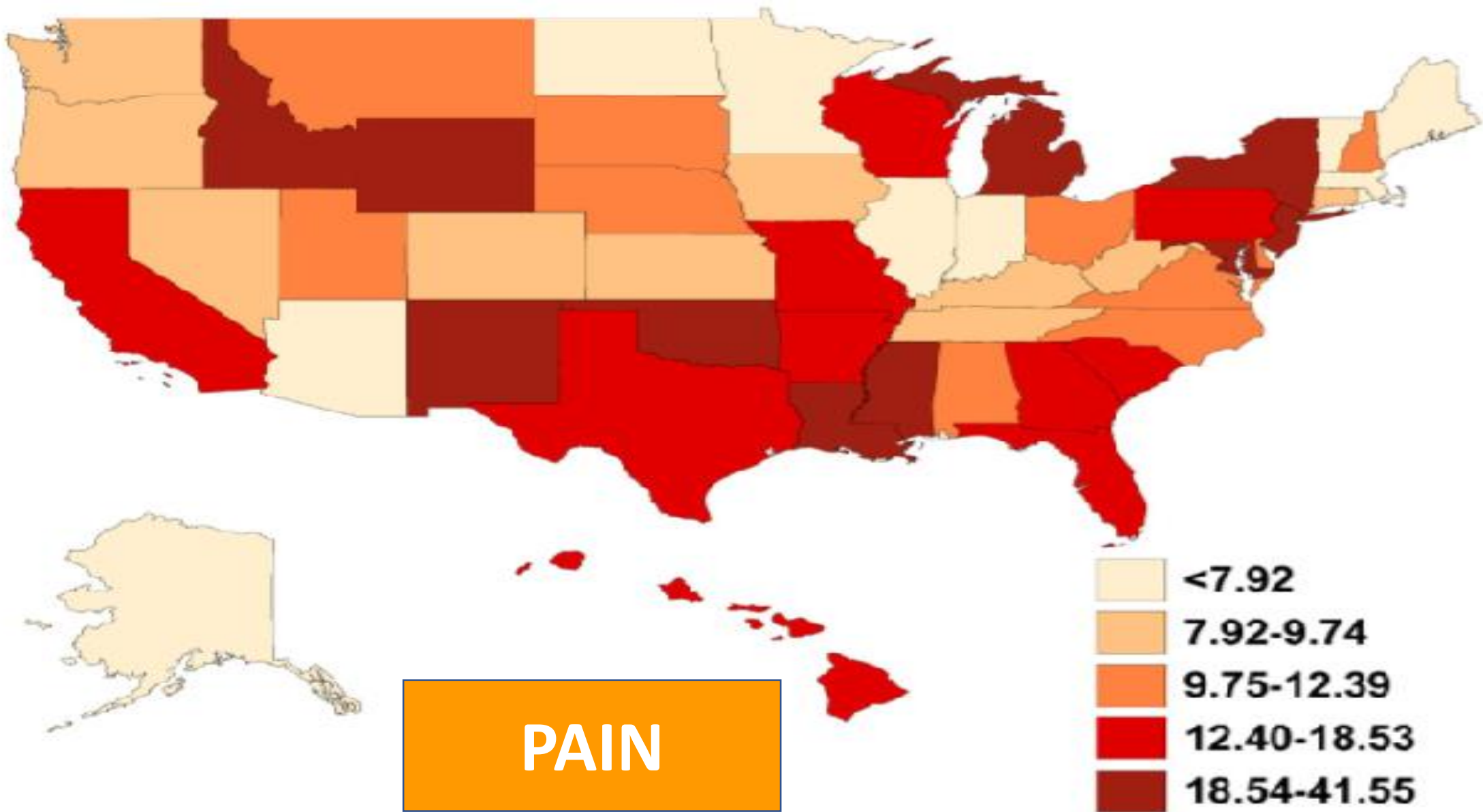
In the Beginning

- British Queen Anne lived from 1665 – 1714 (49 years) and had the best of medical care available at the time.
- She was pregnant 18 times and of the 18 pregnancies, 5 of the babies survived birth.
- Of the 5 who survived birth, none of the 5 survived long enough to become an adult.

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Maternal Mortality per 100,000 live births 2003-2007



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- For much of the world's history, the maternal mortality rates were high – underscoring the fact that pain and suffering in child birth can be deadly.

- Can you see the ugliness of sin and the devastating effects of it?

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- It was never God's intention that women and their babies would die in childbirth – yet another reason why sin is exceedingly sinful.



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- The ancient rabbis used to teach that a mother's most joyous time associated with her children was the time of her pregnancy.
- During that time she could protect her child from the dangers of the world, and keep her child safe from harmful influences.
- After birth, her child will be exposed to the rigors of living in a fallen, sin cursed world.

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- The first judgment on the woman would greatly affect one of her most precious relationships – her relationship with her children.
- The second part of her judgment will hit her in the other area of her life relationships – her relationship to her husband.
- In both cases, the ones she most wants to be close to are sinful by nature, and sinners by their actions.

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- I think it is fair to say that most, not all, but most women define themselves by their relationships with their husband and children.
- Some of her greatest pain, be it emotional, spiritual, or physical, will come from her relationships with her husband and children.

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- It's not that she won't seek success in other areas of her life, but her family relationships will be the most important ones to her.



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- “And you will desire to control your husband”
- Part of God’s judgment on women is that they will have a “unnatural” inclination to want to control someone who is going to fight being controlled.
- So a struggle is established in every marriage – who is going to be in control of what, and this too is the result of sin and we should see it that way.



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- The desire to “control” her husband is really a manifestation of a woman’s desire to exert her will and have her way.
- This too, wanting one’s own way, is a direct result of sin and the fall.

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- It is a wedge of sorts in all marriages for the woman to seek to overthrow God’s order and seize control – that is part of what happened with the forbidden tree.



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- “but he will rule over you.”
- God has an order that was established at creation – that Adam was to lead Eve and be her covering.
- This idea of a man “ruling” over his wife is a good thing established by God, but it has also been abused in horrific ways throughout history.



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- Men, in many cultures and in many cases, have been nothing short of brutal in how they treated their women and their wives.
- Men are usually bigger and stronger and are physically able to impose their will on their wives – and because they can, they have.
- That kind of “ruling” is not what God had in mind.



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- What will become evident next week is that although both men and women operate under the curse of sin, there is both a current and an eternal remedy.
- Women were not intended to seek to defy their husbands and men were not intended to want to “rule” their wives in a bad way.
- It is all part of the fall and, remember, sin is exceedingly sinful!

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In the Beginning

- We've discussed this before, but it is worth repeating – the modern day women's liberation movement is not in principle, as whacky as it sometimes looks.
- The progressive left goes to some crazy extremes trying to get attention, but there is some justification behind the idea that women have been oppressed throughout history.
- It was not God's intention that men were to oppress women and make them into possessions, but rather for both men and women to take their appointed places in His creation.



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- Let's revisit this phrase for just a moment - "And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you."
- Just 15 verses of scripture later we will see very similar language when reading about sin, Cain, and Able.
- Genesis 4:7 "Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."



In the Beginning

- So far then

- The serpent is cursed symbolically.

- Satan is judged, but not yet in time.

- The woman is cursed with pain in childbirth and in her relationships to her husband and children.



Questions

