



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

The Journey 2018

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.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:17 And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, 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. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”



In the Beginning

- There is little mystery here and God makes his pronouncement on Adam in a very “matter of fact” way.
- Adam, you chose to listen to your wife instead of me – it is no sin to listen to your wife, but it is always a sin to substitute the voice of a person for the voice of God.
- In fact, valuing anyone’s advice or counsel over God’s is always a sin. (God does speak, at times through others, but He speaks primarily through His word and His Spirit)



In the Beginning

- We are not told of Adam's motive for listening to Eve's voice over God's.
- We are not told how much time passed between the creation of Eve and the temptation – as we discussed in an earlier lesson the time between creation and temptation was probably brief, but we do not know.
- Just as Eve was drawn to some perceived benefit in eating the fruit, Adam was probably acting on a similar motivation.



In the Beginning

- However, I think we can conclude that Adam was more concerned about what Eve thought than what God thought when he decided to eat.
- So, even before his actual act of sin in the garden, we can detect the pull of sin on Adam – he was calculating the cost/benefit of eating that which was forbidden.
- And, sadly, this is a progression that we know all about – we think about sinning, and then we choose to sin.



In the Beginning

- James 1:14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.
- This is the bad news about possessing the ability to make moral choices – we are free to do so and, given that we have sin natures, we are inclined to choose sin.
- Adam was not predisposed to sin, and yet he sinned anyway.



In the Beginning

- Notice the exact verbiage of the text, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, *the ground is cursed because of you.*”
- Yes, Eve offered the fruit to Adam and she played a role, but Eve was incapable of making Adam sin.
- She helped, but he chose and we see, “*the ground is cursed because of you*”.



In the Beginning

- One could say, “why did God give us the ability to choose for ourselves?” – and even when we say such things we are doing the sinful thing of “shifting blame”.
- But this is an empty argument, and one at its core that tries to assert that God is not good.
- If the inability to choose would be the best possible condition for God’s creation, that is how it would be.



In the Beginning

- “the ground is cursed because of you.”
- Up until this point it seems that the ground was producing all that mankind needed to eat and with much less work than after the curse.
- Just as the woman would be “hit” in her natural realm, the home, so the man would be “hit” in the place where he would spend most of his life, (the workplace).



In the Beginning

- Adam is actually given a death sentence that would await him after first serving a life sentence.
- He is told that he will have to work hard for his food and that will not change for his entire life.
- “All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it”, emphasizing that his work will be hard labor.



In the Beginning

- We should also consider this at this point – “Genesis 9:5 Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.”
- During Adam’s lifetime there were no seriousness technological advances and no inventions to make farming easier. 930 years of hard labor!
- Imagine the hope that Adam and Eve had every time a new male child was brought into the world. (could this one be the promised one?)



In the Beginning

- We do not know how long Eve lived, but it was probably many hundreds of years of giving birth to and raising children.
- Adam, fought with the cursed ground for roughly 900 years – they knew the curse, but they also heard the promise.
- Surely, much like the disciples who heard, “I will come again”, Adam and Eve were expecting to be rescued, “saved” in their lifetimes.



In the Beginning

- It seems that from the O.T. saint's perspective, what Peter said about the second coming applies.
- Adam, Eve, and all of their believing descendants would have been saying, “even so, come!”.
- 2nd Peter 3:9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.



In the Beginning

- For most of history man's life was defined by work – and now, in our lifetimes we've seen women drawn into the same rigors of life IN ADDITION to their duties in the home.
- The effects of sin do not improve over time, they exacerbate and multiply.
- Even for man, who now has lots of helpful technologies to assist in his work, the effects of sin multiply.



In the Beginning

- And it can be a very subtle multiplication – as we’ve advanced technologically, work tends to consume less of our time, but there is no evidence of that being a good thing.
- In fact, it appears as though more idle time, which has turned to more leisure time, has done nothing more than to provide a grand distraction from our sin problem.
- How many people do you know who use most of their “free from work time” constructively?



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:17 All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. (the “it” is the cursed ground) 18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.
- Notice that as a result of the fall mankind is introduced to a new kind of food, bread – “you will eat of its grains”.
- Genesis 2:5 “neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth.”



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:19 “For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”
- So finally, we see that God is as good as His word – “you shall surely die”.
- Adam (and Eve), your judgment is more than pain, suffering, and toil during your years on the earth - your judgment is death as well.



In the Beginning

- When God said, “to dust you shall return” He was making a clear reference to the decomposition of the body once the spirit has departed.
- And now it gets clearer – death has multiple facets; there is physical death and there is spiritual death.
- As it turns out, “surely die” means just that – we will all, with just a few exceptions, surely die physically.



In the Beginning

- 2nd Cor 5:8 Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.
- Paul, when writing to the Christians at Corinth, was able to bring great comfort to this “death” thing that seems to hang over all of our heads.
- He says, in effect, “yes you will die, but think of it more as a “door” to something far better!



In the Beginning

- **The Judgments**

- **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.**
- **The man is judged with a cursed ground from which he must extract a living and all are cursed with death.**



In the Beginning

- Here is the good news – through Christ, all of the judgments rendered upon mankind are mitigated in this life, and eradicated in eternity.
- Family relationships can be hard, but in Christ they can be greatly improved and perfected.
- Work may be hard, but it is given new meaning in Christ as we work for Him.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 3:20 Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live. 21 And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife. 22 Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” 23 So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.



In the Beginning

**Some previews of the close to
one of the most important
chapter in the bible.**



In the Beginning

- **The naming of the woman, Eve.**
- **The significance of the “coats of skins”.**
- **The reason for guarding the tree of life.**
- **The ban from the Garden.**



Questions

