

Genesis 1-3 // Paradise Lost

26 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

(Gen 1:26-28 ESV)

- Out of the overflow of the perfectly unified Godhead, he creates the first creatures that are made *in his image* (imago dei)
- Creates them perfectly, how he wanted it, gives them a purpose and mission and provides everything they need - namely in order to enjoy their fellowship with God all the more

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (Gen 2:18 ESV)

- Still before the Fall and already there was something that was missing
- God creates a complement to Adam, a helper ('ezer) Eve was not the weak one rather she matches him

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (Gen 2:24-25 ESV)

- "Naked and not ashamed" - spiritually pure and unblemished. Nothing to hide
- Loving God was natural and effortless
- Complete trust and complete rhythm - a mingling of souls

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God *actually* say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1 ESV)

- No mention of God's personal name (Yahweh)
- Does not directly deny God's word but introduces an assumption that God's word is open to judgment
- The serpent questions the goodness of God "is he withholding something from you?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,
3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden,
neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

(Gen 3:2-3 ESV)

- Eve's revision is that she:
 - Diminishes God's word - she minimizes his generosity
 - She adds to God's word - she magnifies God's strictness and exaggerates God's strictness
 - She then softens God's word (changes "surely" to "lest")

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:4-5 ESV)

- Notice that the doctrine of judgment is the first doctrine to be denied and rejected
- Now it's God's Word vs. the Serpent's word
- Moral autonomy // half truth and it's better than it seems - they will now be personally responsible for the burden of truth and in turn personally responsible for their actions
- "You want to be independent from God? Do you know what that comes with?"

6 So 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 to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (Gen 3:6 ESV)

- Eve is now left with her own thoughts...and she entertains the "what ifs"...by herself
- But Adam was "with her"
- Adam was intelligent, knowledgeable, and capable yet he sinned willingly and without hesitation. His was a sin of action AND passive guilt.
- The woman listens to the serpent, the man listens to the woman, and nobody listens to God
- Notice that they did not immediately die - to die does not mean cease to be, but in a biblical understand it means to be "cut off from the land of the living"

7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Gen 3:7-8 ESV)

- The word of God was fulfilled and now they know
- And instead of coming straight to God for help or repentance, they try to fix it and solve it themselves. Like a child trying to cover up their mess

9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9 ESV)

- Pay attention because God doesn't need to know things? He didn't lose them all of the sudden
- What's he doing? Giving them a chance to come clean
- Who does he call first? Adam, holds him responsible

10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man said, "The woman whom **you** gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

(Gen 3:10-12 ESV)

- Drastic difference between ultimate intimacy with God now he feels like he has to hid. And notice God's posture...he's approaching him, comes towards him and Adam runs.
- Second chance to come clean in vs. 11
- Adam blames the woman and blames God.

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Gen 3:13 ESV)

- Doesn't blame God but blames the serpent. Doesn't own up and blames her circumstances
- I couldn't help it. That person made me do it.

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1. We see that God must fulfill his word - what he already established
 - a. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Gen 2:16-17 ESV)
 2. We see also that the wages of sin is death Romans 3:23
 - a. Not just to man physically
 - b. Death to man's communion with God - his and his descendants
 - c. Death to everything that he touches - relationships, identity, and creation
 3. The world is broken and we are broken because of sin. Everyone agrees with this to some extent. And we have killed ourselves trying to find the cure

4. 12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned-- 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:12-17 ESV)
5. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Rom :22-25 ESV)