



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

The End of Innocence!

Genesis 3:1-24

Message #4 of 50 – S901

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Sunday Morning Service

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The End of Innocence!

Genesis 3:1-24

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 3**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- I have said it a lot lately – we are living in strange times
- In the first two chapters of Genesis Moses is inspired to describe God’s work of creation
- And it is perfect – God’s description = “Very good!”
- His creation culminated with the creation of man and woman – His highest creation
- Created in the likeness and image of God
- He put them together in a beautiful place and commanded to enjoy it to their complete satisfaction
- They enjoyed a perfect unity and community with God and with each other
- There was an innocence and purity to their existence that would have fulfilled them for their entire lives – which could have been forever
- Fast forward to today – it is almost impossible to find innocence or purity
- Women are killing their pure, innocent babies in their wombs and calling it women’s health or choice
- There is very little unity or true community in this world
- A call for justice is expressed with violence, rioting, racism, and looting toward other people created in God’s likeness and image
- There are few people in this world who know true satisfaction and fulfillment
- People are choosing to end their own lives rather than face one more day of their seemingly pointless life
- And this is not just ‘those people’ out in the world – people in the church struggle just as much as anyone else
- Why is the world like this?
- And how do we, as believers, live in a world like this?

- Let's pray and then get into our text for today and try to answer those questions
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The End of Innocence!**
- Genesis 2 closes with Adam and Eve in a perfect place in a perfect relationship with the world around them, each other, and with God
- Then in slithers trouble
- **Genesis 3:1-5**
- **Revelation 12:9** gives us the name of this creature
So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
- Satan is a being of immense power, but his power is limited
- We are no match for Satan, but he is no match for God
- As Christians, we have God, the Holy Spirit living in us
- No Christian need ever be defeated by Satan
- Satan uses a three-part assault on Eve
- First – **Doubt**
- ‘Has God indeed said,...’
- Notice how Satan is twisting God's words. God said, in the form of a command, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat...” (Gen. 2:16).
- Satan twisted God's good into an evil
- We see that all around us in this world **Isaiah 5:20**
Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
- God has given them one prohibition, stay away from one tree in a garden that was filled with trees to satisfy abundantly every need they had.
- Satan has a way of blinding people to what they have and focusing them on what they don't have.
- And creating doubt about what God has said is one of his favorite tools
- He is also trying to create doubt about God's goodness and integrity

- Our best defense against the attacks and temptations of Satan is the simple Word of God believed and obeyed.
- Satan's second tactic is **Denial**
- 'You will not surely die.'
- This is a direct contradiction of what God said
- We see this happening with gay relationships
- They will say something like, when God said it was an abomination He didn't mean when they love each other
- Or, they will say – this is how God made me - so it is okay
- If God has spoken clearly on a subject, accept it as truth – even if you don't like it
- Denying the truths of God's word is the path to destruction
- The third part of Satan's assault was **Delusion**
- 'you will be like God'
- Satan is suggesting to the woman that know 'good and evil' is a good thing
- And to be like God suggests that she would be in a position to determine for herself what was good and what was evil
- Again, fast forward to today – people believe that people should determine what is right and what is wrong
- If a police officer uses excessive force (key is excessive) and someone dies – most rational people would say that is wrong - evil
- But then thousands of people react with violence, looting, beating and killing people for the purpose of bringing about change
- Reacting to one evil, or as they would have us believe systemic evil, with greater evil is not going to produce good – it is a delusion **James 1:19-20**

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

- Satan pulls out all the stops in his deception of Eve – and she takes the bait
- **Genesis 3:6-7**
- If someone starts doubting God's Word, and denying it clear truths, and deludes themselves into believing they can determine right from wrong – sin is inevitable
- Sin is always looking for an opportunity come out **Genesis 4:7**

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

- Their eyes were opened – their innocence was gone – not just for them but for all their descendants also
- Suddenly, that which was pure and innocent was something to be ashamed out and hidden
- Coverings = loincloths – of fig leaves
- Not only do they hide themselves physically from each other, they also try to hide from God

- **Genesis 3:8-13**

- Anytime God asks a question, He already knows the answer
- His desire in asking the question is that we would humble ourselves and answer it honestly
- Adam fails that test – He blames both the woman and God who gave him the woman
- Eve fails the test by blaming the serpent
- When someone is confronted with their sin, God is looking for a response like David's in the matter of Uriah's wife Bathsheba **2**

- **Samuel 12:11**

So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

- Don't deny it, don't justify it, don't blame someone else – own it!
- God promises to respond if we do **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Adam and Eve had sinned – manifested in their coverings to hide their shame, trying to hide from God, and then trying to shift the blame on others – Satan had defeated them
- And the consequence of their defeat has rippled down through the generations and resulted in the world we live in today
- First, God addresses the serpent

- **Genesis 3:14**

- God curses Satan – he was already a fallen creature, but now his eternal destiny is far worse than any other creature **Revelation 20:10**
The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- The lake of fire is Hell – not where Satan will be king – but where he will suffer an eternity of torment greater than anyone else there
- It is likely that the serpent had always slithered on its belly licking the dust of the earth
- God’s judgment symbolically is represented by those things
- **Genesis 3:15**
- In this verse is the first glimpse of the gospel in the Bible
- Just moments after the realization that they have sinned and that they will ‘surely die’ – God speaks a word of hope
- All is not lost – God loves the humans He created – all of them – even the ones who sin – that would be all of them
- Notice the phrase ‘your seed and her Seed’
- ‘your seed’ = those who will refuse God’s offer of salvation
- ‘her Seed’ – Seed capitalized = Jesus
- ‘bruise your head’ = points to the Second Coming when Jesus will replace Satan as the ‘head’ of this world when He sets up His Kingdom
- ‘bruise His hell’ points to the cross where Satan appears to win a victory by having Him crucified
- In reality, Satan lost at the cross as the hope of all humanity to be free from the Devil’s power comes through faith in Jesus
- The woman is also cursed as a result of not trusting God
- **Genesis 3:16**
- Bearing children was to be a woman’s unique contribution to the family
- Was supposed to something that was beautiful and glorious
- But because of sin, it wouldn’t be easy, would be hard – painful
- I still remember when my daughter delivered our first grandchild
- After many hours of hard labor, Jordan, my son-in-law came into the waiting room with a terrified look on his face and said there was a problem and they were taking her in for an emergency C-Section.
- Also says, ‘Your desire shall be for your husband’
- She will have an unnatural desire to rule over her husband
- But that desire will go unfulfilled – he shall rule
- Sadly, that has led to great abuse of women over the millenia

- Adam also faces God's piercing glare
- **Genesis 3:17-19**
- Work, which should have been man's greatest source of personal fulfillment was going to be hard
- Instead of producing abundance, it would produce weeds
- Before I was saved, I tried to find fulfillment in my work – did some
- But to do it, I ended up spending time away from my family that they needed from me – I wasn't there when I should have been
- And I can look back on my life and see wasted time, and useless things that I thought were important – thorns and thistles
- God knew their fig leaf loincloths weren't going to do
- **Genesis 3:20-21**
- God made tunics of skin
- A casual reading of that and you might miss the message
- Up to this point, Adam and Eve were vegetarians
- It is highly probable that they had never seen anything die
- To help them to understand how terrible sin is, God took innocent animals and slaughtered them in their presence and then made tunics for them
- Every time they put on those tunics; they would be reminded of the price for their sin
- Those innocent animals also point to the perfectly innocent Man who would come in the future to deal with the sins of mankind.
- Adam and Eve have lost their innocence – now they lose something else
- **Genesis 3:22-24**
- God created man in His image and in His likeness
- We were created originally to live forever and the tree of life would have caused that
- God looked on mankind and saw the condition of their souls
- In His grace God decided to not make mankind live in a fallen state forever
- So, He blocked the way to the tree of life – it will show up again in the Book of Revelation

- Eve was deceived by Satan and Adam listened to her and they both sinned
- The consequence of that is the curses they received have been passed down to every generation since
- The world does not have a social justice problem – a race problem – a Democrat vs. Republican problem – it has a sin problem
- The only hope this world has is Jesus Christ and the Word of God
- So, how do we live in this sin-broken world?
- Satan is still deceiving people
- Our first step is to not make the same mistakes Eve made
- Don't doubt God – trust in His goodness, His love, His holiness, His care of you
- Don't deny God – God's word is absolute truth – stand on that truth as the foundation of your life
- And then stand for that truth publicly – fight the darkness by being a light
- Finally don't delude yourself into thinking you can decide what is right or wrong
- Just because something feels right or good, doesn't mean that it is
- The whole world might say that something is right, but if God says it is wrong – it is wrong
- All of the evil, wickedness, and brokenness we see in this world is a result of the curse of sin
- The ultimate expression of the curse is death – eternal physical and spiritual separation from God
- The only solution is faith in Jesus Christ
- Even though we have to live in this sin-broken world, and sometimes the brokenness touches our lives in the form of pain and suffering
- We live with the hope of being delivered from the sin all around us into the perfection of God's presence forever
- In the meantime, God would have us to be lights
- In whatever way He made you shine out into the darkness of this world
- Stand up for the weak and helpless
- Fight for the defenseless

- And do it in faith in God's Word, trusting God to take care of you, and do it in the leading and power of the Holy Spirit, and do it all in the name of Jesus Christ
- We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can change the little part of it that our lives touch
- God could take the little spark of faith within any of us to set a fire of revival that could save this country.
- Let's pray and ask Him to do that!
- **Pray!**