

Good evening,

When we started the book of Genesis two weeks, I mentioned to you that - the book of Genesis is the book of beginnings.

We went over chapter one and looked at the beginning of creation and how God created everything in six days.

Last week, we did chapter two and we dealt with the two important institutions that God introduced. One being the Sabbath and the other being marriage.

So far, things are looking good for Adam and Eve. They get to live in the garden of Eden, they get to name all the animals, they get to fellowship with God and God has also given them an abundance of resources – they can eat from the fruit of any tree except two of them. **The tree of life** and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**.

Things couldn't be any more perfect.

Then we get to chapter three...

Chapter three is very important because without it – we wouldn't know what caused the chaos in chapter four.

We go from paradise in chapters one and two to chapter four which is all about jealousy, murder, vengeance.

How could this happen?

We will find out in chapter three.

Let's pray...

**[Gen 3:1-24 CSB]**

There is a big difference between the last verse in chapter 2 and the way the chapter starts off here in chapter 3.

Let's look at the last verse again in chapter two.

**“And they were both naked, the man and his wife and were not ashamed.”**

If you recall I had mentioned that this speaks of their complete innocence. The man and the woman didn't have to cover anything because there was nothing to cover.

However, chapter three gives us the exact opposite regarding the serpent. He (Satan or Lucifer) was the most cunning – if you have a New Living Translation it uses the word **“Shrewdest”**, it can mean clever, mischievous or malicious.

Now, let's take a closer look at Satan because the world definitely has the wrong idea of who or what Satan is.

People have this picture of him running around in a red jumpsuit with a pitchfork and a goatee. If this was the case, we wouldn't be so easily deceived.

But that is not what the scriptures tell us.

**[Eze 28:13-19 NKJV] 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone [was] your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You [were] the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You [were] perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And [shall be] no more forever." ' "**

The first thing I want to point out is that Satan is not equal with God. God has no equal.

The world comes up with all these different ideas to deceive us regarding the balance good versus evil. The Ying and the Yang – positive energy and negative energy. This is not what scriptures tell us.

God created Satan and then Satan rebelled and scripture tells us that He took with him one third of the angels in heaven - **All because of pride.**

Satan also according to the verses we just read in the book of Ezekiel, is very beautiful. He is very cunning and wise. He is the great deceiver –

Satan knows where he is going to spend his eternity. Satan's will is to take as many people with him as he can.

**So how do we combat Satan's deception?**

**With the Word of God.**

So, Satan is in the Garden of Eden and he starts this dialogue with the woman (or Eve – she wasn't known as Eve until later)

- **This is problem #1 – why is she having a conversation with Satan?**

By having a conversation with Satan. Satan was able to initiate the process of sin by doing one thing and that is to **introduce doubt in the mind of Eve.**

Doubt of what? The word of God.

Satan - "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Eve's response - "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. 3 "But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.' "

Wait a minute – God never said anything about touching it? Gen 2:17 simply says “the day you eat of it, you shall surely die.”

- **Eve failed to know the word of God.**

Eve could have stopped the conversation with the serpent and sought God. But she relies on her own understanding and continues the conversation.

Satan smells blood. This is where he introduces the doubt?

"No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

After introducing doubt, Satan's tactic is for Eve to question God's goodness and love. **God is holding out on you Eve**

It is important to note that Satan will not hesitate to stoop to the misuse of God's word.

That is why we as believers need to know God's word thoroughly so that we will not fall for Satan's manipulation and twisting of it.

This is what happens with cults. You have a conversation with a Jehovah's witness or a Mormon, their first words out of their mouth will be, "yeah, we believe in Jesus – yeah, we read the bible"

And just like serpent, they will start taking bible verses out of context or they ask you, "Does it really say that Jesus is God?" because in our book it states this, this and this.

Instead of seeking the scriptures, we simply give in.

**We must arm ourselves with the Word of God so that we will not be deceived.**

**You see studying the Word of God prepares us against falsehoods, fallacies, and fakeries.**

In Paul's letter to Colossians (turn to Col 3:16) he warns them against the heresies that were being taught in the church that

diminish the deity of Jesus Christ and that rely on human tradition and worldly philosophy as their foundation.

Paul exhorts us to grow in our relationship with Jesus and one of the primary means this is accomplished is by the application of God's word in our lives.

**[Col 3:16 NKJV] 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

Listen, If we are to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and be protected against the evil influence of false teachings, we need to be students of God's word.

**There is no substitute for the study of God's word.**

Some of my favorite authors are Max Lucado and CS Lewis.

However, their books do not substitute the Word of God. I still need to be in the Word continually.

Because verse 6,7 are so important, I want to give you bible illustrations where we see the parallels of what is occurring here in the Garden of Eden.

**Remember, the best tool to interpret the bible is always the bible.**

God has given us example after example so that we may understand His word.

### **(6,7) Progression of Sin (4 verbs) – Saw, Coveted, Took, Hid**

6 The woman **saw** that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was **desirable** for obtaining wisdom. So she **took** some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; **so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.**

Now, we are going to look at the story of Achan. Turn to Joshua 7.

God provides the Children of Israel with specific orders to follow when they attacked Jericho.

God told them that all the spoils of victory of this battle would be His. God wanted the first fruits. However, Achan, when the walls come tumbling down, decided to take with him a few items.

### **Achan**

**[Jos 7:18-21 NKJV] 18 Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you**

have done; do not hide [it] from me." 20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: 21 "When I **saw** among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I **coveted** them and **took them**. And there they are, **hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.**"

### David and Bathsheba

[2 Samuel 11:1-6 NKJV] 1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out [to battle], that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. 2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he **saw** a woman bathing, and the woman [was] very beautiful to behold. 3 So David **sent and inquired** about the woman. And [someone] said, "[Is] this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 Then David sent messengers, and **took** her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I [am] with

child." 6 Then David sent to Joab, [saying], "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

David sends for Uriah because he wanted Uriah to go home and sleep with Bathsheba to cover his own sin. If you continue to read the story, Uriah would not go to sleep with his wife because his fellow soldiers were in battle. David eventually gives the orders to put Uriah in the front lines and for the troops to pull back and allow Uriah to be killed – all to cover up his sin.

Listen church, temptation is not a sin. Eve could have remembered the word of God and said nope – not going to eat it.

Achan as he saw the Babylonian garment and the other items, he could have remembered God's word and left it there according to God's commandment.

David once he saw Bathsheba bathing, could have turned and kept going.

Each of their sins began when they reacted to the temptation.

Remember, Jesus Christ was tempted in the wilderness by Satan – and He remained sinless.

How was Jesus was able to overcome each temptation? with the Word of God.

**1 John 2:16 - 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.**

The three things mentioned in 1 John 2:16 that are paralleled in Genesis three are “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.”

When Eve saw that the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was “good for food” she was being tempted with the lust of the flesh. The lust of the flesh is a temptation to feed our bodies in some way. It can be with food – Eve, riches – Achan, sex/pride – David.

The amazing thing church is that Eve had an abundant of food to chose from, Achan – if he would have waited for the next battle, he would have received some of the rewards and David had multiple wives.

When Eve saw that the tree was “pleasant to the eyes” she was being tempted by the lust of the eyes.

**We must remember that the eyes are the windows to the heart and our hearts are often filled with lust.**

When Satan told Eve that the reason God did not want her to eat from the tree was that if she did she would become “like God” he was tempting her with the pride of life.

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life are the target of Satan to tempt you. Be aware of them and turn his temptations back with the word of God just like Jesus did.

So once Adam and Eve partook of the fruit, they covered themselves with fig leaves.

**Why is this significant?**

**This is the beginning of religion – which I shared with you last week as man’s attempt to draw close to God.**

And this still goes on today.

Instead of enjoying a close fellowship with God, Adam and Eve are now trying to hide from God.

**This is what sin does – it separates us from God.**

In verses 10-13, God is asking Adam and Eve questions.

Instead of being forthright and confessing to what they have done – they both resort to blaming others.

It actually appears that Adam is blaming God when he says, "the woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate."

**[James 1:13 NKJV] 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**

### **The Curse Threefold (Satan, Woman and Adam)**

**Satan** – Many theologians have speculated that the serpent in the garden of Eden did not resemble the serpent that we are familiar today. And many point to the curse – You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life (14)

**[Gen 3:15 CSB] 15 I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.**

In verse 15, we see our first prophecy in the scriptures regarding Jesus Christ. Her offspring/her seed is Jesus Christ.

**[Heb 2:14-15 NKJV] 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

Satan will strike His heel which he did as Jesus was crucified on the cross. However, His death on the cross also dealt Satan a death blow to his head because of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross.

This is the plan of redemption –

Not only for our inherited sin from Adam and Eve but also from our personal sins.

### **Curse to the Woman-**

[Gen 3:16 NKJV] 16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; **In pain you shall bring forth children**; Your desire [shall be] for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

Is that still true regarding childbirth? That it's painful – blame Eve.

There are many who have an issue with the second portion of v16.

**And he shall rule over you.** Paul writes a letter to the church in Ephesus and he writes "wives submit to your husbands" and yes God has designated roles for men and women. He has designated the man to be head of the household.

Many men conveniently forget to finish reading Paul's exhortation to the church in Ephesus because it says, "husbands love your wives as Christ love the church"

For the men in here, don't expect your wives to submit to you if you fail to love them in the same manner that Christ loved the church.

I want to draw your attention to verse 18,

**[Gen 3:18 NKJV] 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.**

Thorns and thistles did not exist before the curse. How appropriate that before He was hung on the cross, Jesus was forced to wear a crown of thorns – a symbol of the curse that resulted from sin –as our sins were placed upon His shoulders.

I find it amazing that despite the disobedience of Adam and Eve, God still demonstrates His grace toward them with two significant events.

Verse 21 – **God makes tunics of skin for them.** You remember the fig trees that they tried to cover themselves with. God gives them **tunics of skin** instead.

Why is this significant?

Because it is the first animal sacrifice in scriptures.

God gives us a glimpse of what He was going to require so that we may have fellowship with Him.

The shedding of blood was going to be the requirement for the remission of sins.

In the OT it was done with an unblemished animal that had to be repeated.

All this was done to point to the Lamb that was Jesus Christ. He did it once and for all.

The last thing I want to point out is verse 24

**[Gen 3:24 NKJV] 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**

So God kicks them out of the Garden of Eden and places an angel in front of the tree of life.

**Why did God put a cherubim with a flaming sword guarding the tree of life?**

The reason that God put the cherubim there was for one reason. Grace. Let me explain.

If man, after the fall, ate of the tree of life, man would have been plunged into a condition of absolute lostness. He would have lived eternally cut off from God without hope of escape from the terrible consequences of sin.

However, God does want us to live forever with Him.

This is why God sent His only Son to die on a cross. If we will accept the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, we will live forever with God, and WITHOUT sin.

Genesis 3 reminds us there is only one way to attain an eternal life of blessedness—the way God has appointed.

That is through His Son, the Creator of heaven and Earth—the Lord Jesus Christ. It is He alone who can say, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life.’

If you remember one thing tonight – I want you to memorize this one verse.

[1Jo 1:9 NKJV] 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What a tremendous promise we have in this verse. God will forgive us from our sins – all we have to do is come directly to Him and confess.

Let's pray...

Dear Jesus,

Please forgive me of all of my sins. I confess to you that I am a sinner. I know that my sin has separated me from you - I now repent of all of my sins. I believe that you died for me and rose again. I accept You as my Lord and Savior.

In Jesus name.