

Pastors Bible Study
Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Sin Enters the World

Genesis 3

Review

Lecture Segment

In Chapter 3 we have doubled back into the first creation story and dropped down into the sixth day of creation story. We left off at: *“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”*

We meet the serpent who is _____

We learn that the serpent is “crafty,” a translation of the Hebrew *awroum* which comes from the root word *awram*, literally “to be smooth”/ Other translations render the word “subtle” or “shrewd”.

We learn more about Satan in:

Revelations 20 *“And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years....”*

Luke 10:18-20 Jesus says, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Isaiah 14:12-14 We have an illusion to a past event – *“How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!...”*

Ezekiel 28 (Ezekiel is among the captives taken in the 2nd attack on Jerusalem and taken to Babylon 597 B.C.E. In this scripture God is comparing the King of Tyre to Satan). *“In the pride of your heart you say, ‘I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas.....’”*

As we continue the story we see that God continues to be called YHWH *Elohim*, “Lord God”.

The serpent speaks *“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*

What is Eve’s response?

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What changed: Serpent uses _____ and Eve uses _____. Do you see the craftiness of Serpent? Satan does this today to pull us away from God.

In Chapter 1 and 2 we see humanity in a perfect sinless condition.

“the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked”

Sin enters the world.

When Adam and Eve eat the fruit, *sin* enters the world, the conflict of our story. The Hebrew word for “sin” suggests “missing the mark”, but in scripture it is more complex. “Sin” is not simply an act of disobedience that one commits, but an ongoing condition that one is in. For the purpose of our narrative, we might define sin as “a condition of alienation and separation from God that manifests itself in outward, sinful actions.”

The condition of Sin has four characteristics:

1. It is subtle
2. It distorts our judgment
3. It escalates- it gets bigger and bigger until it kills you
4. It cascades down through generations

An example is Biblical Leprosy, Luke 5:12-16; Leviticus 13:9-33. The disease behaves like sin and is used as an emblem of sin.

As chapter 3 comes to a close, the “Lord God” speaks of the consequences of what has happened.

For the serpent, he says: Genesis 3:14 _____

To Eve, the Lord God, says: Genesis 3:15 _____

To Adam, the Lord God, says: Genesis 3:16 _____

At the close of Chapter 3 we read death enters the world *“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them”*

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In chapter 4 we see the consequences of sin in the world

We move from the garden into the world with Adam and Eve raising a little Cain!

Eve gives birth to children. What happens?

By Chapter 4:19 we that woman are no longer partners as Lamech takes two wives.

One action leads to another. By Chapter 6 we read:

“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled”.

So, what does God do:

Chapters 6-9 God gives humanity a second chance.

Yet Noah gets off the ark and does what?

Chapter 11 we arrive at the Tower of Babel.

“the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.”

Conclusion: After reading these chapters what is the one conclusion you can draw

Left to our own devices, we _____ resolve the issue of sin –

this is the conflict in the story.

Scripture and Study

Read: Genesis: Chapter 12

Encounter the Word

As you read notice the extraordinary unity as the stories progress, each leading into the next, unfolding like a triptych, and noticed how the whole narrative is framed.

How did John Wesley understand original sin?

There were those in his day who thought the concept of original sin was outdated, or who simply ignored it. Wesley was not among them, as we see in his sermon “[Original Sin](#),” part of our doctrinal standards, and his own edited version of John Taylor’s earlier treatise, [The Doctrine of Original Sin: According to Scripture, Reason, and Experience](#).

In the sermon, Wesley makes clear he understands human nature has been so thoroughly corrupted that we have no possibility of any goodness at all in ourselves or in our patterns of thinking, apart from God’s grace intervening.

“But was there not good mingled with the evil? Was there not light intermixed with the darkness? No; none at all: ‘God saw that the whole imagination of the heart of man was only evil.’ It cannot indeed be denied, but many of them, perhaps all, had good motions put into their hearts; for the Spirit of God did then also ‘strive with man,’ if haply he might repent ... But still ‘in his flesh dwelt no good thing;’ all his nature was purely evil: It was wholly consistent with itself, and unmixed with anything of an opposite nature.” (Sermon 44, [Original Sin](#), I.4).

It was this pervasiveness of evil among and sinking deep into everyone, except Noah and perhaps some members of his family, that led God to destroy everyone else, with much of animal life as well, in the flood. And, he goes on, we are no better now as far as our natural state is concerned.

“The same account is given by all the Apostles, yea, by the whole tenor of the oracles of God. From all these we learn, concerning man in his natural state, unassisted by the grace of God, that ‘every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is’ still ‘evil, only evil,’ and that ‘continually.’” ([Original Sin](#), II,1).

That overarching and underlying reality about us, every one of us, is why God has set about to save us through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our [Articles of Religion](#) underscore this same point as they describe original sin as “the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.” Left on our own, we will always choose the wrong way. The story of Adam and Eve names and cites the initial source of this corruption.

Have questions? We have answers!

In Christ, we are given the opportunity to be restored into our true, uncorrupted human nature — to live into the life we were originally created to live. Wesley put it this way, “the great end of religion is to renew our hearts in the image of God, to repair that total loss of righteousness and true holiness which we sustained by the sin of our first parent” ([Original Sin](#), III.5).

Romans 5 explains, “as by one man’s disobedience [Adam’s] the many [meaning all who are born] were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience [Jesus] the many will be made righteous.”

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This is Paul's way of spelling out both the doctrine of sin and the doctrine of salvation. Christ can redeem all because his faithfulness to God in perfect love and obedience matches and exceeds the disobedience of one man, Adam.

Wesley concludes the sermon:

"Know your disease! Know your cure! Ye were born in sin: Therefore, 'ye must be born again,' born of God. By nature ye are wholly corrupted. By grace ye shall be wholly renewed. In Adam ye all died: In the second Adam, in Christ, ye all are made alive. 'You that were dead in sins hath he quickened:' He hath already given you a principle of life, even faith in him who loved you and gave himself for you! Now, 'go on from faith to faith,' until your whole sickness be healed; and all that 'mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus!'"

Apart from God's grace leading us to redemption, we have no hope of deliverance from the control of original sin over us. By God's grace, made available to all in Jesus Christ and through discipleship to him with his church, we do.

Taken from: Ask The UMC

Our understanding of God's grace:

Wesley talks about the porch, door and the house. The porch is repentance and door is justification. God's love is to prevent that person from being lost – preventing grace to get that person to the porch and from being lost. God's grace is then justifying them to get them to the door of the house where upon entering God's grace is working to sanctify them.

