

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

"The divine holiness, the flaming anger of God, now stands between mankind and paradise. Humanly speaking, the way back to eternal life is closed; and closed, not by mankind's "No!" to God, but by God's "No!" to mankind. Anyone who dares go back must reckon with the holiness of offended deity."

*—Donald Macleod, **Christ Crucified***

"God & The Fall of Man"

The Temptation: Gen. 3:1-5The Background:

- * Adam & Eve are commanded exercise dominion and to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28)
- * They could eat freely from the trees of the garden (Gen. 2:16)
- * They were NOT to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17)

⇒ The man was to _____ and _____ the Word of the Lord, sharing it with his wife and leading in the worship of God.

Observations:

- The serpent was more than just an _____.

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made."

Rev. 12:9a— And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world...

- Both the man & woman were present for the temptation.

"He said to the woman..." (Gen. 3:1) "...and she also gave some to her husband who was with her..." (Gen. 3:6)

- The serpent _____ the Word of the Lord.

"Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

⇒ The serpent altered the words that God had spoken to them.

- The woman failed to correctly _____ the Word of the Lord.

Her words: *"We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 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.'"*

God's Word: *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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."*

- The serpent _____ the Word of the Lord.

"You will not surely die."

"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God (like gods)"

"In Genesis 3 the issue is not primarily the content of the knowledge that humans would appropriate by disobedience, but the manner by which they would obtain it. The nature of the knowledge of good and evil in view here is characterized by the fact that humans would be like God as a result of it. By violating the command of God and eating of the tree, they would make themselves like God in the sense that they would position themselves outside and above [His Word] and, like God, determine and judge for themselves what good and evil was." —Herman Bavinck

The Fall & Its Immediate Consequences: Gen. 3:6-8

- Their choice to sin was considered and _____.

"...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..."

- Brokenness and shame entered into their relationship with _____.

"Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked."

- Brokenness and shame entered into their relationship with _____.

"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..."

The Grace & Judgment of God: Gen. 3:9-24

- God's grace is shown in His line of questioning which afforded them the opportunity to _____.

To the Man: *"Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"*

To the Woman: *"What is this that you have done?"*

- At no point, however, do they take _____ for their own sin.

The Judgment of the Serpent

"Because you have done this, cursed are you...on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat..."

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The Judgments of the Woman and Man

- Men and women are affected by the Fall in *unique* ways according to the special judgment of God.

Women—

Men—

- Men and women are affected by the Fall in the same *general* ways.

Hope in the midst of despair: Romans 8:18-30

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.