

TRAVELING BACK TO TODAY...

We looked at the "Creation Mandate"

(Many people describe this as a "covenant.")

This is God's instructions for how people are to live (Genesis 1-2).

We look at God's response to humanity's "fall" into sin.

(Many people describe this as a "covenant.")

This is the judgment that had to occur... but it came with a promise of hope − an expression of grace (Genesis 3).

✓ Our focus will be on issues that govern our lives today (rather than a detailed analysis of the entire event).

All aspects of the "Creation Mandate" were affected. ✓ People are *still* "in God's image"; but this "image" is marred. • Sin and death now affect all aspects of human existence. All that we are and do is but a poor reflection of that original "image." Because of this, our offspring are more accurately described as being made in *our* image, rather than in *God's* image. On the day that God created man, he made him in Originally a reflection of what the likeness of God; he created them male and God was like... female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind. Now a reflection Adam ... fathered a son in his likeness, according to of what sinful his image, and named him Seth. Adam is like.. Genesis 5:1b-3 (CSB)

Some of the other results caused by sin:

√ Human relationships are now affected by sin.

 This includes the relationships between male and female, husband and wife, parents and children ... all of human society is fractured.

√ The end result is pain, sorrow, eventual death, judgment.

- This is the ultimate contradiction to being created in God's image. People were created in God's image, but have chosen to live in "anti-God's" image. The only possible result is to be separated from all of the blessings that come from God – including life itself. This is called "death."
- Separation from God began immediately. Separation from all of God's other blessings culminates with separation from life itself. Then, all that remains is the deserved wrath of God.

... the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Revelation 19:15b (BSB)

✓ Creation itself is affected by sin.

 All creation is scarred and cannot function quite the way it was intended. Scarcity of food and resources becomes a problem.
 There is now competition and death.

√ Humans can no longer rule over creation as God originally intended.

- Working with creation becomes more difficult. Work itself becomes a burdensome toil. And when we die, we leave all our efforts behind.
- Our natural tendency is to <u>not</u> use creation in a way that honors God and benefits the rest of humanity.

√ We no longer desire to love the true God. (We prefer fakes.)

- We no longer joyfully dedicate part of our week to focusing on the true God.
- We may dedicate time to doing religious activities; but it is directed toward a god of our own making (or a distortion of the true God).

"Light" in a "dark" situation.

√ We have put ourselves in a bad situation.

- We can see the effects of the curse illustrated throughout the Bible... and in the world around us... and in our very own lives.
- By our actions, we may be able to lessen its effects... or make it
 worse. But we cannot cause it to go away... and in the end, we die.
- God created life to have meaning. We have turned things upsidedown.

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?

I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:2a, 3, 14 (NIV)

✓ But God has other plans – plans to *undo* what we have done.

- We could summarize God's plans by the word "grace" "undeserved kindness" – because we totally don't deserve it.
- Ultimately, this will be accomplished through Jesus Christ. But here in Genesis, we get only the first *hint* of what was to come.
- Though we don't deserve it, God offers to restore meaning to life. But it is only possible with a renewed focus on the true God.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (NIV)

✓ HOW could God do this, and still be righteous?

- For God to *ignore* their sin would *itself* be sin a contradiction to God's very being! Sin <u>has</u> to be paid for!
- But God said he would provide a way to do so. He didn't immediately reveal all the details; but he provided sacrifices as a temporary "covering," until the final sacrifice would be provided.
- Today, we know that this final sacrifice was Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and was then raised back to life.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10 (NIV)

It would be thousands of years before all the details were known.
 But here, in Genesis, God gives us the first hints of hope for the future. And he says it before he pronounces the judgment that must also occur.

So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and every beast of the field! On your belly will you go, and dust you will eat, all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman He said: "I will sharply increase your pain in childbirth; in pain you will bring forth children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

And to Adam He said: "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat, cursed is the ground because of you; through toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it will yield for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your bread, until you return to the ground—because out of it were you taken.

For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:14-19 (BSB)

What does this mean?

This is the judgment on the <u>spiritual</u> entity that brought about the fall. (The <u>previous</u> verse focuses on the <u>physical</u> animal.)

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

- Genesis 3:15 (BSB)
- This passage is <u>not</u> referring to a fear of snakes! It refers to something much greater and deeper in significance – the spiritual entity that empowered the serpent, the <u>source</u> of the temptation.
- The emphasis is on hostility between two "seeds" offspring or descendants. The word "seed" can refer to a single individual or a collective group. Here, both are referred to (in different sections of the verse).

① ⇒ "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.

③ ⇒ He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:15 (BSB)

- Line 1: This verse transitions from the physical participants to the spiritual realities behind what happened – one represented by the serpent, one represented by the woman.
- Line 2: There is a "cosmic battle" between Satan and God. It will play itself out in this world – between the wicked and the righteous.
- Line 3: God will have complete victory over the serpent and his seed (the wicked); but he will do so in a way that brings new hope to both people and creation. The end result will be more glorious than the original creation ever was.

ENMITY – animosity or hatred of an enemy; intense hostility, often mutual.

- > Note that this hostility is put there by <u>God</u>. <
- Line 1: Between the serpent [spiritual entity] and the woman (= two individuals).

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, ..."

Genesis 3:15a (BSB)

- This focuses on the original participants the woman and the serpent [spiritual entity].
- Before this, the serpent [spiritual entity] and the woman were
 on the same side, united in opposition against God. It will never
 be that way again.

Line 2: Between the serpent's offspring and the woman's offspring (= two groups).

"... and between your seed and her seed."

Genesis 3:15b (BSB)

- There will be an ongoing enmity between two groups, the spiritual offspring of the original two.
- Throughout the book of Genesis (starting in the very next chapter),
 we read about conflict between the righteous and the wicked the
 woman's seed and the serpent's seed. This theme continues, in one
 way or another, throughout the rest of the Bible and on to the very
 last battle.

CAIN AND ABEL – TWO "SEEDS." Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

Line 3: Between a specific individual ("he") and the serpent [spiritual entity] (= two individuals).

"He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15c (BSB)

- The focus now changes to a specific offspring of the woman ("he") and the original serpent [spiritual entity]. This offspring of the woman will destroy the serpent, but will be wounded in the process.
- Now, at the end of thousands of years of prophecy, we can recognize
 the individual as being Christ Jesus. He was "wounded" (Isaiah 53:5)
 on the cross, but has "crushed" the serpent [spiritual entity]: At the
 cross, its "death sentence" was pronounced; and at his return, its
 "death sentence" will be fully accomplished.

... the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, ...

Revelation 20:2b (BSB); see also Revelation 12:9.

This is GRACE -

pure, undeserved kindness from God!

- It all started here, in Genesis 3! And it's the only reason people can be saved.
- God introduced <u>grace</u> to Adam and Eve, <u>before</u> he <u>pronounced</u> the <u>necessary judgment</u> on them! So, even when hearing the words of judgment, they didn't have to totally despair!
- 1. Judgment on the tempter (physical/spiritual) vs. 14-15.
- 2. "There will be hope (for the humans), even in judgment" v. 16.
- 3. Judgment on the woman and man (and on creation) vs. 17-19.

There is <u>no</u> offer of hope to the tempter.

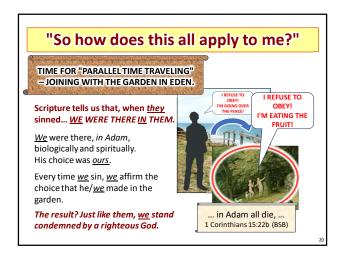
√ How are we to respond <u>properly</u> to GRACE?

- Today, we know more about God's plan than they did... but in both situations, it required the <u>same</u> trust in God!
 - They may have said, "God will take care of it, though we <u>don't</u> know how."
 - ❖ We can now say, "God has taken care of it, and we do know how."
 - But in both cases, it's trust that God [will take / has taken] care of it!

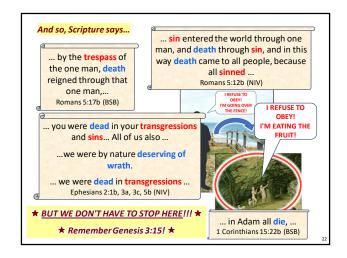
√ Today, we know that there is even more to look forward to!

- We look forward to a new heaven and new earth, the place "where righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13)!
- The earth will be purified by fire (2 Peter 3:7+) and the world will be restored to the good condition it was at creation... only better!

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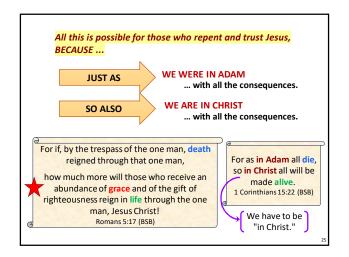


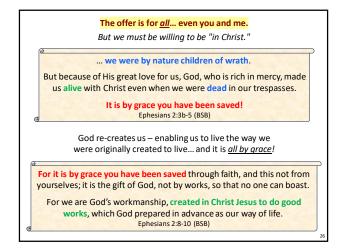












Are you willing?

You were there, in Adam, biologically and spiritually. His choices were yours.

• Every time you sin, you affirm the choice that he/you made in the garden.

• The result? You stand condemned by a righteous God.

God offers you the opportunity to be in Christ.

• If you are willing to repent and trust him, then his righteousness will be seen as though it had been yours. You will be justified, instead of condemned.

• In God's eyes, it will be as though you were there, in Christ, on the cross... and at his resurrection.



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