

Genesis, Part 1: Adam and Eve

Romans 5:12 ESV Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— **13** for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. **14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. **15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. **16** And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. **17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. **18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **20** Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- I. We are beginning a series today on the major characters from Genesis (1st book in the Bible). This will include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. We want you to see that God had a plan from the very beginning, and that God always finishes what he starts. We also hope that you will see Jesus in the lives of the people that we will be discussing, because he is the point of their stories.
 - A. The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. In it we find the story of creation, of the fall of man, of God's wrath towards and judgement of the world, and more importantly, of his determination to have a people for himself.
 1. It is traditionally understood that Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible (including Genesis). The historicity of Genesis has been challenged by many in our secular age mostly because of the spread of Darwinism.
 2. But before you join the chorus of voices dismissing this book, you would do well to remember that Jesus Christ testified to the reality of the creation of man and woman from the beginning¹, the flood of Noah's time², the fiery judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah³, and the punishment of Lot's wife⁴. You would do well not to contradict the only one who was there!
 - B. Genesis begins with a simple yet profound statement on the origin of everything we can perceive: **Genesis 1:1 ESV** *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*
 1. Chapter 1 gives an orderly account of how it all came to be. God created light. God created an atmosphere. God separated seas and dry land. God created trees and plants. God created astronomical bodies; the sun, moon, stars, planets, and comets. God created aquatic creatures and birds. God created mammals and insects, amphibians and reptiles. The earth was now full and yet somehow incomplete. One more thing God intended to do...

2. **Genesis 1:26 ESV** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
 - C. Unlike the parrots, the aardvarks, and the praying mantis, God created man with a very special role. He would be the vice regent of God’s own authority over the new creation. He would exercise God’s kingly dominion over everything. But even more amazing, he would do so bearing God’s own image. Though he had a physical form, he would be a spiritual being, capable of communion with God.
 1. Genesis chapter 2 gives us more details as to the creation of the image bearers, both male and female.
 - a) The man, we are told, was formed out of the dust of the ground by the very hand of God. In the account we see God kneeling beside his creation and breathing into his nostrils so that he might become not just alive, but a living, eternal soul. He was named “Adam”.
 - b) A search was then made for a compatible mate for the man among all of the other living things. God determined that it was not good for him to be alone. So God commandeered one of his ribs and formed from it a helper suitable, whom the man called “woman”, and later, “Eve”.
 2. The Bible tells us that they exercised their authority in fellowship with God, and in love with one another. The Bible tells us that they were naked and unashamed in perfect harmony. They were given a gift that was incomparable to anything we could imagine...the entire world. There were in charge, and nothing was withheld from them...except one single tree.
 - D. They were promised that they could eat from any tree in the garden except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Knowledge of good and evil was God’s domain. They needed no law because they had perfect love and fellowship.
- II. But then one day it happened. An interloper came into their peaceful garden home and asked questions about the character of their loving creator. **Genesis 3:1b ESV** “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”
 - A. After the woman told him what God actually said, the serpent implied that the very Personification of Truth had lied to them. **Genesis 3:4 ESV** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
 1. That was all it took. She ate it and gave some to her husband who was standing there with her, and he ate it also.
 2. In that moment, they instinctively knew something had changed. They knew for the first time they were naked. They felt shame. They tried to cover their nakedness and hide from each other and from God’s searching eyes.

- B. But in a great act of mercy, God didn't suddenly destroy them or abandon them; instead, he went looking for them. He delivered his sentence on the serpent's meddling, as well as the sin and rebellion of his two prized creations.
 - 1. The serpent would be cursed to crawl on his belly and eat dust (the lowest of all the animals) all his life. The man would be cursed with hard labor. The woman would be subject to her husband and experience pain in giving birth.
 - 2. But God's pronouncements didn't end there. He left them all with a promise, a very negative one for the serpent, and very positive one for the couple.
 - a) God told them that One was coming known as the "seed of the woman⁵".
 - b) He too would endure pain as the victim of the serpent, but in the end this "Seed" would deal a fatal blow to the serpent as the ultimate punishment for his mischief in the garden that day.
 - 3. God dismissed the couple from the garden, and secured it against their re-entry with an angel bearing a flaming sword. But before he did, he slaughtered an animal, spilling its blood and made coverings of skin for them so they wouldn't leave naked. This was also a promise of what was to come.
- III. When we look at our text in Romans 5 from this morning, we see that the repercussions of Adam and Eve's sin has been severe for all of us.
 - A. Paul tells us that because of the fall of our first parents, not only has sin entered the world (where once it was absent), but it has contaminated all of us. Every child born since that day has been corrupted by sin.
 - 1. But the whole of creation has been corrupted by sin, not just the hearts of humanity. Because a fallen world has been reality for all of us since the day of our birth, we cannot imagine a world not filled with war, loss, disease and poverty - all of which are the results of sin in the world.
 - 2. But what we must acknowledge is that while a sin-scarred world is our only perceived reality, it was never part of God's original design. He designed the world to be good, filled with peace and ruled for him by mankind.
 - B. Moreover, sin has brought death with it as wages. The Bible says the soul that sins will die⁶. We all have sinning souls and are therefore guaranteed to die. There is no avoiding it. **"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned"**
 - 1. We expend a lot of time and money exercising and eating right, but the fact remains that everyone of us is rushing headlong towards our day of death.
 - 2. I heard the story of two young men this week, in different cities and different circumstances, who's lives were snuffed out very young. Neither one of them expected to leave planet earth and face God this early. Are you next? It is the thought of a fool to imagine that it cannot possibly be your turn.
 - C. But unlike a disease, that just consumes our body, and over which we have no control, the Bible makes us clear that each one of us, from Adam and Eve onward, are culpable for our sinful choices. We stand before God guilty and with no excuse. Everyone of us has incurred the just wrath of God for choosing sin.
 - 1. **"the judgment following one trespass (Adam's) brought condemnation"** We will all be judged, we will all be found lacking, and we will all be condemned.
 - 2. You can't possibly clean yourself up enough to be acceptable to an uncompromisingly holy God. How often just today have your thoughts and

motives been impure? With what selfish acts are you stained with this morning? Jesus said to even the most religious leaders of his day: **Matthew 23:33 ESV** You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? Are we arrogant enough to think we're any better?

- IV. When you hear the story of Adam and Eve, it might be easy to resent them. We might wish they had been more steadfast, and less liable to temptation. But we can't possibly think we would have done any better! Think for just a moment of all the times you have violated the direct commandment of God, just like they did. But thankfully, the story is only getting started at the end of Genesis 3!
- A. We mustn't forget that God always gets what he desires. **Job 42:2 ESV** "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."
- B. Paul states that Adam "was a type of the one who was to come". He was a type in the sense that he was a mirror reflection, which is the point of the passage we read in Romans 5.
1. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul calls Jesus the "Last Adam". He was the promise of Genesis 3:15 fulfilled, the one who would fatally bruise the head of the serpent, though he would bear the serpent's strike on his own heel.
 2. Adam tried to be like God through disobedience, with the result being a tidal wave of judgement, condemnation, sin and ultimately, death.
 - a) Unlike Adam, who abdicated his throne as God's vice-regent, Jesus took on humanity himself in order to accomplish everything God had commissioned mankind to do and be. Though he was God, he didn't grasp at his divinity⁷, or claim any special privilege because of it.
 - b) Christ fully and perfectly obeyed the Father in everything. Philippians 2 even tells us that he obeyed to the point of death after living a life of perfectly unblemished righteousness.
- C. This is the double mystery of the life and death of Jesus Christ. He lived the perfect life that Adam should have lived (even in the face of temptation⁸), securing righteousness for those who could have never achieved it. But he also died a substitutionary death on the cross, paying the penalty of all that we have failed and refused to do in obedience to the revealed Law of God.
1. And what does he do with both this righteousness and the full payment of our penalty? He gives both to us as a free gift!
 2. "For if many died through one man's (Adam's) trespass, much more have **the grace of God** and the **free gift** by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the **free gift** is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the **free gift** following many trespasses brought **justification**."
- D. Now if you can believe it, it actually gets better! That death that we are all facing has been stripped of all its power because of Christ's obedience as well. You will still die in this body, but instead of being a reminder of our curse any longer, death has been turned into a grace that ushers us into the presence of God!
1. "For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the **abundance of grace** and the **free gift** of righteousness **reign in life** through the one man Jesus Christ...as sin

reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2. In 1 Corinthians 15, a chapter dedicated entirely to the physical resurrection of believers who die in Christ, Paul invites us all to mock death because we are now in Jesus, saying “O death! Where is your victory? O death! Where is your sting?” Believers in Christ have nothing to fear from death!
- E. But the greatest thing of all that Christ has accomplished is that he is reigning in dominion over the whole earth as “the Man, Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).
 1. Some of you may have trouble thinking of Christ as a man, but you must remember that was **always** the plan, and yet it doesn’t in anyway diminish the fact that he is also 100% God.
 - a) Jesus laid took on humanity to become our substitute. He kept his humanity to become our brother and our friend. His favorite title to apply to himself was the Son of Man. He ascended to the Father as a man.
 - b) But Jesus was (and is!) also worshipped by men and angels. The wind and the waves obey him. He demonstrated his power over demons, disease, and death. He is God, equal to both the Father and the Spirit.
 2. Knowing this puts his last comment before his ascension in proper perspective. **Matthew 28:18 ESV** “All authority in heaven **and** on earth has been given to me.” God had always intended a man to sit in dominion over the whole earth. God always gets whatever he wants, by any means necessary, and his plans cannot be thwarted.
- V. **1 Corinthians 15:45 ESV** Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; **the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46** But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. **47** The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
 - A. As you sit here today, ask yourself, “Am I a man or woman of the dust, only destined to return to dust?” Or are you, through belief one of those who are of heaven? Are you living a merely natural life, marching toward the grave, or are you living a spiritual life, only concealed in a physical body and experience?
 1. Think about your life. Who’s image do you bear? We all begin life bearing the image of the man of dust and earth. But if you’ve placed your trust in the Man of heaven, the Last Adam, you will bear his image fo all eternity.
 2. The image of the first Adam will fade from those believe through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, but for those who do not believe will go to their graves with the pronouncement of their creator, **Genesis 3:19b ESV** “... **you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**”; their lives fading and blowing away, with no eternal impact or reward whatsoever.
 - B. Today as we come to the Table, let’s remember Christ became flesh to do what Adam failed to do, and that his very real body that was broken for you and me. Christ spilled crimson streams from his hands, feet, back, head and side, so that you and I, just like Adam and Eve, might have our nakedness covered.

1. Let's remember that though he was violently killed, death was embarrassingly incapable of holding Jesus as its prey. He conquered it, not only for himself, but for all of us.
 2. Adam's legacy to all his children was sin, a curse and death. Christ's gift to all his children was righteousness, blessing and eternal life.
- C. If you haven't believed, isn't it time? Place your trust in Jesus Christ and in his work. If you need help or have questions, come catch me on this side in the communion line.
- VI. **1 Corinthians 11:23 ESV** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

¹ Mark 10:6

² Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27

³ Luke 17:28-30;

⁴ Luke 17:32

⁵ Genesis 3:15

⁶ Ezekiel 18:20

⁷ Philippians 2:6

⁸ Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15