

Session 6: The Fall, the Curse and the *Protoevangelium*

Key text: Genesis 3:1-6:8

Announcements

- Marriage Seminar with Bob Moeller: Saturday, March 20. **Free!**
- Upcoming EquipMENT† events (see handout)

The Fall, the Curse and the *Protoevangelium*

Few preachers of religion do believe thoroughly the doctrine of the Fall, or else they think that when Adam fell down he broke his little finger, and did not break his neck and ruin his race.

– C.H. Spurgeon

Christ is much more powerful to save, than Adam was to destroy.

– John Calvin

Scene 1: The Fall (3:1-8)

a. The Shape of the Tempter (3:1a)

“This fast-talking snake is an incarnation of a spiritual being that is outspoken in his hatred for God who presumably has an unknown prehistory. Later revelation labels this adversary of God and humanity “Satan” (Heb. “adversary, persecutor, or accuser”) and the “Devil” (Greek *diabolos*, Job 1-2; Zech. 3; Rev. 12:9). Humankind were meant to subdue the creation...but the Serpent subdued them instead.”¹¹

b. The Shape of the Temptation (3:1b-6)¹²

(1) Satan is an outspoken _____ who hates _____.

Lesson: The first step into sin is to allow Satan to entice us into questioning the _____ of _____.

(2) Satan rephrases God’s _____ into a _____.

Lesson: The second step into sin is to raise questions of _____ designed to create _____ that leads us away from the simplicity of childlike obedience.

(3) Satan emphasizes God’s _____.

Lesson: The third step toward sin is to focus on the _____ thing rather than on God’s true _____.

¹¹ Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology*, 260.

¹² Notes drawn from Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology*, 261-62.

(4) Satan casts doubt on God's _____ and defames his motives as _____ - _____, not love.

Lesson: The fourth step toward sin is to misrepresent God's _____ and to _____ what we imagine as unfair restrictions.

(5) Satan denies the _____ of God's Word.

Lesson: The fifth step toward sin is to _____ and _____ God's word as a _____.

c. The Shape of Sin (3:6)

"Sin is the desire to '_____ —the refusal to be human, to be creaturely—that causes us to disobey."¹³

d. The Shape of Sin's Consequences (3:7-8)

Scene 2: The Judgment and the Promise (3:9-24)

a. The Investigation (3:9-13)

b. The Judgment (3:14-19)

i. Against the Serpent (3:14-15)

The *protoevangelium* (the "first gospel message") (3:15)

ii. Against the Woman (3:16)

iii. Against the Man (3:17-19)

iv. Against the Couple (3:20-24)

Epilogue: Rising Corruption on Earth (4:1-6:8)

¹³ Ibid, 263.

The Fallout: “Original Sin”

- a. The Pollution of Human Nature (Gen. 4-5, 8:21; Jer. 17:9; Ps. 58:3; Rom. 3:9-19)
- b. Original Guilt (Rom. 5:12-21; 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 15:21-22)
- c. Total (not *absolute*) Depravity (John 6:44, 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:4-5)

Suggested reading for next week’s seminar discussion

Scripture to study: 6:9-10:32

Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary*, pp. 121-159

David Atkinson, *The Message of Genesis 1-11*, pp. 132-175

Worship: *And Can It Be* Charles Wesley

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| And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior’s blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain— For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? | Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature’s night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray— I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. |
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| He left His Father’s throne above So free, so infinite His grace— Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam’s helpless race: 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me! 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me! | No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine; Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th’eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own. Bold I approach th’eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own. |
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