

## UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 2 – *Now the serpent...the blood...man sinned...BUT GOD!*

September 15, 2026

Genesis 3:1 - *Now the serpent...* “Now” is a literary bridge to introduce a new scene, a new character, or a dramatic shift in the narrative!

The serpent came into the garden where God had placed Adam & the woman (not yet named – very significant to observe!). It appears from Genesis 3 that Satan used the serpent as a disguise to deceive Eve. Satan questioned God's word.

The Apostle John identified the serpent as Satan in Rev. 12:9 – *the serpent of old called the Devil and Satan*. And John was inspired to write of the serpent again in Rev. 20:2 – *that serpent of old, the Devil and Satan*. Paul identified the serpent as well in II Cor. 11:3 – *as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness*.

Satan’s first attack: questioning God’s Word! What does Satan’s attack of God’s word say to us? I Pet. 5:8 - *Be sober (self-controlled), be vigilant (watchful)...because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*. We need to stand fast and put on the armor of God daily (Eph. 6:10-17).

AND...Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree that God told Adam NOT to eat (Gen. 2:15-17)...as he would surely die. They ate! What happened? DEATH...which means separation. In the garden man knew spiritual death (alienation from God/separation from God. Interestingly – Adam and Eve hid themselves from God). Eventually physical death, AND...eternal death!?? WHAT HAPPENED? BUT GOD!!! God is in control. God’s plan, Plan A, can never be thwarted!

We need to observe and comprehend what occurred when man sinned...we NEED to focus on God’s actions!!!

- God PURSUED man - Gen. 3:8-9 - *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”* We begin reading of “Yahweh Elohim,” the “LORD God” in Genesis 2. The significance of combining the two names as “Yahweh Elohim” underscores that the supreme, all-powerful Creator of the universe is the very same personal God Who desires to walk and fellowship with mankind in the “cool of the day.”
- The LORD God was walking in the garden!??? Sounds casual, as in an everyday occurrence. God pursued Adam and Eve displaying His desire to fellowship with

them though they sinned! God's walk was audible? His form was heavy enough to produce a sound. I'm suggesting the pre-incarnate Jesus, the pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus was in the Garden with Adam and Eve. Ex. 3:1-4 – the Angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. The Angel of the LORD spoke on behalf of God, He spoke as God, and He was worshipped. We do not read of the Angel of the LORD in the NT!

Gen. 3:14 – God placed a curse on the serpent in the garden.

Gen. 3:15 – God then spoke to Satan, *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He (the Seed of the woman) shall bruise/crush your*

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*head Satan, and you (Satan) shall bruise His heel.* God placed “enmity” between Satan and the woman AND between your seed, Satan, and her Seed? Enmity means hatred. In Hebrew, “enmity” means a “blood feud”!! Enmity between Satan and his followers, between Satan and the Seed, the Offspring of the woman. WHO is the Offspring of the woman? \_\_\_\_\_. We know this from hindsight. What did Adam and Eve know?

God spoke these words to Satan, *He (Jesus) shall bruise/crush your head Satan, and you shall bruise His heel (Jesus' heel)!* When do you think this occurred – when Jesus' heel would be bruised? At the crucifixion. When would Satan's head be crushed/bruised? At Jesus' crucifixion.

Heb. 2:14 - *through death (Jesus' death on the cross) He (Jesus) destroyed him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.* Jesus conquered death in His resurrection [John 14:19 – *because I live you will live also*]). Jesus rose from the dead triumphantly and rendered Satan powerless against all who are believers in Jesus! And this was determined in ETERNITY PAST! One story!

Isa. 53:10 – ... *it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin....* In eternity past, it was determined that God the Son would be *wounded for our transgressions* (Isa. 53:5). From eternity past, Jesus offered Himself as a guilt offering. Jesus was nailed to the cross as our guilt offering!

Rev. 13:8 - Jesus is the *Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.* God's plan of redemption was set in place before those who would be redeemed were born! We see the *Lamb as if slain* in the throne room of God in Rev. 5:6-7. The Lamb will take the scroll from the right hand of God the Father Who is on the throne...and the Lamb will break the seals of that scroll and the tribulation on this earth will begin (Rev. 6). Jesus is not yet seated on the throne of David!

God is in control. God's plan, Plan A, can never be thwarted! Therefore, when man sinned God PURSUED man...and...

- God PROMISED – IMMEDIATELY - to resolve sin through the Seed of the Woman...Who is Jesus. We read in Gen. 3:15, looking forward into the future, that the Seed of the woman, Jesus, would suffer at His crucifixion when His blood was shed for us. And, the enemy's power over death would be rendered powerless against believers.
- Satan, in the Garden of Eden, essentially, received notification of his demise!!
- Gen. 3:15 is noted as the first Messianic prophecy! And, it is the beginning of spiritual warfare. Gen. 3:15 has been called the protoevangelium – “good news” or “gospel”.
- Gen. 3:15 – three chapters into the Bible...the stage is set for the hope of redemption and restoration that permeates the entire biblical narrative. One story!

In the midst of God cursing the ground/the creation, and allowing pain and sorrow to fall on mankind...God IMMEDIATELY promised One Who would come to this earth as the Redeemer and crush Satan's head. God promised HOPE!!!! God promised LIFE!

- Gen. 3:20 - After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, we're told...*And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.* In faith Adam trusted God would bring forth new life! In the biblical narrative, the theme of hope amidst judgment is a recurring truth that underscores God's redemptive plan and His enduring mercy.

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God PURSUED man; God PROMISED the One Who would resolve sin. God's plan, Plan A, can never be thwarted! Therefore, when man sinned...

- Gen. 3:21 - God PROVIDED - *for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.* Blood had to be shed in the killing of the animal for its skin! This animal skin replaced Adam and Eve's fig-leaf aprons which represented their own works to cover their shame. And the blood shed by the animal that God used to clothe Adam and Eve is viewed by many as the first sacrifice for sin. ...*and God clothed them.* Man's efforts in crafting the fig-leaf aprons were in vain! We are realizing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter in the Bible that blood is required! It is God's gift to man. And, the sacrificial system that God gave to the children of Israel served as a prophetic shadow pointing forward to Jesus. (Lev. 17:11)

God PURSUED man; PROMISED the Redeemer; PROVIDED cleansing through blood. God's plan, Plan A, can never be thwarted! Therefore, when man sinned...

- God PROTECTED – Gen. 3:22-24 - *Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'— <sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he*

was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Read Ex. 25:17-22 – cherubim depicted God’s presence – a place to meet with God. God’s presence is frequently associated with blazing fire, light, and rightness, such as observed in the burning bush, the pillar of fire in the wilderness, and God’s throne in Ezekiel.

Gen. 4:1 - Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, ‘I have acquired a man: the LORD.’ The name “Cain” means “to get; to acquire” Eve is stating, “I have gotten him; I have acquired him.” That’s what it literally means. Eve may have thought that Cain was the seed promised by God. The debate continues re: Eve truly thinking she had given birth to “the Seed.” What we read very clearly in Gen. 4 is that Cain and Abel were born to Adam and Eve. What happened? Cain killed Abel!

Gen. 4:25b-26 - ... God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed. <sup>26</sup> And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord. WHY “Then”? The name “Enosh” means frailty, mortality, sorrow! We are observing that man began to realize that their life on this earth was now temporary – perhaps because Enosh was frail which indicated a temporary life. And so...

Gen. 5:1-32 - This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. ... So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. In Gen. 5:8 - So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. “...and he died,...and he died” is the recurring verbiage in Adam’s genealogy through to Lamech. Have you read the names in Genesis 5? From Adam (v. 3) to Noah (v. 32) ***Man is appointed to mortality and sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching. His death shall bring the despairing rest/comfort.*** Is this not the gospel??

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Have we observed the theme of hope in the midst of judgment in Genesis 3? The books of Genesis and Revelation are bookends. What we read in Genesis will be fulfilled in Revelation. The theme of hope in the midst of judgment reaches its culmination in

Revelation 21:4-5 - And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. <sup>5</sup> Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ This promise assures believers of a future where God’s justice and mercy are fully realized. One story!

Throughout Scripture, within the one story, the interplay of judgment and hope serves to remind believers of God's sovereign plan and His unwavering faithfulness. Even in the darkest moments, the promise of hope remains...inviting all to trust in God's redemptive purposes.

## Q&A

### QUESTIONS

How are you reading the Bible?

What impacted you in this lesson?

What was new to you?

What re: God's character and attributes do you observe in Gen. 3?

How have God's character and attributes impacted your life?

What did you observe re: the one story of Scripture within this lesson?

### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 2's handout with Bible references.

Re: the Bible references in the handout, jot down observations and ask questions.

Pray about sharing what you've learned in this first lesson with someone.

Read Week 3's handout when you receive it.