

Genesis 3A

- God created the world in 6 literal days
 - He “rested” on the seventh day to establish a picture for men
 - The picture that only through God’s work can we enjoy true lasting rest
 - The Sabbath picture is eventually fulfilled in Jesus’ work on the cross
 - God carefully created two people who were clearly distinguished from the rest of creation
 - They enjoyed the benefit of an entire world created specifically for their use and enjoyment
 - They were granted the unique ability to relate to the creator and respond to Him
 - Their nature was free and innocent
 - They lacked the capacity to understand either good or evil, in relation to the other
- God desired to express Himself to fully to a creation capable of understanding and responding fully to that expression
 - So God gave a single prohibition to them, which became the test of their willingness to follow Him fully
 - It wasn’t a trap, yet without such a test, there could be no true relationship based on love
- This is the world God designed and desired
 - Man would live forever in this situation, multiplying and filling the world, he and his descendents giving God glory and enjoying God’s caring provision
 - Yet God’s word and His design of the world reflects an expectation that things would not remain as He established them in the beginning
 - Eph 1
 - Tree, water above world, presence of the sea, daytime and night

- Brings us to Chapter 3
 - Fall of man
 - Redemption begins
 - Also see the way sin works and the techniques of the enemy
 - The fact that God's word is the center of all He does and all we should understand and heed

[Gen. 2:25](#) And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- Bridge verse
 - Naked = arum
 - Crafty = arum
 - Contrasted the innocence of man and the sinister nature of the enemy
- Why mention this detail?
 - The connection of shame and nakedness almost seems to suggest that our tendency to be embarrassed over nakedness is not merely learned but rather spiritual
 - Exactly...more later
 - For now, understand that the nakedness in verse 25 speaks about more than merely their physical form
 - It also communicates a spiritual transparency and vulnerability
 - We are transparent before God and before one another when we have nothing to hide or hide from
 - Transparency is a product of holiness
 - We lack transparency with one another and God because we lack true and complete holiness
 - The more we have to ashamed of, the less we can be transparent

- Our sin will lead to conviction, either from our conscience or from the HS

[2Cor. 7:9](#) I now rejoice, not that you were made **sorrowful**, but that you were made **sorrowful** to *the point of* repentance; for you were made **sorrowful** according to *the will of God*, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

[2Cor. 7:10](#) For the **sorrow** that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to* salvation, but the **sorrow** of the world produces death.

[Gen. 3:1](#) ¶ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

[Gen. 3:2](#) The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

[Gen. 3:3](#) but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”

- Who is the serpent?
 - Satan
 - Rev 12:9; 20:2
 - Father of Lies: John 8:44
 - Is it a literal snake?
 - Nachash – serpent or snake
 - Why is the snake more crafty than other beasts?
 - The serpent is indwelt by Satan and therefore it is more crafty
 - Crafty – sensible, prudent, crafty
 - Indicates special intelligence, abnormal compared to the rest of the animals
 - Why take the form of a snake? No other way to manifest in a “normal” way
 - Adam and Woman didn’t know any other way...nothing unusual about a talking snake

- Remember, in 2Cor 11:14 Paul says the enemy comes as an angel of light
- Where did Satan come from?
 - He existed before the fall
 - Isa 45:7
 - Ezek 28:2 vs 28:12
 - Evil existed before sin (different, or one leads to the other)
- Why did God allow Satan to remain to tempt man?
 - Would there have been a fall without Satan tempting man? (later)
- Satan begins with a question
 - We'll study the art of deception and the way we fall willingly
 - Has indeed God said...
 - The question is more than a question
 - It's a statement
 - It implies that that God has put one over on Woman
 - It makes woman feel disadvantaged, taken for a ride
 - Made a fool, made to seem naive
 - Impugns God's motives
 - Places us in a position of doubting God's character by first questioning His word
 - But cleverly, Satan allows us imagine our own accusations against God
 - This is the way the Father of Lies works
- Woman answers
 - Her answer takes the defense on behalf of God
 - She tries to repeat God's instructions

- Does she get it right?
- How is it wrong?

- More restrictive (adds to His word) while neglecting some freedom (2:16)
- What's she doing wrong?
 - She's toying with the enemy
 - She's not familiar with God's word
 - When we don't know the Word, we tend to make it more restrictive (legalism)
 - This leads to resentment and ultimately failure

[Prov. 30:5](#) ¶ Every word of God is tested;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

[Prov. 30:6](#) Do not add to His words
Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.

- Similar in Matt 4

[Gen. 3:4](#) The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!
[Gen. 3:5](#) "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Now the enemy challenges the truthfulness of God's commands
 - But he does it with a partial truth
 - Their eyes will be opened, and they will be more like God, knowing good
 - But they will also be less like God, knowing evil
 - The essential statement is that sin has no consequences
 - When we choose our own desires over God's commands, we will not suffer loss, but rather experience gain
- Sin's pattern then:
 - Sin is born out of a mistrust of God's ways and reliance on our own ways and desires
 - Sin is moved forward by our lack of knowledge of God's word and accepting a distorted version when we do bring it to mind

- Money is the root of all evil
- God helps those who help themselves
- We naively buy into the enemies half truths
- We accept that sin has no consequences

[Gen. 3:6](#) 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 desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

- Now the flesh takes over
 - The tempter allows temptation to take over
 - Begins with one simple word
 - Saw
 - The tree was good (but God already had declared it to be bad)
 - Food was a “delight” (taavah – intense longing)
 - Desirable (chamad – covet) to make one wise (gain insight)
 - The sin of the eye begins with distraction from the truth, leads to a longing and coveting
 - Luke 11:34
 - Matt 5:27-28
 - Lust precedes desire
 - Temptation is not sin (Jesus was tempted in all things)

[Heb. 4:15](#) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been **tempted** in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

[James 1:13](#) Let no one say when he is **tempted**, “I am being **tempted** by God”; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

[James 1:14](#) But each one is **tempted** when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

- But giving into temptation is sin
 - After sight and desire then a first small step
 - Woman touches
 - Now her false knowledge of the scripture kicks in
 - No consequence to touching (she thinks)
 - Now complete freedom to indulge
 - Is this pattern repeated in our lives?
- The woman ate and gave it to Adam who also ate
 - Why didn't woman die?
 - Spiritual death
 - A death that results in a nature that is not opposed to God, an enemy of God, due judgment and fearing death
 - Heb 2:14-15
 - Leads to a view that the fruit is safe
 - Hands it to the man
 - Where was he?
 - Either nearby or right there
 - Either way, not deceived because...

[1Tim. 2:14](#) And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

- Adam doesn't not have the serpent's deception as an excuse
 - He doesn't protest like Woman did
 - He doesn't try to quote God's word
 - He is completely willing to disobey

- But who's credited with the fall
 - 1 Cor 15:21-22; Rom 5:12
 - Why not Woman?
 - Deception was a defense
 - Why?