

## THE SAVIOR BORN AND BATTLE WON

Genesis 3: 1-21 and I Timothy 2: 11-15 – Pastor Richard P. Carlson

Our Christmas heritage, as all the promises of God, is based on the first promise of God in Genesis 3: 14-15. These words were spoken to the devil, after Eve told God, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” God’s words to Satan were a curse, but tucked in God’s is His glorious promise. Hear the promise. “The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity (the Hebrew word is eybah which means war, hostility, hatred of opposites)...between you and the woman, and between your offspring or seed and her offspring or seed. He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.” Since man’s fall into sin, there is “warfare” in the home between husband and wife, between parents and children, between brothers and sisters, between neighbors, between bosses and employees.” That war still goes on.

We sometimes forget that the birth of Jesus, born of a virgin, is God’s answer, His promise to us as men and women, boys and girls, after the fall of man, when Adam and Eve both chose to disobey God and eat of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Sometimes, we ignore the connection between man’s fall into sin and God’s solution in the virgin birth of Jesus. Sometimes what the Bible says about the enmity that came into our world when sin entered the Garden of Eden, sometimes we try to avoid looking at it or thinking about it. We want to think past the fall, but the fall of man into sin is part of our spiritual heritage at Christmas. God’s words to Eve and then to Adam were not a curse, but they were words of great consequence because of their disobedience. The one consequence of death is not all. We sometimes dress up the story. When we do, we miss the truth, we miss the reason for the virgin birth, and the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

This passage of scripture is the foundational part of our spiritual heritage. I must preach the whole counsel of God. The Christmas story is rooted in the fall of man into sin. What gives me great encouragement to take a fresh look at this story of the fall of man and its consequences is Paul’s words in Ephesians 1: 17-18. His words in prayer are: “ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation (literally, to take off the cover so the vision given you in your deepest thoughts will shine) in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, (literally, that the light will come on) and that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.” That’s what I am asking God to do for us today—to take the cover or the veil off us so God’s light will come on. In this heritage of Christmas rooted in the fall of man, I find nine insights that have taken the cover off for me and turned the light on so hopefully

we can understand what happened in the Garden and how glorious it is that God promised to save us by the seed of the woman, through the birth of Jesus, born of a virgin, through childbearing, with no earthly man as His father, but rather conceived of the Holy Spirit.

**THE FALL OF MAN WAS ROOTED IN THE SERPENT’S INSINUATION THAT GOD DECEIVED EVE, WHEN IT WAS THE SERPENT’S LIE. (I.)**

Notice Genesis 3: 1, “Now the serpent was more-crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say...? Satan is shrewd. He knew Adam was Eve’s leader and husband, that she was his wife, his help-meet, “a helper fit for him.” (Genesis 2: 20) But as Adam and Eve stood in the Garden together, Satan spoke through this shrewd- serpent, directly to Eve. Notice “*he said to the woman.*” It was no argument, but rather an incredulous tone—just a planted suggestion—in essence, “Did God actually say?” Satan’s words were disturbing to Eve and flattering that he addressed her, not Adam. The serpent smuggled in the assumption that God’s Word is subject to our judgment. Have we listened to Satan’s suggestions?

**THE FALL OF MAN WAS ROOTED IN THE DEVIL’S EXAGGERATION TO DRAW EVE INTO A DEBATE WITH HIM ON HIS TERMS. (II.)**

Notice Genesis 3: 1b-3. “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the Garden?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in-the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Notice the serpent exaggerated. He said, “Any tree.” Satan baited Eve. She countered with, “We may eat of all the fruit of all the trees in the Garden except the one in the middle of the Garden. Then as debating goes, one exaggeration leads to another. Satan went beyond the truth saying “any tree.” To win the debate, Eve exaggerated. Eve used a great debate device. Taking Satan’s bait, she overcorrected his error and magnified God’s strictness, saying the forbidden fruit not only could not be eaten but not be touched or they would die. Eve has many successors who stretch the truth.

**THE FALL OF MAN WAS ROOTED IN THE SERPENT’S FLAT CONTRADICTION OF GOD’S WORD. (III.)**

Notice verse 4. “But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.” Now it was the serpent’s word against God’s word and Satan’s first doctrine to deny was God’s judgment of sin—as Romans 6: 23 tells us “the wages of sin is death.” Jesus affirmed that doctrine in Mt. 7: 13-27.

**THE FALL OF MAN WAS ROOTED IN A MAMMOTH LIE TO EVE AS THE SERPENT SAID, ‘YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD.’ (IV.)**

Notice verse 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.” This lie in many false religions is pervasive as Satan still tells others, besides Eve, his lie, “You will be like God.” Remember that with His own finger, God wrote the 10 commandments and the first one in Exodus 20: 3 is “You shall have no other gods before Me.” God knows that in our souls, we can be enticed to be as God. There are no other gods—be they wood, stone, silver, gold, fame, and fortune. We can give ourselves to them, but they cannot give themselves to us. The gods of this world are no gods. Eve couldn’t become as God. We can’t either. Read Isaiah 43-49. There is only one God.

**THE FALL OF MAN IS ROOTED IN EVE BEING DECEIVED AND EATING THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT WITH ADAM PASSIVELY STANDING BY HER AND EATING AS WELL, NOT PROTECTING HER.**

(V.) Listen to verse 6. “So, 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 to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” I tremble as I read, “And she gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” We know from Ephesians 5: 27, that a husband is designed to lead his wife, to protect her, and lead her into a sanctifying, cleansing walk with God so he can present her to God someday without spot or wrinkle. How many passive husbands are there who refuse to stand up to the devil’s wiles and who refuse to guard our wife? Then when our wives fall, we fall with them. Think about it men. It took the serpent himself to deceive Eve, but it only took Eve’s offering the fruit to Adam to make him fall. When will we stand up for Jesus and protect our wife against the serpent’s wiles, the security she needs?

**THE FALL OF MAN RESULTED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN NAKEDNESS, OF SHAME, OF FEAR AND OF HIDING FROM GOD’S PRESENCE.**

(VI.) We read in verses 7-11. “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard-the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the-sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” To be as God was an intoxicating program. And instantly, after disobeying, God was seen not as a friend, but a rival, even an enemy to hide from. Eve listened to a creature, rather than to her Creator, she followed her impressions rather than God’s instructions and she made self-fulfillment her goal. In that instant of time, in what is called the fall of man, by Adam and Eve both eating the forbidden fruit, God brought the first installment of

sin's consequence of death. There came death to Adam and Eve's former purity and innocence, and of enjoyment in the presence of God. There was separation and a lack of shameless, courageous communion with Him. Knowledge of nakedness ended this human couple's openness and transparency with each other and with God. Remember when God presented Adam to Eve initially in Genesis 2: 25, "The man and the woman were both naked and were not ashamed. Sin results in shame. Sin resulted in fear of God and fear of walking with Him in the cool of the day.

**THE FALL OF MAN RESULTED IN ADAM BLAMING GOD AND EVE FOR DISOBEYING GOD, AND EVE ADMITTING HER SIN BY ALLOWING THE SERPENT TO DECEIVE HER INTO DISOBEDIENCE.**

(VII.) We read in verses 12-14, "The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Notice Adam justified himself. He blamed God for giving him his help-meet. Then he blamed Eve for handing the fruit to him to eat. As they stood before God in their pathetic fig leaf garments, God confronted them both. Adam concealed the cause of his sin behind the symptoms first. He said he was afraid, because he was naked, so he hid. This shrinking from God in fear remains part of our fallen condition as sinners. Adam's direct answer doesn't deny the truth, but it omitted clear admission of sin, by angling the cause against God first and Eve secondly. Verbal hiding is pathetic. It blocks the way to God's mercy. God addressed Adam first, showing us how He regarded their degrees of responsibility. I often hear that Eve blamed the devil, but read the text afresh. Eve honestly admitted she was deceived-by the serpent before she ate. Paul in I Timothy 2: 13-14 agrees, saying, "For Adam was formed first, then Eve, and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor."

**THE FALL OF MAN RESULTED IN CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SERPENT, EVE AND ADAM, BUT IN THE JUDGMENTS & SENTENCES, GOD GAVE MANKIND THE FIRST GLIMMER OF THE GOSPEL. (VIII.)**

See verses 14-19. "The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, (deceived Eve) cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly, you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (This is the first glimmer, as Satan bruised Jesus' heel at Calvary, and Jesus by dying for our sins and rising from the dead, bruised Satan's head, a death wound.) To the woman, God said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain, you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the

voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you; in pain, you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’” In the words to Eve, God mentioned pain that He added as a consequence-of being deceived into disobeying Him. Then He said, in-essence that her desire shall be for her husband’s place of leadership, nevertheless, he will rule over her. This desire of wives uses the same Hebrew word as God’s warning word to Cain before he killed his brother, Abel. The Hebrew word for desire is **teshuwqah**. It means to stretch out for something you want with longing desire. God said to Cain, in Genesis 4: 7, “Sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.” Cain ignored the warning. God’s word to Eve was that she had a longing for Adam—not, a passionate love for him, but rather, a desire for his place, his position, and his leadership, but God said Adam would **mashal** over Eve. Mashal means to reign or rule or govern or have power over.

Paul said in I Timothy 2: 11-12, “Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, rather, she is to remain quiet. This verse is not popular, but it is God’s Word proving God gave consequences to Eve for her disobedience to His command. Yet God was not banning women from teaching or preaching or prophesying. The KJV states, “But I suffer not a woman to teach nor to **usurp authority** over a man. This word in Greek is a once used word, a hapax legomena—**authenteo**. This word means to exercise authority on one’s own account over a man, to dominate a man or to domineer over a man. God will not ever be pleased with a woman or wife seeking to dominate over her husband or a woman dominating in teaching over men, by usurping a man’s leadership. I have listened to women teach that I would love to listen to for, as-long as the message goes. I have also listened to some women who have dominated men, with longing desire for his position. I believe God hates that desire. One of my favorite professors in college, Marge Soderholm was a marvelous Bible teacher. She obeyed this verse. She spoke often in churches, but never unless the pastor stood up and introduced her and asked her specifically if she would teach the Word of God on a subject she knew so well—Bible study. If this limitation is explained away, I believe it dishonors the Word.

God has a desire to lift men up as leaders in His church but it was never His desire to ban women from teaching or prophesying His Word. I Corinthians 11: 5 speaks of women praying or prophesying only with a covered head, and in 11: 15, Paul says “her hair is given to her for a covering. Some say God bans women from a pulpit. I smile. Why? Through childbearing, I Timothy 2: 15, women as moms or

adoptive moms have a pulpit every day second-to-none. No person in the world, has such a glorious pulpit as a mother in her home for at least the first 18 years of her child's life. God has used married and single women over the years for His glory. God used Deborah, a judge in Israel, to tell Barak to go defeat the Canaanites under king Jabin and to defeat his general, Sisera. Barak said, in essence, "I won't go unless you go too." Deborah reminded Barak the honor in the won battle would go to a woman, not a man, but Barak persisted that Deborah must go with him or he would not go. The honor went to Deborah and Jael who hammered a tent peg through the head of Sisera as he slept exhausted in her tent. God has used the Ruths, the Esthers, the Miriams, the Dorcases, the Lydias, the Elizabeths, the Naomi's, the Martha's, the Mary Magdalenes, and the list goes on and on. God has no ban on women leading or teaching or prophesying, but He does not permit any woman to usurp authority over a man—it defies His design.

Adam also faced consequences for his sin of not leading and not obeying God's prohibition of the forbidden fruit. The thorns and the thistles include working outside in shuddering cold weather, and in blistering heat, of facing every problem a car or truck or home or man at work can face. Why the consequences for Adam? God calls it over and over Adam's sin. (1) *God held Adam responsible.* I Corinthians 15: 22 is clear, "As in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (2) *God disapproved of Adam listening to the voice of his wife.* Was God prohibiting men from communicating with their wives? Never! The Hebrew word for listen or hearken is **shama**. It means to listen with obedience. Adam disobeyed the Lord's prohibition and listened with obedience to Eve. Abram did the same with Sarai in taking Hagar to have a son, a plan disobeying God. God later told Abram, in Genesis 21: 12, "Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named." Listening to our wife is great, unless it means like Adam and Abraham, we are disobeying God. Lastly,

**THE FALL OF MAN RESULTED IN GOD HAVING A PLAN TO COVER ADAM AND EVE'S SIN AND HIS ULTIMATE PLAN TO SAVE EVE, ADAM AND ALL MANKIND WHO BELIEVE THROUGH CHILDBEARING, IN THE BIRTH OF JESUS TO THE VIRGIN MARY.**

(IX.) Notice Genesis 3: 20-21 and 3: 15. The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them...He, the seed of the woman, shall bruise your head (Satan) and you, Satan shall bruise His heel." Then, notice I Timothy 2: 15—Paul speaking to women whom he has asked to learn quietly with all submissiveness, as Mary, Martha's sister sat at Jesus' feet and learned and was disciplined. The word to women is—"Yet she, women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self control."

There is more here than God saving women through the act of bearing children and by helping them give birth in the-midst of much pain in labor. There is more here than God giving women the unique ability to develop image-bearers of Jesus in their womb, God's safety net for humanity so we will not be annihilated. What is this salvation through child-bearing? God gives incredible dignity to women, for through the woman, the virgin Mary, the seed of the woman, Jesus came—our Savior who would defeat Satan and give him a mortal head wound forever at Calvary. Mary, who was a sinner, now could be saved, redeemed by this child, conceived of the Holy Spirit. This is true for Adam and Eve and all mankind. There is salvation through none other than Jesus, through the birth of Mary's child. We are saved through her childbearing for she bore our Messiah. Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God, my Savior. Eve when she conceived and bore Cain, her first child, a boy, said, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." It was wonderful, but Cain was the seed of man, Adam.

Jewish women dreamed of being the virgin that Isaiah 7: 14 said would be Messiah, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Yet, only in the fullness of time would Jesus come to one young virgin maiden named Mary, a sinner like us, like Eve, and it is that glorious birth we celebrate, Christ our Savior was born. We all have been saved through childbearing, through the incarnation and birth of Jesus. Mary trusted God in her defining moment; she did-not-disobey God. Sinner though she was, our heritage is that Mary, the mother of our Lord submissively, obediently played an incredible part in the ultimate defeat of Satan. Jesus was born to bear Mary's sin, shame, and ours. Never forget it, Eve, Mary, and all who repent, believe, and receive Jesus between Eve and Mary and after Mary, are saved through the birth of this little child, Jesus. The shame of Eve being deceived finds its ultimate reversal in the dignity of Mary, another sinner who obeyed God and whom He chose to bear His only begotten Son. Wherever Christ's name is trusted, wherever He is believed and received, men & women are saved, men and women's dignity is restored in Jesus, for we were made in His image. Jesus, was born without sin, went to the cross, died in our place, and rose for our justification. Praise the Lord! We sinners have a dark heritage, yes, but through childbearing, by the seed of the woman, the Light of lights has turned our heritage around. Praise Jesus! Amen and Amen.