

027, Grace in the midst of the curse, Pt 2

1/20/2002 (SUN)

Bible: **Genesis 3:14-24**

Genesis 3:14-21 (King James Version)

¹⁴And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. ¹⁶Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. ¹⁷And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. ²⁰And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. ²¹Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Only the ground was declared to be cursed, not their own persons. God's pronouncement was different with Satan than with Adam and Eve. It is not that they were uncorrupted, but God's dealings with Adam and Eve were far different than with the devil. Even the judgments themselves contain mercy. Having seen last time the awful judgments of Adam and Eve because of their sin, we want to consider God's mercy and grace that He provided towards them.

- I. There was a delay in the sentence of death
 - a. Adam and Eve were not immediately executed. However, they were immediately killed spiritually—spiritual death.
 - b. With regard to Eve in verse 16, even though the childbearing process would be painful, she would continue to live long enough to bear children, and see the joy of seeing a child brought forth into the world. This promise is made to her, thou shalt bring forth children. She was also not to be immediately deprived of her husband. He shall rule over thee. This rule would not be as gracious and wise had the fall never occurred. But she is to still have his protection, provision, and fatherhood to her children. Through her childbearing her redeemer will be born. And through the message of the Gospel, the ruling of the man would become one of blessing.
 - c. With Regard to Adam – even though his toil would be difficult, yet he shall eat of the ground all the days of his life. Three times in this judgment that is pronounced against Adam, he tells Adam that he will not starve even though the ground has been cursed. Adam would not only have food, but companionship from Eve and the blessing of offspring from her. Through the fall, we see all of the blessings and benefits of God, even in the midst of the judgments that were pronounced. God could have brought much judgment upon them.
- II. There was a means provided for deliverance from death
 - a. Declared in Genesis 3:15 - In order that there might be time for salvation to be provided. This salvation and deliverance from sin is declared in 2 ways

- i. Genesis 3:15 – In this passage God says to the Serpent, I will put enmity between thee and the woman... The very first declaration of the Gospel in this basic form. The person and work of Satan will be destroyed by the coming descent of the women. When God brought his curse upon the devil, there was no mercy, grace, or hope offered. In the curse upon Satan, there is a declaration of the redemption plan. Before God ever speaks to the woman, He lets her know that she is going to give birth to a savior. The Devil used woman to provide the fall of man, God uses the woman to provide the savior of the world. God says I will put enmity between the serpent and the woman. Eve from this point forward has a hatred towards the devil.
 - ii. This enmity expands to coming generations – and between thy seed and her seed. The human race is now divided into 2 groups. The seed of the serpent (unsaved). Jesus spoke of this in John 8:44, you are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father you will do. Jesus identifies this seed of Satan. The seed of the woman. This is to all people who are saved. Galatians 3:26, you are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. David speaks, do not I hate them that hate thee... Psalm 139:22, 1 John 3:13. There always will be an irreconcilable conflict between the saved and the unsaved. Part of the human race is going one direction, and the other part is going the other direction. You are either of Christ, or you are of the Devil.
 - iii. This enmity is particularized in 2 individuals once again. The language shifts from the plural to the singular. You and the woman, thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Christ is the seed of the woman. He was in fact born of a virgin – Galatians 4:4. Christ did what Adam failed to do, and that is He defeated Satan. Satan came to Adam and Eve once and they fell. The Hebrew word can be translated as either Bruised or Crushed. The NT tells us what Jesus did to Satan's head, and what Satan did to Jesus' heel. Satan cannot recover from the blow of Christ. Satan continues to strike at Christ's heel by striking at Christ's church. Romans 16:20, and the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.
- b. It was demonstrated in Genesis 3:21 – God does something very unusual after pronouncing Judgment. God makes cloaks of skin and clothes them? Why did he do that? It wasn't for the sake of physical modesty. What is demonstrated here, is how the salvation in Genesis 3:15 needed to be personally procured and applied. There is only one way to get the skin off of the animal, and that is for the animal to die. So God killed an animal before their faces and clothed them. The skin of this sacrificial and substitutionary sacrifice. The covering for their sin, was of God's provision. The covering for their sin of their own provision was rejected by God, and totally unsuitable. It was of God's provision only that was acceptable by God. Someone died that day. What we have is a marvelous declaration. Not only will there be a messiah, He must die in your place, and you must be clothed with His righteousness. The animal was without sin, it had not done anything wrong, and it had done what it was supposed to do. He did nothing wrong, He was the spotless Lamb of God. How do we now appear before God? In the righteousness of another. The wrath is taken out on the life of another. Someone must come before God naked and guilty, and bear His wrath in our place. 2 Corinthians 5:21. We can now come to God because Christ appeared before God without shame and guilt and suffered the wrath. God has provided us one to be lifted up.