

Man, Woman, Marriage and Satan (Genesis 2-3:5)

Expository Lessons from the Book of Genesis

I. Background for Genesis 2+ 3 (Recap of Prior Lesson)

- a. Last class: the Creation
 - i. Moses the principal author of Five Books of Moses (**Genesis – Deuteronomy**).
 - ii. Importance of **Book of Genesis**: lays the foundation for almost everything that follows.
 - iii. In the beginning, God created the world from nothing.
 - iv. Word of God and the Spirit involved in creation of the physical universe. (Spirit hovering over the water, **Genesis 1:2**; “let us make man in our image”, **Genesis 1:26**; agrees with **John 1, Colossians 1, Hebrews 1, Proverbs 8**, etc.)
 - v. Order and design of the universe are universal testimony to the deliberate design and Designer behind it all.
 - vi. Bible presents a story in 3 parts:
 1. God creates man (**Genesis 1 + 2**).
 2. Man rebels against God, and falls (**Genesis 3**).
 3. God works to redeem mankind (**Genesis 4 - Revelation 22**).
 - vii. Creation account in **Genesis 1**: Takes place over seven days, with God resting on the seventh day.
 1. Basis for the Sabbath;
 2. Pointing to our ultimate rest at the end; and
 3. (Possibly) foreshadowing the seventh day when Jesus’ body rested in the tomb all day.

II. Creation of the First Man (Adam)

- a. Read **Genesis 1:26-2:17** Two accounts of the creation of the first man; **Genesis 2** goes into more detail of what happened on the 6th day.
- b. First man was created first, before the woman.
 - i. Man was made in the image and likeness of God. What does that mean? In what sense is man made in the likeness of God?

- ii. Ways man is NOT like God:
 1. Not in appearance (no face, hair, hands or feet).
 2. God “alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see” (**1 Timothy 6:16**). No images can be made of Him! (**Romans 1:23**, and Second Commandment in **Exodus 20** and **Deuteronomy 5**)
 3. He is uncreated, with no beginning; we are created beings, with a beginning in time.
- iii. How ARE we like God (and unlike the rest of creation)?
 1. Paul tells the Athenians in **Acts 17:29** that, “we are his offspring”.
 2. We have free moral choice, to do good or not. To love or to hate.
 3. We have a spirit, and a conscience.
- c. Man was given dominion over the earth
 - i. We don’t worship the earth, nor created things on the earth (stones, metal, wood/trees, images, art or wealth).
 - ii. We have been entrusted with this earth and what is on it, by God.
- d. In the beginning, God said that all things created (including first man and woman) were ‘very good’.
 - i. Man was not created flawed or evil; created good, with free choice and then fell.
- e. Man formed from dust of the earth, into which God breathed life.
 - i. We are material and spiritual. Body and spirit. Both created ‘good’.
 - ii. Gnostic-type thinking: ancient but that heresy is still around today in New Age clothing, and influences Protestant thinking. Characterized by very negative view of the material world, and focus on knowledge of the secrets of the universe. Believed in immortality of the soul but not the body. Path to salvation was through knowledge, rather than obedience and living a righteous life.
 1. Origins of Gnosticism are unclear; Irenaeus (c. 180) pointed to Simon Magus of **Acts 8** (ANF v.1, p.359).
 2. Gnostic-type thinking addressed in writings of Paul and John.

- a. Paul calls Timothy to pursue/teach righteousness and godliness, warning him to, “Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’ (Gk: *gnosis*); by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.” (**1 Timothy 6:20-21**)
 - b. **1 John 4:1-3** “Test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world...every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God...”
3. Questioned whether Christ really came in the flesh.
 4. Questioned the doctrine of the resurrection of the body (flesh) for all on the Last Day (as in **1 Corinthians 15**).
 5. Considered the material world and physical body to be either intrinsically bad (as opposed to the spirit), OR of no consequence. Errors coming out of that kind of thinking include:
 - a. All sins are the same; sins involving the body (sexual immorality, adultery) are no worse than lusting, since what we do with the body does not matter. (A false teaching still around today!)
 - b. After death, body is left behind but the spirit goes on to heaven/hell. (A false teaching still around today!)
 - i. Based on that, many falsely conclude that conversion is just a matter of the mind/spirit. Just have to believe in your heart. Being ‘born again’ pertains only to mind/spirit.
 - ii. Therefore, falsely conclude that baptism (body immersed in water) unnecessary for salvation.
 - iii. Justin Martyr (c. 160 AD) argues (*On the Resurrection, ANV v.1, p.297-8*):
 1. Man IS body + soul. To save man, both must be saved.
 2. God created man in the flesh; it is valuable to God, his workmanship.
 3. Body and soul sin together (like team of two oxen in a common yoke).

4. "...not only has your soul heard and believed on Jesus Christ, and with it the flesh, but both were washed and both wrought righteousness."
- c. Body is a hindrance, therefore can adopt either: unbalanced, extreme asceticism (punishing the flesh); or the other extreme, where sins involving the flesh (fornication, adultery) are no worse than sins of thought. (Both extremes representing false teaching). What NT does teach:
 - i. Fasting voluntarily, keeping our bodies under check by our spirits, can be very good and important ("when you fast", **Matthew 6:16**).
 - ii. In marriage, two become "one flesh" (**Genesis 2:24**).
 - iii. Not all sins are the same. Sexual sin involving the flesh is more serious; to be put out of the church! (read **1 Cor. 6:15-20**)
 - iv. Yet lust alone also is a sin (**Matthew 5:28**, whoever looks at a woman lustfully "has committed adultery with her in his heart").
- f. Man is given free choice (to obey or disobey).
 - i. The first command: don't eat from one particular tree (tree of knowledge of good and evil). OK to eat from all the other trees in the Garden.
- g. There was another famous tree in the Garden, the tree of life. More on that later.

III. Creation of the First Woman (Eve)

- a. Read **Genesis 2:18-25**. Creation of the first woman, and marriage.
- b. God provides for the man's needs. He is looking out for man's good. Sees that it is not good for him to be alone.
- c. The woman created to be his helper.
- d. The woman created from the man (from rib, or side), taken from him while in a deep sleep. Fable, figurative or to be taken literally? Paul understood the **Genesis 2** creation account of the man and the woman to be literal, so I believe we should as well.

- i. Regarding resurrection of the body, “The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust...”. (**1 Corinthians 15:47-48**)
- ii. In discussion on covering / uncovering heads, “For man is not from woman, but woman from man.” (**1 Corinthians 11:8**)
- e. Marriage instituted. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (**Genesis 2:24**)
 - i. Cited by Jesus regarding permanence of marriage. Read **Matthew 19:3-6**.
 - 1. Moses had permitted divorce under the Law (Jesus said it was because their hearts were hard; perhaps because husbands would have killed their wives otherwise?). Jesus rolls it back to God’s original plan, based in the creation in **Genesis 2**.
 - 2. Significance for today:
 - a. Marriage, like the universe, was created by God, for our own good. Not by man, not by governments.
 - b. The Bible must be our standard in all things, regardless of what the world or religious leaders tell us. After Jesus taught about the permanence of marriage in Matthew 5 (and other hard teachings in Sermon on the Mount) He admonishes us to avoid the broad road that leads to destruction. He said, “narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (**Matthew 7:14**)
 - c. Defined by God: one man, one woman, one flesh, for life. Jesus concluded, “What God has joined together, let not man separate” (**Matthew 19:6**).
 - d. Divorce only allowed in the case of adultery; and remarriage only after death. That’s how Jesus’ teachings have been understood from the beginning until relatively recently. (Growing up I knew only one friend with divorced parents; now it is rampant, virtually every family impacted.)

IV. Satan Introduced

- a. Read **Genesis 3:1-5**
- b. Satan largely ignored or trivialized today.
 - i. Yet very prominently discussed by Jesus and the apostles throughout the NT. John said it is why Jesus came!
 1. **1 John 3:8** "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."
 - ii. Yet most churches (and Christians) today talk very little about Satan.
 - iii. In the world at large, either a big joke (red suit, tail, cartoons) or curiosity tied in with the occult.
 - iv. There are many people today who believe in God, and even believe in Jesus, who do not believe that Satan exists!
- c. Why studying about Satan is so important for us, today.
 - i. Provides perspective to Christians facing challenges.
 1. Job was the most righteous man on the face of the earth in his day; Satan asked to test him to the limit and God permitted that trial. (**Job 1-2**)
 2. Jesus told Peter, "Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat". (**Luke 22:31**)
 3. Paul calls us to be strong, "that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil". Our battle here is not against flesh and blood (other people), but "against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places". (**Ephesians 6:10-12**)
 4. When Jesus gives very short admonitions to the 7 churches in Asia, he talks about Satan to 4 of them (Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, and Philadelphia).
 - a. Church in Smyrna is warned, "Do not fear those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested...be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (**Revelation 2:10**)
 - b. Warning to church in Pergamos, "I know...where you dwell, where Satan's throne is". (**Revelation 2:13**)

5. When Jesus teaches us the daily prayer (give us this day our daily bread), the last thing we are to require of God is, "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one". (**Matthew 6:13**)
6. The kingdom of God is on a war footing at this time. Like Peter and Christians in the beginning, we are being assaulted daily by our enemy, Satan.

ii. Evangelism.

1. Explaining to unbelievers why evil exists. Only way to provide a complete answer to the common question, "If God is all-powerful and all-good, why is there so much evil in the world around us?" Many drawn to atheism because they miss the 'third player' in the story (God-man-Satan).
2. Understanding what evangelism is all about, (it is not about self-improvement!).
 - a. Paul recounts his conversion story to King Agrippa. When Jesus called Paul to take the gospel to the Gentiles, he said his mission would be "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God...". (**Acts 26:17-18**)
 - b. Evangelism is heavy duty spiritual warfare. Turning people away from sin and rescuing them from Satan's dark kingdom and from his power.
 - c. To evangelize the world we need courageous warriors. This job will not be done by entertaining speakers, salesmen, yes-men or corporate functionaries. We need real men (and women) equipped to do battle against Satan.
- d. A critical, life-long study that I recommend to all Christians: Study Satan. Study his origin, favorite tactics, schemes, the plays he has successfully run. As you read the Bible, learn lessons from who were defeated by him, and by those who successfully resisted (how they did it).
 - i. In the two weeks before Super Bowl, coaches study the tapes of the opposing team. To know their strengths and weaknesses, what plays they like to run, and how to defend against them. Paul draws spiritual lessons from farming, military and sporting contests. We should as well. Be wise: know your enemy very well!

- ii. Often I have a hard time knowing what God wants me to do. Can become clearer if I ask myself, “**What does Satan want me to do in this situation?**” **and then do the opposite!** (Many others have found this advice helpful, too.)
- e. Where did this bad guy come from? All the land animals (including ‘creeping things’ were made on the 6th day, and it says “God saw that it was good.” **(Genesis 2:25)**
 - i. Seems to me that the Creation story pertains to the creation of the world and the physical universe. Angels were around before that.
 1. God said to Job, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” **(Job 38:4-7)** “Sons of God” term in Job refers to angels, with Satan being among them. **(Job 1:6, 2:1)**
 2. Victorinus (c. 280) wrote, “He created angels and archangels before he created man, placing spiritual beings before earthly ones.” (ANF v.7, p.341)
 3. **Revelation 12:9** speaks of a spiritual war in heaven. It says, “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth and his angels were cast out with him.”
 4. In **Matthew 25:41** Jesus speaks of “the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels”.
 - ii. Origen (c. 225) writes, “Regarding the devil, his angels, and the opposing forces, the teaching of the church is that these beings do indeed exist. However, the church has not explained with sufficient clarity what they are, or how they exist. Most Christians, however, hold this opinion: that the devil was an angel and that, having become an apostate, he induced as many of the angels as possible to fall away with him.” (ANF v.4, p.240)
 - iii. Some early Christians believed 1/3 of the angels had rebelled and were taken up with Satan, likely based on **Revelation 12:3** where it speak of the great dragon (Satan) sweeping 1/3 of the stars from heaven and throwing them down to earth. (Victorinus, c. 280, ANF v.7, p.355)
 - iv. A few notable early Christian writers (Origen, Tertullian) associated the second prophecy to the king of Tyre with the fall of Satan. Read **Ezekiel 28:12-19**. Origen (c. 225 AD) noted this could not have

applied to some human king (ANF v.4. p.258-9). Consider from the **Ezekiel** passage:

1. "You were the seal of perfection."
 2. "You were in Eden, the garden of God."
 3. "You were the anointed cherub (angel)."
 4. "You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, until iniquity was found in you."
 5. "You sinned, therefore I cast you as a profane thing, out of the mountain of God."
 6. "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty...I cast you to the ground (to the earth)."
 7. (Ultimately devoured by fire in the end.)
- v. **Isaiah 14:12-15** "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (day-star), son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground (LXX: crushed to the earth), you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mountain of the congregation, on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol (Hades), to the lowest depths of the Pit."
- vi. **Luke 10:18** Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven".
- f. Character of Satan - He is first and foremost a liar.
- i. **John 8:44** Jesus calls the Jews he is speaking to, in the temple area, sons of the devil. Then Jesus describes the Satan: "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources for he is a liar and the father of it."
 - ii. Lies he told to Eve, in the beginning:
 1. Did God really say 'you shall not eat of every tree in the Garden'? (twisting the command of God)
 2. "You shall not surely die." (Boldface lie; **Genesis 3:4**)
 3. If you eat the fruit, you will become like God, knowing good and evil. (Deceit in misrepresenting God's character; God's commands are not for her good; Satan is her 'real friend'. **Genesis 3:5**)

iii. Most potent weapon against a liar is the truth.

1. Jesus, when tempted 3x by the great liar, responds with “it is written” and quotes the word of God to him. Lesson for us!
2. Eve started there, provided some resistance initially, but then caved in to temptation.
3. Jesus says he IS “the truth” (**John 14:6**). He calls the Holy Spirit “the spirit of truth”. (**John 16:13**)
4. Jesus came into the world to bring grace (favor of God) and truth (**John 1:14, 17**) He said that if we abide in his word (continue to obey his teaching) “you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”. (**John 8:32**)
5. When Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king, Jesus answers, “‘You say rightly that I am a king, For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.’ (then) Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’” (**John 18:37-38**)
6. Paul says that in our spiritual battle against Satan, we must have the full armor of God. The first thing he mentions is “having girded your waist with truth”. (**Ephesians 6:14**)
7. Be devoted to knowing the Word of God, measuring all things in light of it, and turning to it when Satan tells us lies and tempts us!
8. Always tell the truth, and love the truth (good, bad or ugly). Bring the light of truth to every encounter. Hate any deceit in yourself; confess it and expose it to the light!

iv. Common lies of Satan (my ‘top ten’ or so):

1. There are many paths to God (not just Jesus). There is no way that most people can be lost and bound for destruction.
2. There IS NO objective truth. Truth is personal, subjective: “your truth vs. “my truth”. To believe otherwise is to be narrow-minded and bigoted. (Very popular today with younger generation; extremely dangerous.)
3. Satan does not exist, or is insignificant. Never think or talk about him. If bad things happen, it’s God’s fault.
4. (Through music, TV, Hollywood movies) It is perfectly normal to have sex before marriage, to cheat on your spouse, to have

an abortion, to experiment with homosexuality. It's natural, everyone does it.

5. (Through media, schools) Marriage can be redefined by society, or by the government or church leaders. There are multiple sexual identity choices, not just male and female. OK to choose the one you want.
6. (To Christians) You don't really need the Word of God every day. You don't need to confess your sins. As long as you're in the church, you're fine.
7. Suffering is bad. God wants us to be happy in this life. OK to invalidate any commands that involve pain and require us to carry our cross (permanence of marriage, unity, forgiving others, materialism, holiness, etc.).
8. You don't actually have to live a righteous life, just believe and have the right theology. Jesus was righteous enough to cover me, whether I repent or not.
9. We don't need to strive to be unified with all Christians, as Jesus prayed in **John 17:20-23**. Being unified within my own small group or denomination is good enough.
10. Unpopular commands of Scripture that don't fit with modern culture, or that might interfere with evangelistic outreach, can be dismissed (role of women, divorce, nonresistance, materialism, holiness, etc.).