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Reading: Genesis 3 and Romans 5v12-19.

Genesis 3: This passage in Genesis tells us how mankind fell into sin, and the perfect world God had created became cursed.

Eve is tempted to disobey God by the serpent. We know the serpent was satan, or at least satan's agent - we have a link with this in Revelation 12v9.

The serpent's method here gives us a lesson in satan's methods of temptation:

Genesis 3v1 - "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" Satan puts a lie into the woman's head - "God won't let you do anything, will He?"

Genesis 3v2,3 - The woman reasoned with satan rather than fighting or resisting him. The Bible says "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4v7). She should have immediately told satan what God had said, and told him to leave her. She did say what she thought God had said, although she had actually added on her own law to God's (compare Gen 2v17 to 3v3). But having done that, she waited for a

The Fall

"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" Romans 5v19

response. She toyed with temptation.

Genesis 3v4,5 - Then satan calls God a liar - "You will not surely die". Like the modern equivalent "of course a God of love won't send people to Hell". Having called God a liar, satan then tries to pin wrong motives on God - "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil". Satan was telling the woman that God was selfishly trying to keep from her something good and desirable. He was also facing her with the temptation modern man faces - "You can be like God".

Genesis 3v6 - The woman allowed herself to give in to temptation. Being tempted is not wrong, but dwelling on the temptation, rather than just resisting it, is. She dwelt on it, allowed herself to be tempted, sinned, and led the man into sin.

Satan's lie had some truth in it, as they often do.

The man and the woman did come to know good and evil, but they didn't become like God. In fact they became less like God, because they became fallen human beings rather than perfect images of God as they had been.

The man and woman tried to cover their guilt themselves (v7,8), but it didn't work. God knew their sin, and drew a confession from them. And like human beings ever since, they both tried to pin the blame on someone else (v12-13)!

God kept His Word - that very day they died spiritually, and were condemned to die physically at the end of their lives (v19). Not only that but creation itself was cursed (v17-19, & Romans 8 v18-25).

God hates sin, and His righteous nature demands that the sinner must die (Deuteronomy 24v16). Sin cannot exist in God's presence (Revelation 21v8), and fallen mankind could not be allowed to live for ever, eternally out

of fellowship with God, so man was now banished from the presence of God (Genesis 3v23,24). Why did God not kill them there and then? Because He had a plan to reconcile human beings to Himself (v15). The Saviour would be a descendent of Eve, Satan would strike His heel at the Cross, but Christ would crush Satan's head forever.

Adam proved he believed God by calling his wife Eve - from her life would come. v21 - the first blood sacrifice (see Hebrews 9v22) as God kills animals to clothe Adam and Eve in their skins.

Genesis 3v22-24 - The tree of life is only available to the righteous (see Revelation 22v2). Now that man had sinned, God's work of reconciliation had to be completed before man could eat of it.

From all this come two doctrines. Firstly, Total Depravity - man is utterly sinful, and in his natural state (ie before the new birth) there is no good in him. See Jeremiah 17v9, Isaiah 64v6.

Secondly, Original Sin - because of Adam's sin we are born sinful. See Psalms 58v3 & 51v5, Romans 3v23 and Romans

5v14. This is clearly explained in **Romans 5v12-19:**

Romans 5v12 - Before Adam & Eve sinned neither sin nor death were in the world - they entered through that sin.

Romans 5v13,14 - even before Moses gave the law, which defines what sin is, men still sinned (eg Cain) although not by breaking clear commands like Adam did. Those who came before Moses and the Law will be judged as explained in Romans 2v12-16.

Romans 5v15-19 - The general argument is: if one man's sin caused all to be sinners (v19), all to be condemned (v18), and all to die (v15,17), then how much more will the grace of God, through one man, Christ, overflow to many, causing many to live! Judgment was the just and righteous response to Adam's sin. God's free gift of forgiveness was the undeserved response of God to our lost and sinful state.

"Gift of righteousness" (v17) - we become righteous in ourselves as a result of salvation, and righteous deeds should be the symptoms. Just as sinful deeds are the symptoms of our inherited state of sinfulness.

Romans 5v18 - The "all men" who are condemned to die as a result of Adam's sin is universal - in our fallen sinful state all of us must die for our sin. Also, the offer of justification through faith in Jesus Christ is open to all men - it is a universal offer. However, we know from elsewhere in the Bible that only some will accept that offer and actually receive salvation, forgiveness and eternal life. This is the mystery of Divine Sovereignty and human responsibility. God saves those He has chosen to save, yet we are still individually responsible for our choice.

Now read Romans 8v18-25. When Adam and Eve sinned the world was cursed by God and fell into corruption. This is because of what we have already seen - sin cannot exist in the presence of God, and so as sinners men and women are eternally banished from His presence. The only way back to Him is through faith in the Saviour He sent - Jesus Christ. The death and decay all around us tell us that something is wrong. Our greatest need is eternal salvation, and our fallen world is the "pain" that will drive us to the only physician who can help us - Jesus Christ.