

From Eden to Eternity: An Overview of the Whole Bible, #3

Rev. Josh Desch

Lesson # 3 – The Perished Kingdom¹

Review of week 2: Rest is the goal of creation. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. – Gen. 2:1-3

This week: Genesis 3:1-24

Was that goal achieved? No. Sin entered the world in Genesis 3. First, a word on Satan appearing as a talking snake and on whether or not the events of Genesis 3 really happened. The Bible assumes in both the OT and the NT that Adam and Eve were real people and that the fall was a real event. *“That still leaves the question of the talking snake. Are we meant to take that literally? That depends on the kind of literature we think the author was writing. My own view, for what it’s worth, is that Genesis 3 describes as actual event but uses some symbolism as it does so”* (pg. 38).

The Act of Rebellion Itself: God permits Adam and Eve to enjoy everything in the garden with one exception. Satan uses this one prohibition to attack Adam and Eve and tell them lies about God. We know what happened next. Adam and Eve gave into temptation and committed the first sin in human history. We might ask,

“Why was that so terrible? What is wrong with eating a bit of fruit? It is wrong because God told them not to; it was an act of blatant disobedience. But why did God not want them to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Surely it is good to know the difference between right and wrong? Yes, the ‘knowledge of good and evil’ refers not simply to knowing what is right and wrong, but rather to deciding what is right and wrong. Their sin is that of law-making, not just law breaking. They were saying, ‘From now on, God, we want to be the law-makers in the world, setting the standards by which we will live.’ It was a bid to be like God, but not in any noble sense. They were usurping his authority and establishing their independence. That has been the nature of sin ever since” (pg. 39).

What are the consequences of our sin?

1. **Spiritual Death:** Separation from God. Our fellowship with God was broken by our rebellion.
2. **Physical Death:** Although physical death did not come immediately, Adam and Eve were subjected to earthly death, just like every human since.
3. **Broken Relationships:** Enmity entered the relationship between Adam and Eve. Marriage is no longer a relationship of joyful sacrifice and joyful submission. By extension, that same relational brokenness is now present in every human relationship.
4. **Broken Creation:** The entire creation is “off kilter” as it were. Romans 8 talks about all of creation groaning for the day of redemption.

Application: Why is the world broken? The Bible provides the most compelling and explanatory reason. Because of human sin. Our mission – to help bring healing through the power of Jesus!

¹ This study, and the material in this lesson, comes from the book, *God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughan Roberts, (InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL), 2002.

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The Kingdom of God	The Pattern of the Kingdom	The Perished Kingdom
<i>God's people</i>	Adam and Eve	No one
<i>God's place</i>	The garden	Banished
<i>God's rule and blessing</i>	God's Word; perfect relationships	Disobedience and curse