

Adult Bible Study 2024
Week Three Notes
8/4/Sunday
Genesis 3 - The Temptation Narrative within the Fall Narrative

Genesis 2 Recap

- Motifs & Images - the key images that will be used throughout Scripture
- Chaos in its 3 forms
 - Darkness
 - Watery deep
 - Formless earth
- There is a potential for chaos - that means humans necessarily have FREE WILL
 - **If Eden was perfect without the potential for chaos, Man would never have been able to CHOOSE GOD**
- Chaos can, and now after the Fall, will happen. It matters how we respond to it
- God is not a toy master, playing with His dolls. Nor is He a puppet master
 - God created a house, a great cathedral, filled with Man who is made in His image and likeness
 - **Humans cannot create something in God's image. It is God Who makes images**
- HIGH DRAMA | God's "Netflix"
- Our goal is rest - the seventh day

Genesis 3

Key Hebrew Words

- 'Arumin = transparent, naked, simple, unashamed
- 'Rum = subtle, opaque, complicated, crafty
- What is a pun?
 - Using two words that sound the same but have opposite meaning
- Nahash = the serpent
 - Before the curses from God, the serpent was magnificent and great. It is a creature made by God.
 - Evil possessed the serpent. Inferred that it is Satan
 - However, it is used differently in different cultures - some positive. In Hebrew culture, the snake is negative:
 - A sign of fertility
 - A symbol of magic or the dark arts
 - An image of the occult
- "With her" = Adam was "with her" (uncertain of what the Hebrew word is)
- Teshuka = desire

- Eve's desire for her husband
 - Sexually, for motherhood, for childrearing, for dominance over Adam
- Shalom = peace

Motifs - Jesus fulfills every motif by taking them all on Himself

- Nakedness motif
 - Nothing to hide, transparent, beautiful
 - Innocence
- Spoken Word motif
 - God spoke and all was, all is, and all is to be forever
 - Satan speaks and there is chaos, death, destruction, perversion of creation
- Beast/Serpent motif
 - "More subtle than all the rest"
 - Opaque, dark, hidden, doesn't show its intentions
 - Tempts the woman through SUGGESTION & EXAGGERATION. Then CONTRADICTION
 - Make God look like He doesn't have the best in mind for each person
- Tree motif
 - Command was to not eat the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" or more simply the "tree of all knowledge"
 - The tree was placed in Eden by God. It's a good tree just with a prohibited command
 - God wants Adam and Eve to obey without explaining Himself. To trust Him.
 - God has the best in mind
- Beautiful Woman motif
 - Where beauty is, danger lies.
 - Beauty is fundamentally good.
 - Can be easily perverted
- Clothing motif
 - God clothes Adam & Eve even after the Fall
 - Still their God
- Angel

Main Ideas

- Creation went from:
 - Chaos → Order → Rest
- Destruction goes from:
 - Rest → Disorder → Chaos
- Theophany vs. demonophany
 - God appearance vs. a demon appearance

- Blessings | Curses
 - God blessed all of creation. God gave His “shalom”
 - God blesses through those who bless
 - The blessing or curse is only as strong as the one who blesses or curses
 - At one point was creation “not good” - Original Solitude - Adam’s loneliness
 - God did not curse Adam directly. That is the ultimate death to be cursed by God. God cursed the ground which Adam would work by the “sweat of his brow”
 - There is no relief because even the ground, the elements will fight against Adam
- **What is Faith?**
 - **Believing God has good intentions for us**
 - **God has the best in mind for us**
 - Live in Faith!
- Adam & Eve
 - Historical figures & symbolic figures
 - Adam & Eve are real people and are also symbolic of every man and every woman
- Binary
 - Binary is associated with choice
 - Brightside and a darkside
 - Binary shows up in other ways like genders: Male and Female
- Fall Narrative - Genesis 3-11
 - Temptation Narrative is within the Fall Narrative
 - Why attack Eve? Why attack & seduce the woman?
 - Eve did not receive God’s command firsthand. It was to be passed on by Adam
 - She is the “crown of creation”
 - After everything else was created, including Adam, then Eve was made
 - 3 unique temptations occur for Eve. Note its connection to modern Western culture
 - Lust of the eyes
 - Pride of eternal life/being like God
 - Gluttony - eating
 - Sin drives a wedge between God & man, man & woman, man & creation, man & himself
 - Competition between man & woman
 - “I am the master of my fate!” “I am the captain of my ship!”
 - No one is able to take responsibility - pride. No one asks for forgiveness

- We begin joking or feeling ashamed/humiliated by our brokenness. We fail to address it head on
 - Shame of our moral and spiritual condition
 - After the Fall, fallen life of humanity, all is in chaos. Man cannot make it better
- Death - “you shall surely die” Gen 2:17
 - Death is not a cessation of existence to the Hebrews
 - Death is an “inferior” existence or a “diminished” existence
 - Glory is lost to a certain extent
- Protoevangelium meaning “the First Gospel” - Genesis 3:15.
 - “I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”
 - Promise of a Savior - a new Eve
 - God’s seed vs. Satan’s seed
 - Eschatological - a telling of the end times
 - There will be a battle
 - A Beautiful Woman = the Blessed Mother