



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis 1 – 19 Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: The First Sin

Sermon Title: “Hope in the Midst of the Fall” (Genesis 3:14-15)

Connection to Session 3

Today’s session focuses on the first sin: man’s temptation, his fall, and God’s grace. This message will point to the hope given by God when He pronounced His condemnation on the serpent.

Introduction/Opening

What is the difference between punishment and discipline? Punishment usually has no grace, offers little hope, and brings little to no value to the person being punished. However, with discipline, hope is found. For example, when a child is being disciplined, it may be difficult at first for the child to see grace that is found in the pronouncement given, but it’s still there. The reasoning behind the consequences is expressed, taught, and applied so that changes will be made. In other words, hope is found in the midst of the reprimand.

We see this same idea in Genesis. Adam and Eve had every fruit available to them in the garden, except for one. Being tempted by the serpent, they fell to sin in the garden, which resulted in immediate consequences. These consequences would be seen in God’s pronouncements to the serpent, to Eve, and to Adam. Yet there’s hope in the garden. This passage offers hope for us today.

Outline

1. The Sentence of Satan (3:14)

- a. The standing of the serpent would become lower than anything in God’s creation.
 - i. The serpent was none other than Satan. His judgment will result in his eternal punishment one day (Rev. 20:1-3,7-10).
- b. Satan had no hope and no future, only judgment. Why?
 - i. He rebelled against God.

- ii. He sought to destroy man (John 10:10).
- iii. He would torment the godly and ungodly alike. (See Job 2:7 as an example.)
- c. Satan's sentence was set.
 - i. Satan's time would be limited, but God would use him for a greater purpose.
 - ii. That purpose would result in the future redemption of man.

2. The Hope of Christ (3:15)

- a. In the midst of God's judgment on Satan is the hope of redemption
- b. Genesis 3:15 is often called by scholars the *protevangelium*, or "first good news," which is the first glimmer of the gospel.¹
- c. How can we see hope in this verse?
 - i. "I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring" (v. 15a).
 1. There will be war between Satan and the woman.
 2. Satan and his demons will always have hostilities with Eve and her offspring by tempting, tormenting, and seeking to turn them from God.
 3. Mankind and Satan will always be at war.
 4. Yet, the second part of the verse promised a resolution.
 - ii. "He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel" (v. 15b).
 1. While Satan would one day strike the seed of Eve, the good news is that in the future, the seed of Eve would crush Satan's head.
 2. This is seen through the work of Jesus.
 - a. Jesus was "struck on the heel" when He was arrested, beaten, and crucified on the cross.

¹ Kidner, D. (1967). *Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*, (Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1967), 75.

- b. His tormentors thought that they had won, but Jesus's death was temporary as He rose from the grave on the third day.
- c. The future promises a new reality where Satan, sin, and death are no more. The serpent's head will be crushed forever! (Rev. 20:10; 21:3-7)
- d. This hope is available for all who call upon the name of Jesus.
 - i. Our sin is no different than the sins of Adam and Eve (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).
 - ii. Our Savior died so we can have forgiveness and eternal life (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8, 1 John 1:9).
 - iii. Our response must be faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9,13, Acts 4:12).

Conclusion

There is hope despite our sins. That hope is Jesus Christ. By no means were we left alone. By faith, we can receive Him and follow Him. Don't delay, trust in Christ today.

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