

First Gospel

Genesis 3:15

FOCAL Read Responsively Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

I was watching an old Frank Capra movie called “It’s a Wonderful Life” just the other day. If you’ve never seen it, you either don’t have a television or don’t watch television during the Christmas season. The movie looks at the life of a fictional man named “George Baily” (played by Jimmy Stewart) who, wanting to commit suicide, is shown by an angel named “Clarence” (played by Henry Travers) how important and necessary his life really was. In the movie Clarence *removes* George’s influence from the town, and shows him how precious his life really was.

Life is precious. It is a great gift from God. If you are alive (and I pray you are) and are listening to me today (and I can only hope you are) the Lord wants you to know that your life has meaning. Unlike the fictional “George Baily” we rarely have anyone show us, much less tell us, how valuable our lives are. Your life is valuable – it matters – and effects the lives of those around you.

When the fictional George Baily was removed from this life his lack of influence allowed evil to prevail throughout the town. Remove the righteous and the unrighteous take over. Remove the generous and the loving and greedy unloving begin to rule. Fail to heed the voice of God, turn away from His council, and you do not only effect yourselves. Like a pebble in a pond your actions or inactions effect all who are around you.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

Adam did something I'm sure he wished he could take back. He ignored the warning of God, listened to the serpent, and now he stood in the presence of the Almighty red-faced and leaf covered. He didn't really have a name for what he was feeling right now, but he certainly didn't like it. He should have known better. God had told him:

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God had promised that death would come the day that he disobeyed. We've all had the “What was I thinking?” moment in our lives and we've all wished that we could turn back the hands of time. I'm sure that Adam that day was the king of “What was I thinking?”. Think about it. He watched the serpent approach his *wife while he did nothing*. He heard her talking with that thing and let her go on. He saw her reach out and pluck a fruit from the forbidden tree, polish it up, then take a big bite. Then she turned to Adam. Adam knew what God had said but it seemed as *if nothing happened*. Maybe it would be all right. So he took a bite.

And everything fell to pieces.

The Lord had never withheld anything from Adam. Yet he let this creature – beautiful on the outside but cold blooded and conniving – bring death into his family.

What happened to him was bad enough – but to watch your wife die while knowing you caused it all – what a terrible thing this was. Like the Apostle he probably cried:

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Then the God Who is Love answered.

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I will send a Redeemer. I will make a way from death unto life. I will bless you. One day I will come through the woman and bruise our foe. I will turn cursing into blessing. **What a wondrous love is this, oh my soul! God sent His Son to bruise the serpent's head.** God sent His Son to redeem us from ruin, to bring life where before there was death. To be redeemed we must repent, turn away from the serpent and toward the Son. We must realize that the devil never offers a better way. His way leads unto death. God's Way – **the way, the truth, and the life** – comes only through faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord.

So You Think A Serpent Is A Good Thing?

Can you believe that *anybody* would talk to – much less

do – what a serpent or snake told them to do? I wouldn't think that God would have to

FOCAL Genesis 3:15 And **I will put enmity¹ between thee and the woman...**

make war between the snake and the woman. If you bring a snake into the Church building I'm immediately looking for (or making) an exit! The Fall of Humanity – the Universal Condemnation of Sin – came on us all because

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 For **since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. {22} For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

man heeded the serpent rather than God.

Adam was God's Representative – His **Federal Head** - in creation.

Placed in charge over all that the Lord made, Adam was supposed to do as God directed. Adam was given the relatively easy job of *cultivating a place that would not grow weeds nor thorns*. The Lord of all creation, the God **“Who measured the waters of this earth in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and**

1 H342, אֵיבָהּ, 'êybâh, ay-baw', From H340; *hostility*: - enmity, hatred.

comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance” (Isaiah 40:12). This awesome and Almighty God put Adam and Eve in the middle of Perfection, a place called “Eden” - whose name means “The Garden of God”. Think about that: **the Garden of God!** The Garden was God's, all that was in it was God's, and all that man had to do was **remember who his enemy was**. His enemy was not God – God was his Friend.

The enemy was, is, and will always be Satan, that fallen **“Cherub that covereth”**.

Lucifer, the **Anointed Cherub Angel**, was created perfect, just as the Garden of Eden, Adam, and Eve were created perfect. He was beautiful, just as Eden and its inhabitants were beautiful. He was without sin, given freedom of will to choose to do the good. He lacked nothing. As the Chief Angel of God the Bible tells us:

Ezekiel 28:13-15 **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone [was] thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: ... {14} Thou [art] the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. {15} Thou [wast] perfect**

in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Lucifer was beautiful – is beautiful – and his power was vast. God was the One Who made him. Lucifer **walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire**. He has access into God's Heaven. He walked the streets of gold long before man was ever created. He entered and departed the Throne Room of God freely. He was cherish, blessed of God.

What led to Satan's fall and corruption?

Then he became lifted up with pride.

Where sin enters, it seeks to destroy. Where sin enters it controls, it maims, it kills. Lucifer the Son of the Morning became lifted up with pride. He saw all that God had given him, saw his beauty and his power, saw his authority over the other angels – and *decided that he was worthy to be God*. The Lord in speaking of this failure said:

Isaiah 14:12-15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! {13} For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the

mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: {14} I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. {15} Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Adrian Rogers once said “Sin will take you farther than you ever wanted to go; keep you longer than you ever wanted to stay; and cost you more than you ever expected to pay.”

This is easily seen in the life of Lucifer. He allowed pride to come into his life. Drawn away of his own lust Lucifer first drew **a third part of the angels of Heaven** into open revolt against God with him (**Revelation 12:4**). But this wasn't enough. The one characteristic of sin and death is that *misery loves company*. So Lucifer decided that – as he had already marred Heaven – now he must mar Eden as well.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle² than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² H6175, עָרִים, 'ârûm, *aw-room'*, Passive participle of H6191; *cunning* (usually in a bad sense): - crafty, prudent, subtle

It is interesting that Lucifer didn't come to Eve in his angelic form. He took on himself the **form of the serpent**. Adam had just finished naming all of the

Why did the devil come in the form of a serpent?

animals. The devil – always crafty – **came in the form of a servant**. The animals were Adam's servants. This is what the devil always does. He comes and, with enticing words, **crafty words**. The devil doesn't come up and tell you **“Hey buddy, this is bad for you. Let's just do it!”** No, he knows that you'll not go for that. The devil will always **challenge your view of the world**. **“Has God really said that you shouldn't eat of every tree in the Garden?”**, implying that if God really loved you, He wouldn't withhold anything – not even one tree – from you.

The Bible tells us:

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

The devil – **Lucifer, Satan, Beelzebub, the Prince of Darkness** – he does not want to bless you. He desires your death. He shall be brought down to the sides of the pit – and he wants to bring you down to the sides of the pit, too.

The devil led man from Eden and unto evil. He today leads us from God's best and unto hell's worst.

What are some ways that Satan leads us into death today?

He whispers to the young person, **“That boy's the best thing that ever happened to you. Go ahead and let him have his way. Bind yourself to him. God said to avoid the unequal yoke:**

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? {15} And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

The Lord is clear on this point – if he be an unbeliever you should not bind to him. Lead him or her to Christ *first* and then be married. View the world through God's Word. Live your lives by God's Word. This is what's best for you. But sadly, many like Eve listen to the Evil One. **“Hath God said? Hath God said?”**

A young woman failed to listen to God and His Word, and now she's with child. **“God gave you that body – it**

is your right to do with it as you see fit. You have “reproductive rights” as an American citizen. That which is growing inside the mother is just a bit of tissue. Do with it as you will. Abort it.”

The Bible makes it plain that:

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children [are] an heritage of the LORD: [and] the fruit of the womb [is his] reward.

Life is precious. That child growing in the mother is precious. Yet Satan says “**Hath God said? Hath God said?**” and the woman aborts the life within her. The Bible says:

Everything that the devil does denigrates or lowers the standard of life while pretending to *enhance life*.

Genesis 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

But Satan would have this life destroyed. Oh, dearly Beloved, let us hear the words of God. It is He that loves us, not Satan. The Serpent draws us from God because He wants to draw us from life. He whispers his lies in our ears because he wants us to share in his hell and his death.

In our next election many of you will not vote as God

would have you vote. You will vote for men and women

Do you vote for people who possess a godly, Biblical world view? Do you watch people on television who model a godly, Biblical world view? Does your life and the way you live it honor Jesus Christ?

who are open supporters of **abortion on demand**. You will vote for men and women who will **try and void the Biblical order of marriage, who will support civil unions that are not supported by God's Holy Word**. You will vote for people on the basis of **how they can financially bless you**, or on the basis of how they can **help you pay for health care**. In short, you will vote for people who have no concern for the Lord Jesus Christ in hopes that they will bring a wonderful and more prosperous millennium to this earth. May I say that – just as in the case of Adam and Eve – if you do not support those who support the Word of God you will be only bringing more misery to yourselves. Whenever you try to follow Satan or try to make things better yourselves:

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

You'll just end up making yourselves aprons of leaves. **Turn to God – return to God – and He will give you rest.**

God Promises To Bring Light to Life

FOCAL Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and **between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

Lucifer partnered with woman, deceived her into forsaking God, and man followed her in the Fall. God kept His promise. He told Adam “**In the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die**”. Man died. Creation groaned under the weight of spiritual death. Satan made himself an enemy of God. When man partnered with Satan he made himself an enemy of God. Yet herein is the Love of God. **Adam deserved all that was going to come on him. But before God ever punished sin, before He ever pronounced judgment on man and woman, He promised that Redemption would come.**

The three main themes of Scripture are ruin, redemption, and regeneration. (Genesis 3; Romans 3; 1 John 3)

The earth was without form or void, and God redeemed it and brought life to it. Man brought ruin into the Garden of Eden, yet even here we see that God was promising a Redeemer and a day when all would be better. The **third chapter of Genesis** outlines the ruin of Paradise, and it would be many years until the Promised Redeemer would come. **The third Chapter of Romans** outlines the full extent of Adam's sin:

Romans 3:10-18 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one: {11} There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. {12} They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. {13} Their throat [is] an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps [is] under their lips: {14} Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness: {15} Their feet [are] swift to shed blood: {16} Destruction and misery [are] in their ways: {17} And the way of peace have they not known: {18} There is no fear of God before their eyes.**

Spiritual death brought with it a *universal unrighteousness* among mankind. Men do not naturally seek after God, but they seek after the way of **darkness**. Men do not naturally speak words of life, but they mimic Lucifer of the Garden. Their **throat is an open grave** – a very vivid picture of decomposition and stench. The **poison of asps** is under their lips, and their mouths are **full of cursing and bitterness**. Everything that man does apart from the Lord is **destruction and ruin, a way without peace, a way that is arrogant and flippant before God.**

Describe how God views sin and fallen creation.
Describe ways in which fallen man tries to work his way back into God's favor. What does God accept as payment for sin?

It wasn't too long after the Fall of Man that this truth was bore out. In **Genesis chapter 4** in the very aftermath of **ruin** we see two men, **Cain and Abel**. I am sure that Adam and Eve shared God's coming Redemption with their children, for **Abel** was the first person in recorded history to practice **Blood Atonement**. Abel brought the **first fruit of his flocks (Genesis 4:4)** and, as God had shown his parents, made sacrifice of these animals before the Lord.

Only by *the Blood of the Lamb* would man ever be Redeemed. Christ must come and *redeem us from ruin*. The Lord must come and *regenerate us, giving us life out of death, light out of darkness*. Abel sacrificed the Lamb without spot or blemish as the Lord so commanded. Cain refused to heed God's command – and killed his own brother for doing so. If we will be redeemed then the Redeemer must come. As Abel sacrificed the Lamb he looked forward to the day when Jesus would come. When Noah, and Abraham, and Lot, and Isaac, and Jacob, and David, and Solomon, and every believer of the Old Testament shed the Blood of the animal the did so clinging to the Promise made in the Garden of Eden. They looked toward the day when

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the Messiah would crush the head of that cold, calculating Satan. They knew that the Savior would have to be bruised, knew that our redemption could only come if He went to the Cross for us. The Blood must be shed. Christ had to die.

From the very beginning there **was enmity between Satan and Jesus**. From the time that the Angel told Mary:

Luke 1:35 ... The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Christ was hated of Satan from the beginning. **Herod, that Evil King of Israel**, chased after the Savior, trying to kill Him while He was yet a Babe. As He grew into manhood the devil followed Him into the **wilderness, tempting Him to fall (Matthew 4)**. Yet Jesus never looked away from the task set before Him. The demons despised Jesus. When they saw Him the Bible says:

Matthew 8:29 ... they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to

torment us before the time?

When the **religious crowd, the Pharisees and the Sadducees** plotted His death, these evil ones were dancing to the tune of the Evil One. When they seized Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane our Lord said:

Luke 22:53 When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but **this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**

Was Jesus friends with Satan? Do you think that Jesus' followers should be friends with Satan?

The Serpent would seize the Son of God. The **prince of this world would come (John 14:30)** and bruise the Christ. It would seem as if the Lord had lost all control, but this was not the case.

Isaiah 53:10-11 Yet **it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,** he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

It pleased the Lord to bruise Him. Sin brought on earth by man could only be paid for by Man. The threat that God made to Lucifer in the Garden of Eden had to be carried out. The promise that God made to humanity – a

promise of redemption and of resurrection – could only be fulfilled through the Blood of Christ.

Ruin can only turn to Redemption when you turn to the Redeemer. The Scripture says:

Romans 3:23-28 For **all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; {24} Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: {25} Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; {26} To declare, [I say], at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. {27} Where [is] boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. {28} Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**

What does God expect of you? He expects the same thing of you that He expected of Adam. **Believe His Word. Believe yourselves to be sinners. Turn from following Satan and self and turn to God. Believe that Christ is the Promised Redeemer, and that it is His Blood that made payment for your sin.**

Is the teaching of Genesis 3 an *allegory*? Why do you think that Satan took on the form of the serpent to deceive Eve?

There are those who look at the teaching of Genesis 3 and say “**This is but an allegory, a parable, a illustrative story. Satan really didn't come to the woman in the form of a talking snake.**” Dear friends, the Bible does not make this out to be an allegory nor a parable. The early Apostles – men who walked and talked with Jesus- recognized Satan as a serpent. The Apostle John wrote:

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The great Apostle Paul wrote:

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The devil loves to deceive! If he can get you to questioning God's Word then he can get your soul forever! The devil crept into Eden as a serpent because

there is no length to which he will not go to damn you forever. He crept into Paradise. He creeps into God's Church. He creeps into homes and into families. He creeps in with apathy and the thought of “what's the harm?”

My heartfelt prayer is that we all see the harm. That we awaken, and see the Evil One as he is – a malignant, despicable, evil, hateful foe who has nothing but our harm in mind. We need to see him as God sees him:

Genesis 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou [art] cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

A cursed thing that brings cursing with him. A snakelike hateful entity that is an enemy of God and of good. A slithering, fallen, dust eating creature, low and earthbound.

If you will ascend unto God you must repent and turn away from him and unto Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

If Saved, You Are Regenerated. You Are Not One Of The Children Of The Serpent

Genesis chapter 3 tells of mankind's ruin, Romans chapter 3 tells us of Christ our Redeemer, and 1

John chapter 3 tells us how regenerated, born again people are to live their lives.

The Lord said in the first Gospel:

FOCAL Genesis 3:15 And **I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

We who believe are **at war with the serpent, that old Devil**. He is our enemy, and we are commanded to *never make peace with him*. We are not to make peace with his ways of sin. We are not to make peace with his philosophies or his words. We are to hate him and to live apart from him in all that we do. We are told in the Holy Scripture:

1 John 3:7-10 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. {8} He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. {9} Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. {10} In this the children of God are manifest, and

the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

The devil came in the Garden bringing death and destruction with him. This is characteristic of all his children. Those who belong to him follow the way of death. We who are regenerate, who are **born again by faith in Christ**, are called of God to tell others of the Ruin of sin and of the Redeemer. If you can sin lightly and think little of mocking the Lord *you may yet be unsaved*. **Whoever is born of God does righteousness and hates sin. Whoever is born of God loves his brother in Christ**. The children of God always pursue life and light. They always cast their eyes upward, trusting God and loving Christ their Savior.

May God touch your hearts and lead you into obedience for His Name's Sake.