



## Origins: Studies in Genesis – The Fall

**Date:** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Speakers:** Steve Philpott and Andy Smith

**Key Verses:** Genesis Ch 3-11

### Summary

- The world is beautiful (echo's of Eden) and the world is broken globally, but also personally
- The passage can be read as literal or metaphorical, key question is what is God communicating?

### 1) Evil challenges

- Humanity given a choice and free will (the presence of the tree). They listen to the snake, even though only obedience to God brings joy.
- Humans set themselves up as God and decide on morality – sin has height, breadth and depth
- The curse – the snake enmity with man, Eve (look for fulfilment in marriage and family) and Adam (toil, seek fulfilment in work)

### 2) Sin has consequences

- Exclusion from God/Eden
- The Genesis narrative – ch4 through 11 overview, Cain, Lamech, flood, Noah tower of Babel
- Not one-off issues but a representation of the real issue – the human heart

### 3) God gives hope

- Jesus is our only hope to overcome sin and consequences.
- Gen 3:15 – promise of the one who crushes the snakes head – Jesus is there in the Fall, like a film trailer for the gospel. Link to what Jesus' death and resurrection accomplishes.
- V21 God clothes Adam and Eve. Even in our darkest moments, God's grace is present – ancient near Eastern culture providing clothes was bringing into the family and granting dignity. This is what is offered to us through Jesus.

Romans 5.15 'many died by the rebellion of the one man (that is Adam), how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many'

### **Questions for Small Groups**

- Where do we see 'echo's of Eden in our lives (experiences that reflect that good place/relationship)?
- What strategy for temptation does the snake use? (looks good, tastes good, offers insight, shared)
- Adam and Eve hid from God and hid their shame (fig leaves); what do we do or how do we behave that can indicate hiding from God, or concealing our shame?
- What are the ways that God seeks to rescue humanity? (looks for us, clothes our nakedness, protects us from everlasting life while in sin, uses a righteous man – Noah, gives hope by promise not to destroy the earth again, scatters us to reduce our pride)
- What are the signs of the greater rescue mission of Jesus? ('He will crush your head and you will strike his heel'; God clothes Adam and Eve in animal skins – sacrifice, life coming out of the tomb like Ark, covenant with Noah replaced by new covenant (Matt 26.28))
- Summarised in Romans 5.15

### **Questions for Personal Reflection**

- What are my fig leaves? How I hide away from God
- Where does temptation lead to sin in my life and what does this passage offer in response?

### **Final thoughts:**

God gave choice, and even though we fell, He through grace looks to rescue us