

III. Separation from God and Grace (3:20-24)

A. The man who was put in the garden to “keep” it is now “kept” from the garden by *cherubim*.

B. What is evident throughout this section is that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, is willing to endure the pain of our rebellion and continue to provide for us.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What do you think of most often when you think of what life is like “east of Eden”?
- How does Genesis 3 show that guilt—the sense of our unworthiness—is one of the first effects of sin? How does this affect us?
- Why do you think that some are motivated to want the world to be meaningless, or to what there to be no God? How could it be helpful, when talking to a professed atheist, to prayerfully consider why they may be motivated to erase God?
- How do people's confessions and apologies often look like Adam and Eve's? Explain why you think this is so.
- What does the curse on the serpent (3:14-15) tell us about life “East of Eden”? How does Paul instruction in Romans 16:20 set in its context seem to apply these verses?
- How do the consequences on the woman (3:16) effect the blessing of 1:28? Do the consequences on the man (3:17-19) effect the blessing of 1:28 also?
- The cherubim figures which guard the entrance of the garden, show up elsewhere in Scripture. What do these various settings tell us about their purpose? How does this point us to the need of the Gospel, and how does the Gospel meet that need?

Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 7)

East of Eden

Jerry Cisar — November 1, 2015

Text: Genesis 3:7-24

Introduction

I. The Sound of the Lord God in the Garden (Genesis 3:7-13)

- A. *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized [knew] they were naked.*
- B. God's coming and Adam's Hiding
- i. **God comes:** (Cr. rf. Jeremiah 10:13; 51:16; also see Isaiah 27:8)
 - ii. **Adam Hides: Adam knows why God is coming.**
 - a) *“they heard ... and the man hid himself [along with his wife].”*
 - b) And the Lord's question is, *“Where are you (singular)?”*

Whether or not v8 describes God coming for a stroll in the cool of the day, or God coming with thunder and tempest, Adam hears thunder and tempest in His soul just like each one of us do until we've encountered and been transformed by the grace of God.

- iii. In vv11-13, God gets to the facts of the situation.
 - a) God says nothing to defend Himself or His word...**it is sufficient to defend itself.**
 - b) His questions bring confession tainted by the “it’s not my fault” syndrome.

C. We all use fig leaves *and* hide from God.

Pascal: *“Men despise religion. They hate it and are afraid it may be true.”*

Thomas Nagel: *“I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn’t just that I don’t believe in God and, naturally, hope that I’m right in my belief. It’s that I hope there is no God! I don’t want there to be a God; I don’t want the universe to be like that.”*

Aldous Huxley, who wrote prolifically and passionately about the meaninglessness of the universe, helps us understand why: *“I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning; consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption.... We objected to morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.”*

II. The Voice of the Lord God in Response (Genesis 3:14-19)

A. The Serpent (14-15)

- i. The serpent will always threaten evil, but never fully win.

- ii. 14-15 speak of the ongoing struggle or battle between the powers of Evil and the offspring of Eve.

- iii. Paul alludes to this battle and the eventual defeat of evil when speaking to the church at Rome about the conflicts and divisions they were experiencing. (Romans 16:20)

B. The Woman (3:16)

- i. The blessing of 1:28 was “be fruitful and multiply...” and the consequences of rejecting God's word multiplies problems with this fruitfulness.

- ii. *Anguish in conception*

- iii. *Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you* – has two possible understandings.

C. The Man (3:17-19)