

Genesis 1- 11

Genesis 3

Class 4

Genesis 3

Several issues arise in this story of the fall.

Is the serpent evil or benign at 3:1? See Rev 12:9 and 2 Cor 11:3. How is that possible given what God said in 1:31?

Is Adam's first sin, that he fails to fulfill his calling in Genesis 2:15? These verbs translated "till and keep" are the same as 3:24 for the Cherub and Num 8:26 for the priests and Levites.

If Adam had fulfilled his charge the murderous lies would never have been heard.

Notice the Serpent's attack...distortion, confusion, contradiction, and accusation.

Notice that the Serpent can only offer to give what God has already given...except without the responsibility of Covenant loyalty to God. Notice the consequences of rebellion...rejection, abandonment, and humiliation.

Notice verse 8...key words 'sound', cool of the day or storm, calling.

Notice the judicial turn this encounter takes...how do you plea?

Notice the next section of curse on the serpent, Eve, and then Adam. Notice also how the text changes from prose to poetry.

The serpent...cursed by God...to the dust...doomed to perish at the hand or foot of 'the seed of the woman'. Often called the first Gospel, as the overthrow of the Adversary is by the suffering of the seed of the woman...a most unusual expression.

The woman...consequences of sin...distortion in childbirth and marriage.

The man...distortion in marriage, labor is cursed by frustration and futility...(cursed is the ground...play on words...Adam and adamant) with return to the dust the inevitable consequence of sin.

Adam names his wife...the mother of all living.

God covers their now shameful nakedness with the skins of animals...involving death for the animals...to 'cover' the sins of the guilty...displaying the grace and mercy of God, to the undeserving.

Discussion of the consequences and implications of this disaster...either among the Trinity or within the heavenly council.

Exile from the Garden...to the East...placing a Cherub to do what Adam was called to do but did not...'guard the way to the tree of life'. See 2:15