

## “The Curse and the Promise”

Genesis 3:14-19

### THE CURSE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

- NOTE: God did not curse the woman or Adam. He did curse the serpent.

#### 1. The Curse on the Serpent: Perpetual struggle between good and evil. v.14-15

- All creation comes under the curse—the serpent more than all others because of his part in the fall. v.14a
- “Curse” = banishment from the place of blessing, from the fulness of fertility and harmony  
-First, the serpent will travel on its belly. v.14b. Second, the serpent will “eat dust.”

#### 2. God's Word to the Woman: Pain in relationships. v.16

- Part of the blessing of the cultural mandate was to be fruitful and multiply. Gen. 1:28
- Because of sin, fulfillment of this calling will now be painful. v.16a Heb. “multiplying, I will multiply”
- The woman will also have struggle in her relationship with her husband. v.16b
- “desire” (or longing) and “rule” (domination) – Same words used in 4:7 ref. Cain and Abel

#### 3. God's Word to Adam: Pain in work and life. v.17-19

- Adam was called to work in the garden of Eden and “keep” it.
- Because of sin, fulfillment of this calling will now be painful and frustrating.
- Man's calling to work and produce now becomes painful. v.17b-18 “thorns and thistles”
- Man's work in the garden once was fulfilling and productive—now takes effort and is frustrating. v.19
- Man's calling to subdue the earth (Gen. 1:28) is reversed—and the earth will subdue man. v.19b

### THE PROMISE AND ITS FULFILLMENT. v.15

#### 1. Two lines of mankind. v.15a

- Enmity between you and the woman... between your offspring and her offspring.  
-Enmity = “ill will on one side or on both; hatred; especially mutual antagonism”.
- 2 aspects of this conflict: between you and the woman; between your offspring and her offspring
- -John Currid: “It is critical to understand that this is not referring to physical lineage but to spiritual descent. Satan, or the serpent, cannot bear children. He is a fallen angel, and nowhere in Scripture is there any evidence that he had the power of physical reproduction (cf. Mark 12:25). It is rather a spiritual idea, in which one can be a child of Satan by will, heart and intent.”

→ All of humanity is now divided into two lines of spiritual lineage: Offspring of God or offspring of the devil.

→ Everyone is born into the lineage of fallen mankind, into the lineage of sin. Ref. John 8:44

- 2 lines. E.g., Cain was “of the evil one” (1 John 3:2); Abel “was righteous” (Heb. 11:4)

-Cain → the world → Moab/Ammi → Ishmael → Esau → Those who Reject Xt & His Kingdom

-Abel → Noah → Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Those who Receive Xt & His Kingdom

→ This idea of 2 lines or two seeds is played out throughout Genesis, the rest of the Bible, and human experience.

#### 2. One Promised Savior and Victor over Satan. v.15b

- “He” shall bruise your head. Many theologians: this is the “first gospel” presentation of the Bible.

→ ‘Satan, you will be destroyed by her offspring. One from the line of Eve will destroy you finally and for good!’

→ Genesis 3:15 is Messianic – A Messiah is coming who will destroy you once and for all!

- Rom. 16:20: The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
- Hebrews 2:14-16: Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.
- Rev. 20:10: and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- Rev. 12:11: And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life *even* when faced with death.