

“The Fall”
(Genesis 3)

I. Introduction.

A. Review.

1. We have been looking at God’s Providence, His plan for His creation and all His creatures.
 - a. The Bible says that God created all things.
 - b. But that He also sustains all things: He preserves them and provides for them.
 - c. And He works in all things to give them the power to do things. He moves all things ahead according to His plan, but in such a way that it does not force any of His creatures to do anything against their will.
2. Last week, we looked at a very special part of God’s plan/Providence: namely, covenants.
 - a. Covenants are agreements between at least two parties.
 - b. Covenants are how God relates to man.
 - c. Everyone in the world is in covenant with God.
 - (i) They are either in Covenant of Grace, through faith in Christ, which we’ll learn about more in the near future.
 - (ii) Or they’re in the broken Covenant of Works.
 - (iii) This evening, we’ll see how that covenant was broken.
 - (iv) Next week, we’ll consider what the consequences of that broken covenant are.

B. As we saw before, God entered into a covenant with Adam.

1. He promised him eternal life if he obeyed, represented by the tree of life.
2. But He threatened death if he disobeyed.
3. But Adam didn’t obey. He sinned, and ruined the whole human race.

II. Sermon.

A. First, I want us to see that Adam and Eve fell away from God.

1. Their responsibility wasn’t that complicated.
 - a. God put them in the garden to cultivate it and keep it.
 - (i) We understand cultivate: they were to care for the garden.
 - (ii) The word “keep” means to guard or protect.
 - (iii) They were especially to guard it against any intruders.
 - (iv) They were the guardians of God’s holiness, for He dwelt in that garden.
 - b. But God also gave them a test, as we saw last week.
 - (i) They may eat of any of the trees.
 - (ii) But not of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - (iii) If they ate of that tree, then in their disobedience, they would die.
2. This was their test, but they failed.
 - a. An intruder entered the garden: the devil.
 - (i) How did he get there? It appears as though he already lived there.
 - (ii) Remember, at the end of the week, everything created – including all the angels – was good. The fall of the angels hadn’t taken place yet.
 - (iii) It appears as though it might have happened in the garden.
 - (iv) We read in Ezekiel 28:12-16, “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl,

the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”””

- (v) When this happened, it is believed he took a third of the angels with him. He is represented in the book of Revelation as the dragon, whose “tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth” (Rev. 12:4).

b. When he was cast down, the first thing he did was sought revenge by attacking these creatures made in God’s image.

- (i) Undoubtedly, he knew God’s plan.
- (ii) God’s work with man was something angels longed to look (1 Pet. 1:12).
- (iii) He came and tempted Eve, the weaker and more vulnerable of the two.
- (iv) She ate of the forbidden tree, and she gave some to her husband, and he ate.
- (v) As a result, they both fell from God.

c. Why did they choose to disobey God?

- (i) We don’t really know.
- (ii) God made them upright and perfect, in a creaturely way (Ecc. 7:29).
- (iii) But at that moment, sin looked better to them than righteousness.
- (iv) Paul says that Eve was deceived (1 Tim. 2:14), which might explain why she ate.
- (v) But why Adam did, we can’t really say. He didn’t have to.
- (vi) There may have been a provision for divine help that he didn’t use.
- (vii) But why he didn’t is a mystery.

3. There were very serious consequences for their sin. What those were, we’ll see in two weeks.

B. But we also need to understand that when Adam sinned, when he ate of that tree, it had consequences not only for him, but also for everyone else.

1. Remember, the covenant wasn’t made only with Adam. It was made with all mankind.

a. Apparently, in the case of the angels, each was put on probation at the same time, but individually.

- (i) This was because they all existed at the same time.
- (ii) As we will see was the case with man, there were elect and non-elect angels.
- (iii) Paul wrote to Timothy, “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of *His* chosen angels, to maintain these *principles* without bias, doing nothing in a *spirit of partiality*” (1 Tim. 5:21).
- (iv) Some were chosen to stand that they might be ministers of salvation. The author to the Hebrews writes regarding the holy angels, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation” (Heb. 1:14)?
- (v) The others fell with Lucifer, as we saw, and became the demons.

b. But because of the way God ordained that man procreate, not all men would exist at the same time.

- (i) However, they were still put on probation at the same time.
- (ii) But instead of being put on probation individually, they were tested through a representative head: Adam.
- (iii) He was a good representative – the best we could hope for – perfect.
- (iv) He did as well as anyone could have.
- (v) But he sinned, and all humanity sinned and died in him.
- (vi) Paul writes in Romans, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin,

and so death spread to all men, because all sinned . . . through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men” (Rom. 5:12,18).

(vii) And he writes in 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, “For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

2. The only One who escaped this curse was Christ.
 - a. He was not reckoned in Adam’s line.
 - b. This is because He had no earthly father.
 - c. He had to be free from sin, if He was to save us from sin.
 - d. This is what the *Shorter Catechism* has in mind when it says that all mankind sinned in Adam, “descending from him by ordinary generation” (Q. 16).
 - e. Jesus did not descend by ordinary generation. He was therefore not counted in Adam’s line.

III. Application.

- A. Whenever we sin, we show ourselves to be the children of Adam.
 1. Adam sinned and brought death and corruption on his children.
 2. Whenever we sin, we see the effects of that fall in our own lives.
 3. We see its effects in others as well.
- B. But we need to be thankful that God did not leave things there: He had also planned to send a Redeemer.
 1. This second Adam would do what the first failed to do.
 2. He would also die for the sins His people committed.
 3. And He would be offered to all men as a Savior from sin.
 4. Those who receive Him receive His obedience and have their sin taken away. When we obey, as we saw this morning, we show ourselves to be the redeemed of Christ.
 5. But those who don’t will stand in their own sins on judgment day.
 6. Don’t be left standing without Christ. If you hear His voice today, turn to Him and trust in Him.
 7. If you have heard it and are trusting Him, then show your thankfulness through a life set apart for Him. Amen.