
THE FALL
CONFRONTATION AND
CURSE

PART 2

THE FALL

"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life." (Genesis 3:8-14, NIV)

FACTORING GOD INTO SIN.

*"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."
(Proverbs 15:3, NIV)*

- Forgetting God does not remove the consequence
- Forgetting God does not preclude judgment
- Forgetting God does increase guilt

WHERE ARE YOU?

- Contrast – I am not where God is.
- Conviction – I must answer for my place.

THE NATURE OF SIN

- It substitutes my judgment for God's judgment
- It makes me God
- It separates me from God
- It separates me from others
- It generates fear
- It diffuses my responsibility

- *Blaming others*
- *Blaming God*
- It leads to greater ills

THE CURSE OF SIN

THE SERPENT

"So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."" (Genesis 3:14-15, NIV)

THE ANIMAL

- A most hated animal
- An anatomical change
- An unending curse

"The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the Lord." (Isaiah 65:25, NIV)

- Possibly a natural hatred of snakes by women

SATAN

- A distinction of sin's reckoning
- A promise of a redeemer
- A promise of Satan's destruction
- A price to be paid

THE WOMAN

"To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."" (Genesis 3:16, NIV)

PHYSICAL

Option 1: an increase in the pain of reproduction.

- ***Could be an anatomical change***
- ***Could be an extended labor.***

"The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."" (Exodus 1:19, NIV)

Option 2: an increase in the frequency of reproduction.

- ***No anatomical change necessary***
- ***Labor times could still be increased***
- ***The number of children to be born would increase thereby increasing the pain.***

" Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil." (Genesis 4:1-2, NIV)

- THE NAME "CAIN" MEANS "ACQUIRED" AND EVE NOTES THAT IT IS WITH THE HELP OF THE LORD – A JOYFUL EVENT
- THE NAME "ABEL" MEANS "PAIN" – EVE IS ALREADY WEARY OF THE PROCESS OF CHILDBIRTH.

Option 3: A combination of 1&2

General observations

- ***Childbearing would have been painful WITHOUT the curse the penalty is an increase of pain***
- ***Pain is repeated twice in the text leaving Eve little doubt that bearing children would be excruciating.***
- ***The pain is the curse, the childbearing is not.***
- ***Childbearing is directly linked to the removal of the curse.***

NON- PHYSICAL

Option 1: women subjected to men

Problem, this would make submission and hierarchy of authority an evil thing

"Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." (1 Corinthians 11:3, NIV)

Option 2: Women love men

Problem, what kind of curse would that be?

Option 3: Conflict in leadership

- A better "punishment to fit the crime."
 - ADAM DID NOT MAKE A DECISION – NOW HIS DECISIONS WILL BE QUESTIONED
- Fits the word "DESIRE"
 - MEANS – TO HAVE MASTERY OVER

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4:7, NIV)

- Men will continue to lead

THE MAN

"To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'" (Genesis 3:17-19, NIV)

PHYSICAL

- Scarcity
- Complexity
- Competition

SPIRITUAL

- Purposelessness
- Death
- Muddled identity