

The True Story of the Whole World, pp 31-36
Act 2 --- Rebellion in the Kingdom
Scene 1: Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24)
January 17, 2016

Creation	Rebellion & Fall	Abraham and Sara	Egyptian Captivity	Promised Land
All creation Adam and Eve	The Garden Cain and Abel Babel Flood (Noah)	Isaac Jacob and Esau 12 sons (tribes) Joseph in Egypt The above = "The Patriarchs"	Moses Plagues Exodus Mt. Sinai Wilderness	Joshua Judges Kings Saul David Solomon Divided Kingdom

In a nutshell....

From Eugene Peterson.... "A catastrophe has occurred. We are no longer in continuity with our good beginning. We have been separated from it by a disaster. We are also, of course, separated from our good end. We are, in other words, in the middle of a mess"

Genesis 3 tells the tragic story of the entrance of sin into God's perfect world, often called (simply and ominously) the story of 'the fall'. This calamity threatens to mar the goodness of creation itself and to touch with evil every event that follow it. It is the cosmic conflict of the biblical story, the mess that still haunts our lives.

In rejecting the way of the Creator we reach for a bigger slice of life and find out that it tastes like death. We reach out for what we think will be more than God gives but end up with far less: broken friendships, marriages, and families; corrupt governments and legal institutions; starvation in many parts of the world and a plague of obesity elsewhere; the oppression of the weak by the strong, of one race or one gender by another. Sadly, we have come to see all of this as normal. Sin is not normal --- it's not a reflection of what God originally intended for us and our world.

Even in this tragic tale of sin coming into the world, God refuses to give up on the creation and the kingdom.

Sound familiar?

- Eve ate "the apple" [???
- you'll raise food 'by the sweat of your brow'
- "Adam, where are you?"
- "The knowledge of good and evil"
- permanent enmity between "the serpent" and "the woman"

Hymns

HWB 509
 HWB 318
 STJ 44

Main Ideas from "The Fall" (Genesis 3), "True Story" pp 31-36

- Adam and Eve have freedom. They can obey God or they can defy God. They can yield to God's loving rule and enjoy life, or they can try to find their own way apart from God's instructions and experience death.
- The temptation Adam and Eve face through the serpent is to assert their autonomy: to become a law unto themselves rather than relying on God's word for direction.
- Sin has marred our relationships with God, with each other, and with the creation
- Sin does not destroy the goodness of creation outright. Rather, it twists and distorts it.
- God is not leaving the world, and a "Cosmic restoration" is yet to come

Other Biblical references

James 1:13-15
 Romans 8:22 ff
 Galatians 4:1-9
 I Cor 15:21-22
 Romans 1: 18 ff
 Roman 5:12-18
 Romans 6:15-23

General questions for Biblical reflection

1. What do you notice about God in this text?
2. Is there any part of the text that is surprising? Why?
3. What in this text encourages, troubles, surprises, or confuses you?
4. Is there anything in this text you had never noted before? Why do you think it stood out to you this time?
5. How does the action in this passage fit into God's salvation plan?

Specific to the texts for this Sunday

1. In what ways has 'the fall' distorted God's good gifts?
 - food and drink
 - sexuality
 - family
 - work
 - leisure
2. Another way of asking the above, what might it look like if the 'good gifts' above were restored back to normal?
3. How trivial (like breaking the speed limit), or profound, is 'sin'?
4. What do you think about the fact that "the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals God had made?" Genesis 3:1
5. What would have been the implications if Adam and Eve had lacked the capacity to choose, and thus to be tempted?
6. What 'died' within Adam and Eve when they disobeyed? (page 33 of "True Story....")? What does it look like for that to be 'resurrected', i.e., be raised back to life?