

Catastrophe and Cure

Introduction:

1. It is the first Sunday of the year; many of you have read the first chapters of Genesis this past week.
2. Genesis 3 is one chapter of true world history that is unavailable from any source. Thank God for it.
3. Genesis 1 is the true *Origin of Species* – it details the Creator and the creation of the universe and man.
4. Genesis 2 is the geography of human origin, the rules of the Creator, and the relationship of marriage.
5. Genesis 3 describes in graphic horror catastrophic corruption and condemnation of our race (and cure).
6. Genesis 4 presents two family trees with different religions, murder, polygamy, profanity, natural gifts.
7. Genesis 5 presents the first genealogy with death a predominant feature of every man's existence.
8. Genesis 6 presents the wickedness of earth (including His children) and God's despising and judgment.
9. To appreciate this chapter and sermon, you must see the incredible catastrophe that greatly affects you.
10. We have very limited time and a specific goal – the context of God's great prophecy of our salvation.
11. We have very limited time and a specific goal – so ordinary obsession with details is sacrificed here.
12. We have very limited time and a specific goal – though this study could be many times larger in size.
13. This chapter will prepare us well to sit together at the Lord's Table to celebrate the Seed of the woman.
14. Genesis 3 explains all the dysfunction and death in nature, relationships, religion, your heart and body.
15. Visit a retirement or hospice home, or better yet a funeral of a young person, and see death up close.
16. Do not superficially skim this chapter or take a surface view of life – see all the dysfunction and death.
17. Everything that you are, that you will try to do, and relationships with you are ruined without the cure.
18. This study is not exhaustive – consequences of the Fall in Genesis 3 are incredibly broad and terrible.

Verse 1

An enemy ... God created the serpent and Serpent and allowed him to corrupt our parents.
A subtle enemy ... the devil, called Satan, via the serpent's body beguiled and tricked Eve.
Questioning God's words ... was his first attack against Eve, who had very clear revelation.
Questioning everything is not the path to wisdom – just look at the gender confusion today.
When God has revealed truth – that truth is to be held and all else hated (Psalm 119:128).
Pursuing women ... was his tactic then; his false teachers continue it today (II Tim 3:6).
Satan questions and alters God's words today also with craftiness and success over most.

Verse 2

The woman ... without her man protecting her will fall for skeptical questions most times.
Evil communications ... questioning the Creator's words will only corrupt good manners.
Women lust to be more than the Bible allows, so they are vulnerable to lies (II Tim 3:7).
Bible studies without a husband's or pastor's guidance can easily degenerate into heresy.
A woman should not entertain false teachers in her home or elsewhere (II John 1:10-11).

Verse 3

Getting started ... by entertaining skeptical questions will result in altering God's words.
Changing, deleting, or adding to God's word are all equally offensive and very destructive.
Without other testimony, we reject Eve's touch not words as early slander of God Himself.
The best protection is to stay far from scorners or skeptics lest your mind be corrupted.

Verse 4

An exchange opened ... leaves silly women unprotected and vulnerable to outright lies. Since Satan had a willing hearer, he went on to contradict God and justify it with a fantasy. A liar exists ... who is wiser than any man and spreads subtle lies throughout the world. There is a perpetual war between truth and error by the crafty lying of Satan against God.

Verse 5

Unless ended quickly ... questioning/altering God's words leads to foolish imaginations. Gullible women ... are more susceptible to emotional, bleeding heart, liberal proposals. When you leave the safety of scripture, then there is nothing to protect you from fantasies. Sin makes no improvement in any person, relationship, or situation to be better in any way. Satan knew the Trinity of one God as well as any being, but he lied here to Eve about gods. God is holy and separate from sin and sinners in all ways; sin does not make us like Him. It is a shame that some want to make the devil a preacher of truth here about divine wisdom.

Verse 6

Satan plies our lusts ... the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life (I John 2:16). He did the same to Jesus ... but without any success to the woman's Seed (Matt 4:1-11). Women are silly ... with vulnerability to fall prey to false ideas for their lusts (II Ti 3:6-7). They will try to lead ... though not capable of doing it right ... and take down families. A laid-back man ... will often cost his wife growth in grace by not defending her from lies. Adam chose Eve over God, which many other men have done to the ruin of their lives. Women rule ... in that most men cannot say no to them when the choice is them or God. Women are the spiritual leaders in most homes; think PTA moms; they ruin families (Is 3).

Verse 7

A. Sin corrupts ... as Adam and Eve instantly had their marriage perverted by guilty shame.
B. Sin kills ... as Adam and Eve instantly had their hearts and wills deadened against God.
C. God had promised instant death (Gen 2:17) ... and it happened instantly as promised.
D. To whatever degree man had freewill toward God and godliness, he lost it right here.
E. This diabolical corruption of the race against God and for Satan is death (Eph 2:1-3).
F. Paradise ruined ... was result of their folly (her) and rebellion (him) to go against God.
G. Freedom forfeited ... by trying to be free of God's loving restraint and rules against sin.
H. Romance restrained ... by going against the Creator and Inventor of love, marriage, sex.
I. Shame before God ... for their guilt about nakedness was more than each other (3:10).
J. Clothing confusion ... by settling for aprons that God had to replace with coats (3:21).
K. Marriage takes much more work than before for innocence to spouse and God is ruined.
L. Clothing and modesty are matters of Satanic influence to corrupt sex and ruin marriages.

Verse 8

A. Fellowship destroyed ... as Adam and Eve foolishly tried to hide from God their Friend.
B. Wisdom ruined ... as Adam and Eve forgot God's omniscience and presumed to escape.

- C. Every man is just like this today – God is not in all his thoughts – due to dead depravity.
- D. He is afraid of God, resents God, hides from God, and will never consider repentance.
- E. Mankind with perverse self-righteousness will make religious coverings for their sins.
- F. Their fear of God is not productive leading to repentance but rather to hiding from Him.
- G. Hearing God or His word by preachers causes men to avoid any such preaching services.

Verse 9

- A. God chased Adam ... for there was nothing in Adam to move or motivate him to God.
- B. God allows error ... like Adam thinking God must ask and be told of his whereabouts.
- C. God allows sinners to get away with sins until He tears them in pieces (Ps 50:21-22).
- D. God mocked Adam and Eve, for He perfectly knew where they were, and they knew it.

Verse 10

- A. They rejected repentance ... by sins of false fear, guilt, shame, and thus more rebellion.
- B. They rejected forgiveness ... to proudly maintain their rebellion against God's word.
- C. Adam should have used his fear and shame to run to God and cry to Him in repentance.
- D. Men are the same today, too proud and rebellious to humble themselves to admit wrong.
- E. Adam and Eve's issue with nakedness was not so much each other as before a holy God.
- F. The concept and act of repentance and forgiveness is totally foreign to the natural man.

Verse 11

- A. Adam knew sin ... by experiencing his choice against God and the consequences of it.
- B. Adam hated being caught ... he resented his nakedness, not the rebellion that caused it.
- C. God knew the perfect answer to each of His questions, and Adam surely knew He knew.
- D. Every nation has laws based on God's laws in their hearts, but they all sin against them.
- E. Men hate the consequences of sin in their lives and others but fly to the snare like birds.
- F. Though confronted by God with opening to repent, Adam chose to blame God and Eve.

Verse 12

- A. Adam blamed God ... for giving him a woman he had shared perfect love and sex with.
- B. Adam blamed Eve ... for giving him the fruit, when he should have protected her.
- C. Adam faulted God ... for the greatest gift he had been given on earth – a perfect woman.
- D. The blame game began, for no man will fully admit his own fault and guilt in rebellion.
- E. This resentment of God for not making life better for sinners affects everyone in ways.
- F. Mankind constructs all sorts of excuses for their rebellion, including their environment.
- G. Why didn't he fall to his knees and beg God to forgive him? He and all now hate God.

Verse 13

- A. God questioned Eve ... so she blamed the devil for tricking her silly little mind to sin.
- B. The blame game continued from Adam to the woman to the devil, but no responsibility.
- C. Men will blame poor environment, poor education, poor motivation, but not the heart.
- D. Why didn't she fall to her knees and beg God to forgive her? She and all now hate God.

Verse 14

- A. God cursed snakes ... from whatever they once were to be legless and slither in the dust.
- B. God cursed snakes ... from any comeliness to wise men, yet skilled to slither on rocks.
- C. This curse is evident at a zoo or in your backyard, but the real Serpent gets far worse.
- D. The irrational creature is little threat to anyone; it is the rational devil that is the threat.
- E. God got to the bottom of the sin, and the result from heaven was a curse, and it still is.

Verse 16

- A. God cursed the woman ... so that pregnancy and childbirth would be difficult events.
- B. God cursed the woman ... so that she would be ruled over by the man with greater rigor.
- C. Think about the aggravations of women's periods, morning sickness, birth, etc., etc.
- D. Think about women living with overbearing, selfish husbands and suffering every day.
- E. Because the woman tried to think for herself – God put her farther under man's rule.
- F. Sin destroys – the natural consequences are terrible, but nothing compared to the divine.
- G. Metonymy of effect – for conception does not hurt a woman – but rather its results.

Verse 17

- A. God cursed the man ... for listening to his wife and choosing her over and against God.
- B. God cursed the man ... so he would have to work to survive in sorrow of his own labor.
- C. Before he sinned, he could freely eat of every tree in Eden for dressing and keeping it.
- D. God controls the means and ease of production, so obeying Him is an economic rule.
- E. It is as easy as doing what God commands, just like with Adam, to enjoy His good life.
- F. Men still listen to their wives, and in most homes the woman is the spiritual leader.
- G. Sin destroys – the natural consequences are terrible, but nothing compared to the divine.

Verse 18

- A. God cursed the man ... with hindrances to profits so he cannot work easy like before.
- B. God cursed the man ... rather than trees providing all he needed, he had to learn farming.
- C. Every bad day you have on the job, no matter the cause, it can be traced back to Eden.
- D. The way of transgressors is hard; Adam illustrated Solomon's axiom (Pr 13:15; 22:5).

Verse 19

- A. God cursed the man ... to sweat in his face from his hard exertion to farm cursed ground.
- B. God cursed the man ... to perpetual labor to provide bread for his survival in this world.
- C. God cursed the man ... to death, as He had promised (2:17); body death is the second.
- D. Every decaying part of your body and your parents is perpetual evidence for Genesis 3.
- E. Every energetic, vivacious youth will be reduced to ugly gray with the stench of death.
- F. Old age is called the evil days by Solomon, who described the decay of bodily functions.
- G. The Bible says *dust unto dust*, but only the English Book of Prayers says *ashes to ashes*.

Verse 20

- A. God cursed you ... because Eve is your mother, and you inherited their combined guilt.

- B. God cursed you ... for you will die all three deaths of Adam – spirit, body, and eternal.
- C. Original sin effects the whole race, thus the reason for infant deaths (Romans 5:12-14).

Verse 21

- A. God mocked their covering ... with coats of skins rather than mere aprons of fig leaves.
- B. There is a huge difference between aprons and coats, just like modesty standards today.
- C. God covered their folly ... in a ceremonial sense for preservation of decency and life.
- D. There is no reason to assume salvation for them more than any following Moses’ rules.
- E. God shed blood in Eden for ceremonial holiness just like Aaron did at the tabernacle.
- F. Animal blood did not save – it protected from earthly judgment – it symbolized truth.

Verse 22

- A. God mocked men for their aim ... by using irony against Satan’s lie that they believed.
- B. Notice, *Behold*. Note that wretched, vile Adam and Eve were less like God, not more.
- C. God cursed man to hopelessness ... by taking away the tree of life forever from reach.
- D. God took precautions to keep sinful, rebellious, conniving man from eradicating death.
- E. Men have searched for a fountain of youth, but there is no such thing as living forever.
- F. Solomon declared there is no discharge in this war – this war against death to live long.

Verse 23

- A. God cursed man ... by rejecting him from Eden and making him scratch out his survival.
- B. God cursed man ... by rejecting him from Paradise on earth that he lost by his one sin.
- C. God curses man ... by rejecting him from His presence and from former fellowship.

Verse 24

- A. God cursed man ... by driving him out of Eden. God did not ask them or lead them.
- B. God cursed man ... by denying him access to eternal life by denying him Eden access.
- C. God used man ... denying him access to the tree of life but not denying him the other.
- D. If man has a freewill, why didn’t God let Adam have the opportunity for the tree of life?

Summary of our Terrible Condition in this World and before God

A subtle, powerful enemy	Lies corrupting God’s truth	Inherited lusts for all evil	Imagination against God
Instant death of spirit	Blame game initiated	Marriage joy corrupted	Death guaranteed to all
Planned decay until death	No repentance, not ever	Sexual pleasure altered	Infant deaths of all kinds
Final death in lake of fire	Resent for getting caught	Paradise lost and corrupted	Strength and beauty to dust
Self-righteous hypocrisy	Heresy of hiding from God	Cursed production means	No hope for eternal life
Loss of will to love God	Guilt before God’s laws	Blood shed to cover guilt	Slandorous view of God
Loss of easy living in Eden	Selfish self-justification	Inherited total depravity	Will to corrupt scripture
Loss of easy reproduction	Self-love over spouse love	Questioning of God’s word	Open to profane fantasies
Living by sight, not faith	Living by flesh, not faith	Living by pride, not faith	Marital selfishness
Conspiracy to defraud God	Cover or hide; do not repent	Pain in pregnancy and birth	Clothes and their variation
Hatred and murder of any	No responsibility for others	Whining about punishment	Future of death and death
Marital bitterness	Loss of honor for women	Hard, painful work to live	Carnivore violence starts
Earth corrupted with death	Whole creation groans	Inventions like polygamy	God’s presence fearful
Slavish fear of God only	God’s pursuit resented	Symptoms trump causes	Blame God for gifts abused

The devil made me do it	Morning sickness & nausea	Wife loses marital privilege	Sexes corrupt each other
Male grief of survival fear	Farm dirt; free trees limited	Sweaty labor to survive	Constant move toward dust
Pass on evil to all children	Man comes short of God	Eternal life eliminated	Driven from God and life
Imaginations always evil	Death, rust, thieves destroy	Vile hatred of good men	Nothing works as it should
Nothing to even slow death	Lies preferred over truth	Death to escape life torture	Lake of fire for eternal pain

Note: This table has some redundancy and overlap, but it could be expanded even further by the consequences of the Fall.

Verse 15

- A. God cursed the serpent ... by promising that women would hate the slithering reptiles.
- B. God cursed the devil ... by promising his former female friend would be his enemy.
- C. God cursed the devil ... by promising a Son by birth of the woman to be his enemy.
- D. God cursed the devil ... by promising a Son by birth of the woman to destroy him.
- E. God cursed the devil ... by promising he would only be able to bruise the Son's heel.
- F. This is the cure to the catastrophe of Eden – the cure for corruption and condemnation.
- G. See the links below for further elucidation of this text and also of its cousin, I Tim 2:15.

Conclusion:

1. Genesis 3 is one chapter of true world history that is unavailable from any source. Thank God for it.
2. Genesis 3 describes in graphic horror catastrophic corruption and condemnation of our race (and cure).
3. To appreciate this chapter and sermon, you must see the incredible catastrophe that greatly affects you.
4. To appreciate this chapter and sermon, you must see the glorious cure and hope buried in the middle.
5. This chapter will prepare us well to sit together at the Lord's Table to celebrate the Seed of the Woman.
6. We, the sons of Enos, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and celebrate His great victory.
7. We see the wisdom and power of God to use cursed childbirth to bring Him a Son and us a Saviour!

For Further Study:

1. *Whole Creation Groaneth* (sermon of Romans 8:17-25) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/prophecy/whole-creation-groaneth/sermon.php>.
2. *The Consequences of Sin* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/consequences-of-sin.pdf>.
3. *Sin ... Lies* (slides for sermon about deceitfulness of sin) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/sin-lies.pdf>.
4. *What Happens at 30?* (sermon outline of decay of human body and abilities) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/what-happens-at-30.pdf>.
5. *Eternal Life Is a Gift* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/eternal-life-is-a-gift.pdf>.
6. *The Seed of the Woman* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/christ/seed-of-the-woman/sermon.php>.
7. *The Stronger Man* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/christ/stronger-man/sermon.php>.
8. *The Genealogy of Jesus Christ* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/christ/genealogy-of-jesus/sermon.php>.
9. *The Birth of Jesus Christ* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/birth-of-jesus-christ.pdf>.
10. *Childbirth* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/childbirth.pdf>.
11. *Saved in Childbearing* (sermon outline for I Timothy 2:15) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/saved-in-childbearing.pdf>.
12. *Who Shall Declare His Generation?* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/who-shall-declare-his-generation.pdf>.
13. *What Endless Wisdom* (song written by church member here) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/music/what-endless-wisdom.php>.