

BIBLE PROJECT 2.0

Genesis 3

The BIG question: HOW DID THE WORLD GET TO BE THE WAY IT IS NOW?

DISINTEGRATION



DISINTEGRATION

Painting by Picasso--Guernica

God made everything in SYMPHONY and made THE CONCERT contingent on human obedience.

AND God made humans able to obey so that the symphony of creation would continue.

**BIG IDEA 1: GOD HAS A PROBLEM—DISINTEGRATION RESULTS
EVIL IS GOD'S PROBLEM**

So what's wrong with a talking snake?



Now the serpent ... Who changed conductors?

Does the serpent give commands? Did the serpent present credentials? As in the reasons he has any authority to re-write the score?

God's on trial: Did God really say? How could God say a thing like that? Serpent is prosecutor. Clever distortion: 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'
What is a most common clever distortion today designed to gain credibility?

Eve defends God: "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" Why does Eve exaggerate? Is Eve a match for the serpent? She's been talking with God, now talks with a serpent? Why would she do that?

Serpent overrules God: "You will not certainly die." Does God lie? Why would the serpent be more credible than God? On what basis does he proclaim his "truth"? How can you tell the difference between truth and a lie? A lie told with sufficient boldness, frequency and volume becomes believable. The serpent's way.

The base appeal: "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." What is the attack on God's character? What's the attraction of the forbidden fruit? The race was already made "like" God – his very image. How can that be improved upon? What's being offered? Omniscience? Self-determination? What does "knowing good and evil" mean? What is the desirability of knowing evil?

THE reasoning of Eve and Adam: What was so tempting?

"Both Adam and Jesus were tempted by the chance to play God. Whereas Adam stepped over a line and found humanity a curse, Jesus stayed behind the line and made humanity a blessing. One tried to be God, one was content to be a human being. The irony is that the one who tried to be God did not do too well as a human being, while the one who was content to be human became known as ~~the Son of God.~~" Actually,
LORD OF ALL.

–Barbara Brown Taylor, *Christian Century*, May-June, 1996

Someone once said, "It was not the apple in the tree, but the pair on the ground that caused the FALL."

Consequences: Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Eyes wide open? What did they see? That their state was now shameful: Naked and afraid.

- ✚ Guilt.
- ✚ Cover-up. Fig leaves, really.
- ✚ Hiding.
- ✚ Estrangement/hostility



BIG IDEA 2: GOD'S PROJECT COLLAPSES IN EVERY WAY

Remember: **God's project:** To create a world where his will is done, all creatures live in joyous concert and all fellowship fully with their Creator.

Creation is mutilated, used against itself—talk to a serpent? At the very least, this is a real come-down. They've been talking with Creator; now they are talking to a creature who slinks around. And death enters creation.

Terror breaks out. Adam and Eve fear God, rightly, and hide.

Humanity loses self-connection as community—Adam opposes Eve and the rest of creation.

Individuals are lost—no longer capable of integrity. Adam and Eve are ashamed, guilty, fig-leaved and even blame God.

THE BLAME GAME BEGINS: WHOSE fault is a world in a state of disintegration?

Order of the Garden Plot –STEP FORM a, b, c, d, c, b, a

a Trees good for food.

b Delight for eyes

c Fruit desired for wisdom/insight

d **EAT**—this is the climax. Consequence of the preceding, cause of the following.

c Only physical sight opened

b Saw nakedness

a Trees now good for cover (leaves)

Rationalization: So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

List the “reasons” Eve and Adam give themselves for obeying the serpent. What do they omit to mention? Note: They are in this together. What does the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil stand for? (Human limits). Adam and Eve reject their limits and seek to be “like God.” We have a word for that: **PRIDE**.

SIN IS MUTINY AGAINST GOD AND GOD’S ORDER; it’s more than rebellion. Sin is the attempt to replace God the Creator with god the Self.

NOTE: The Bible never blames the woman for the original sin that causes DISINTEGRATION. *Adam was not the one deceived...* 1 Tim 2:14 NO, Adam knew that what he was doing was mutiny.

Sin is not simply a mistake, or a misunderstanding or a slip, SIN is MUTINY against God and God’s Will and Order.

What died that day?

BIG IDEA 3: RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD DIES



- Fig leaves and hiding. I was afraid...
- Refuses to answer God’s question. Where are you? Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten...?
- Blames God. *The woman whom **You** gave to be with me...*
- Estrangement—Cast out of the garden

- Mutiny makes God the enemy...
- Freedom to obey completely dies that day. Before it was **possible** for man NOT to sin. *Posse non peccare*. From then on it becomes **impossible** for man not to sin. *Non posse non peccare*.

BIG IDEA 4: RELATIONSHIP WITH EVE —OTHERS—DIES:



- Blame—the woman And later Cain blames Abel.
- Secrets
- Masks
- Deception
- Hypocrisy
- All manner of anti-social behavior up to and including murder.
- Competition—desire for domination—replaces partnership.
- “To leave and to cleave” becomes “to desire and to dominate.”

BIG IDEA 5: RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF DIES.



Guilt and guilt feelings

Definitions:

Real Guilt is the result of breaking God’s revealed will, or nature’s objective moral law.

GUILT FEELINGS are what humans **feel** when they break God’s law or what they believe to be God’s law.

IN a sane person real guilt and a sense of guilt go together and are good—kind of like feeling pain is that comes from touching something hot: it keeps us from going further into trouble.

Doing wrong with no guilt and doing no wrong and feeling guilty are both forms of insanity.
ALSO an exhibit of disintegration.

The possibilities of moral conscience. Disintegration even corrupts conscience.

CATEGORY	WRONG DOING	NO WRONG DOING
NORMAL	GUILT	NO GUILT
NORMAL	GUILT FEELINGS	NO GUILT FEELINGS
ABNORMAL	NO GUILT FEELINGS	GUILT FEELINGS

What are common human efforts to deal with sense of guilt which have the effect of minimizing the seriousness of real sin?

- Eliminate God/moral law
- Everybody's doing it.
- By comparison
- The scales method Good deeds balance bad ones
- Excuse for environment
- Keeping busy
- Anesthesia
- Define all guilt as illness

Shame

Secrecy

Fear—anxiety—paranoia—always looking over his shoulder to see if God is stalking him.

Doubt

Integrity lost

Image defaced

BIG IDEA 6: RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE DIES. GARDEN BECOMES JUNGLE.



*“Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.
Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.
In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.”*

Gen 3. 17-19

Everyone agrees that **DISINTEGRATION** is the current state of the world.

WHOSE fault is a world in a state of disintegration?

Three possible kinds of answers:

1. **Stuff happens**—but in the happening these are at least some of the explanations:
 - a) Dualism: disintegration comes from the degrading effects of the material world. Existence is matter and spirit. Disintegration comes from the mix in humans when matter taints spirit. Hence rise above matter through transcendental meditation. Be “spiritual.”
 - b) Wrong thinking: education is lacking. If only humans could be taught to think right. Philosophy straightens out the world. Right thoughts: mind over matter.
 - c) Human finitude—man is “coming of age”. He will grow into sufficient knowledge and experience. It’s his present limits that are the problem: Utopia is coming. So in the 19th century, it was thought that everything was progressing. Hence Darwinism, Hegelianism and Marxism. Make the master race and man will outgrow disintegration.
 - d) Heredity and environment—the gene pool is corrupted and the environment gives the wrong signals. Humanity is pre-conditioned to fail by the conditions in which he finds himself.
2. **God’s fault**—He made the world wrong.

3. **ADAM’S MUTINY**—puts the world including nature in a mutiny. In *The Lord of the Flies*, Jack on the island mutinies and eventually burns the island down. Well-intentioned Ralph, wise Piggy and even spiritual Simon can’t stop it. Only intervention can stop it and rescue the island culture. William Golding, no Christian theologian, writes *The Lord of the Flies* to make this point.

GOD’S PROJECT apparently collapses in every way:

Remember **God’s project:** To create a world where his will is done, all creatures live in joyous concert and all fellowship fully with their Creator.

BIG IDEA 7: GOD DOES NOT QUIT: GOD RESCUES ADAM AND EVE FROM HIS OWN SANCTION.



Note the box is blank—no category for this in *Guernica*.

God kills animals to provide covering for Adam & Eve—fig leaves are not enough.

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Gen 3:21

Two principles established:

Substitution

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. A life must be given.

Lev 17:11--it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.

- God still seeks out ADAM & EVE.
- It’s mercy as well as consequence that leads to their expulsion from the Garden.
- And he clothes them in rescued life.

And God promises a rescuer:

To the serpent he declares:

***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.”***

Gen 3.15

Promise of the Rescuer to come: Disintegration will not win. Rescue will cost, but the serpent will be destroyed.

Recap the Big Ideas

BIG IDEA 1: GOD HAS A PROBLEM—DISINTEGRATION RESULTS

EVIL IS GOD'S PROBLEM

BIG IDEA 2: GOD'S PROJECT COLLAPSES IN EVERY WAY:

BIG IDEA 3: RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD DIES:

BIG IDEA 5: RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF DIES.

BIG IDEA 6: RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE DIES. GARDEN BECOMES JUNGLE.

**BIG IDEA 7: GOD DOES NOT QUIT: GOD RESCUES ADAM AND EVE
FROM HIS OWN SANCTION.**

Consider the following if you wish to prepare for next week OT 5

READ SELECTIONS OF GENESIS 12-50

Suggestions: Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22, 27, 28, 32, 37, 39-46.

MARKERS

Gen 27	Jacob steals the blessing
Gen 32	Jacob meets Esau
Gen 37	Joseph story begins
Gen 50	With prophetic insight Jacob blesses his sons

What “BIG IDEAS” stand out so far?

Write out your questions so they may be turned into your teachers