

# **EPIC – Week 4**

**October 14, 2009 Teaching Outline  
by Mark Howard**

## **RECAP: (Mark)**

### **The Bible as an epic story involving the whole world...**

- Understanding the story shows us who God is and who we are
- Understanding the story shows us what God has done for us
- Understanding the story shows us the kind of life Jesus has made available for us
- It is so powerful that you will give your whole life to it

### **But the Story doesn't begin in Genesis 1:1 – There's a Story before our human story**

#### **Before time, God is existed in RELATIONSHIP, a FELLOWSHIP of three**

- Wise, infinite, sovereign, omniscient, omnipresent, faithful, love, self-existing, just, unchanging, merciful, eternal, good, gracious, holy

#### **The ANGELS...**

- The angels of the Bible were so frightening & powerful, everyone was scared to death
- Lucifer the angel – the highest, most powerful, beautiful angel – captain of angels
- Lucifer the beautiful wanted God's worship.

### **God is betrayed. Lucifer takes 1/3 of all the angels and heaven goes to war. Epic war. Satan loses, and is stripped of his position and thrown to earth and hell**

#### **This is the state of the world that we enter into at Genesis 1:1**

- Not the lame opening we think of normally...there has been war
- Satan hates God and will oppose his creation

## **LAST WEEK: Creation and the world as it was intended to be**

### **The Bible is too amazing not to know much about it. Truly amazing book.**

- 66 Books in the bible
- Written in Hebrew and Greek
- Written by 40 authors over 2000 years – but one story being told
- Inspired by God, but written down by man
- Best selling book of all time
- Most archeologically documented book of all time – over 24,000 manuscripts

### **Genesis, chapters 1 & 2 – Creation**

- God makes the earth, the sky, the oceans, land, stars, sun, moon, and all the living creatures...and it was GOOD.

### **Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness -**

- God stoops in mud, forms man, breathes life into his nostrils. It's personal.
- "It was VERY good." We are the pinnacle of creation.

## **Garden of Eden**

- Don't we always think of Eden as this lame little backyard garden?
- A river mighty enough to be split into four rivers – this place was majestic and big
- Imagine exploring God's created world for the first time – unimaginable beauty.

### **Adam enjoying all of Eden...but he is alone. The gift of Eve...**

- Pet rhino just isn't the kind of relationship he is longing for
- God creates Eve - Imagine them getting to know each other and falling in love

## **This was God's intended design for man and for creation**

- Beautiful in its truest form.
- Completely innocent – no sin, no pain, no knowledge of evil
- Peace – on the seventh day God rested – nothing left to improve
- **A design for relationships:**

### **Fellowship with God – complete access**

- A friend, father, all powerful creator to worship

### **Fellowship with another – Adam and Eve**

- Total peace, total joy – no sin like selfishness, jealousy, etc.
- “Naked without shame” – No such thing as low self-esteem, rejection...
  - o **All their security, purpose, love, was found in God – no doubt of self worth**

## **This is the garden, this is innocence and creation.**

- This is true beauty before sin entered.
- And don't we still have remnants of this beauty? The way life was meant to be?

## **Word collage from kid's writing – “ECHOS OF EDEN”**

**(VIDEO – Creation)**

***There was a way God intended for life to be and it was AMAZING.***

***But something happened...***

## **THIS WEEK: THE CURSE OF SIN**

### **Genesis 3:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.'" <sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

***Let's bring this story to life a bit...***

### **“The Fall” Illustration – RICH / MATT & volunteer youth**

- Table of pastries / Chocolate muffin / the first sin
- **(VIDEO – The Curse)**

***That day EVERYTHING changed for mankind. The beauty & innocence of Eden ended.***

### **Mistrust of God**

- What really happened was Satan convinced them they couldn't TRUST God
- “His way isn't the best” “Don't let God be in control, decide yourself”
- “God is holding out on you” “There is something better than God's way of life”

***Let's look back at the passage I read earlier, and break it down more...***

#### **Genesis 3:1**

Now the serpent...said to the woman, "Did God REALLY say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

### **First we see Satan trying to twist what God said, making it sound harsher, and unfair**

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden...or you will die.' "

<sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

### **Again, Satan twists the words of God, and sows the seeds of doubt**

- You won't drop dead right here on the spot (But you will die later!)
- God is holding out on you...He doesn't want you to know what HE KNOWS

***(VIDEO – Chronicles of Narnia)***

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

### **They make the choice of Sin – which is rebellion against God**

- Suddenly, Eve was faced with this CHOICE. Obey and TRUST God?
- She JUSTIFIES her disobedience – “looks tasty...and knowing is a good thing!”
- KNOWING good and evil is not necessarily a bad thing
- But Adam and Eve wanted to DECIDE for THEMSELVES what was good or evil
- NOT letting God decide what was best, what was good, what was evil
- Don't we still do that today? JUSTIFY, TAKE CONTROL, DON'T TRUST God
- **This is rebellion against God**

### **You may ask...why did they have the CHOICE to mess up?**

- There is no such thing as LOVE if there is not a real choice to love

***So Eve takes the apple and disobeys God, and then gives it to Adam, who disobeys.***

<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

### **Genesis 3:10**

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.

### **Now we get to see the first consequences of SIN**

- Remember last week...nakedness = no shame?
- Suddenly, they feel SHAME, REGRET, PAIN...they realize they are naked
- They hide from God in SHAME

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree...and I ate it."

### **So Adam BLAMES Eve! "It's the woman's fault!"**

<sup>13</sup> 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 Eve BLAMES Satan! "It's the snake's fault!"**

### ***And now, God declares his righteous judgement...the consequences of sin.***

- Not out of anger or rage
- God is JUST. The price of sin must be paid...ultimately by his Son, Jesus.

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.

### **Genesis 3:16**

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

### **The curse of SIN is PAIN, and BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS**

- Pain in childbirth
- **Broken Relationship: Man and Woman**
- Woman will now desire her husband...security, affirmation, self-worth, and AUTHORITY...trying to find these things in MEN instead of in GOD
- Sound familiar? Girls, isn't this true today?
- Lastly, their perfect trust and intimacy are gone. BLAME game already started

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

### **The curse of SIN - Broken Relationship: Man and Creation**

- Like man, creation has fallen as well...and will be rescued someday too
- Now man must suffer in LABOR against creation

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you...[die].

### **Genesis 3:21**

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

### **The curse of SIN – Death**

- God intended man to live forever! But now he must die.
- Verse 21 – An animals DIES to cover their shame – just like CHRIST

<sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.

**Genesis 3:22**

He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.

**The curse of SIN – Death**

- God intended man to live forever! But now he must die.
- God knew - man must die so this broken state of sinfulness won't last FOREVER
- Death would bring HOPE of a NEW LIFE
- Something must DIE to pay the price of sin

**Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death...

***So we come to our last verse in Genesis tonight...***

**Genesis 3:23**

So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden...

**The curse of SIN - Broken Relationship: Man and GOD**

- Banished from the Garden meant banished from the presence of God
- God is HOLY and can not be in the presence of sin
- **The loss of God / sorrow of the broken fellowship – imagine that**
- Don't we ache to have that kind of fellowship with God again?

**And now...sin doesn't end with Adam and Eve...it is inherited by us all**

**Romans 5:12**

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

**Romans 3:23**

For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

***If we fast forward in Genesis, this is the story of sin passed to each generation...***

**Cain & Abel – Chapter 4**

- The very first kids of Adam and Eve...one brother kills the other!

**The flood – Chapters 6-9**

- People are so wicked, God is so disgusted and HEARTBROKEN with mankind...he brings a world wide flood to wipe all man out.
- Noah's family remains...but the sin nature in our hearts can't be destroyed by a flood and it continues after Noah.

**Tower of Babel – Chapter 11**

- "Let's make a tower to reach the heavens and make our selves famous!"
- Now man tries to exalt himself above God
- God confuses them - the birth of different languages and scatters them across the earth

**The story goes on...sinful generation after generation.**

**The story could have just ended here, but God had a plan to rescue mankind. The Promise of CHRIST.**