

Intro. One of the most well-known English nursery rhymes says, “Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall, All the king’s horses & all the king’s men, Couldn’t put Humpty together again”—that’s an apt description of “Man’s Fall” in sin as seen in Genesis 3. As we continue the series on Genesis 1-11 on “Building the Foundation of Your Faith,” today we look at Part 1 of “Man’s Fall” from Genesis 3.

Theme: Sin & hope

Background: Genesis is a book of beginnings—the first 2 chapters describe creation, particularly focusing on the creation of male & female, Adam & Eve.

Illus: In the brief description we have of the first wedding at the end of Genesis 2, we know God performed the ceremony & possibly a few animals looked on as witnesses. Some of you have joked with me about my “God voice” when I quote the Lord, but whatever His voice sounds like, it was nothing like the priest on “The Princess Bride,” who said, “marriage... that blessed arrangement”—the events of Genesis 3 would prove the blessed arrangement would soon face lots of challenges

➤ I believe Man’s Fall in Genesis 3 took place a few days or weeks or, at best, months after Adam & Eve were created & not many months or years later. Why? Because they were perfectly obedient to the Lord & had been given a command to “be fruitful & multiply” (1:28) & we have every reason to believe they were having sex so they could multiply, but they don’t conceive until chapter 4, after the Fall. Thus, because of their obedience to God & His hand of blessing on their lives, Genesis 3 could not have been very long after they were created

➤ Theological understandings rooted in Genesis 3

1. The serpent is Satan, who had already fallen & will fall again (3:1, 15; cf. Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:1-2, 6, 13-16; Revelation 12:9; 20:2)

- Progressive revelation teaches us Satan is the ancient serpent (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
- Satan appears in the 3rd chapter of the Bible for the first time & the 3rd to last chapter of the Bible for the final time
- Jewish & Christian scholars have viewed the prophecies of Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28 to not only be against the kings of Babylon & Tyre, respectively, but also as a metaphor for the fall of Satan, the chief angel in heaven
- Sometime after initial creation & Genesis 3, Satan fell & since he could not be God, he sought to undo the work of God & he targeted humans & the perfect fellowship they had with the Lord

2. Satan tempts & deceives (3:1-6)

a. Satan may challenge your common sense (3:1-5)—common sense, especially before the Fall, should tell you the Lord cares about you & has commanded you what’s best for you, but Satan has challenged that through a number of ways:

1) Through deception (3:1-5)

- Throughout chapter 2 & the rest of chapter 3, God is defined as Yahweh God—the personal God; the covenant-keeping God
- Satan doesn’t call God “Yahweh” though, because he wants to deceive you into thinking God isn’t personal & caring & compassionate & the keeper of covenants (including the covenant with Adam about how he should live & how he would die, 2:16-17)
- God (Elohim) highlights Him as Creator, One who is transcendent, far from His creation
- Yahweh (LORD) highlights Him as personal, covenant-keeper, One who is imminent, close to His people
- While the Lord presents Himself to His people throughout chapter 2-3 as the Covenant-Keeper & Creator, Satan tricks & deceives Eve into thinking He doesn’t really care about them & he does the same to people today so they won’t trust Him

2) Through doubt (3:1-3)

a) **The authorship of God's Word (3:1)**—"did *God* actually say..."

b) **The authority of God's Word (3:1)**—"did God actually *say*..."

c) **The acceptability of God's Word (3:1)**—"... *you shall not eat*..."—implying "why can't you?"

d) **The accuracy of God's Word (3:1)**—"... you shall not eat of *any* tree in the garden?"

3) **Through denial (3:4)**—"you will *not surely* die"

4) **Through delusion (3:5)**—"you will be *like God*, knowing good & evil"

Illus: Mormons tempt with the same snare used by Satan by claiming good Mormon men can become gods

b. **Satan may challenge your core senses (3:6)**—touch, taste, see, smell, hear

- We say there is no harm in looking, but sin often begins with sight—she saw, desired/coveted, took & ate

Illus: The monkey Abu in the movie Aladdin was commanded not to touch anything, but he saw a golden monkey, desired it & took it & the cave began to collapse

- Lots of men & women & teens get in trouble today thinking there is no harm in looking at pornography, but it will trap you in its deceptive web & lead to your destruction, because when you see it you will desire it & try to take what isn't yours

Illus: You graduates need to find a few solid Christian friends to help hold you accountable in college or you will easily fall to the temptations of this world

3. Humans have fallen in sin (3:6-7)

a. **Eve was deceived (3:6, 13)**—cf. 1 Timothy 2:14—she was tricked

b. **Adam transgressed (3:6, 12)**—cf. Romans 5:12-21—he deliberately disobeyed

c. **All humans sinned in Adam (Romans 5:12)**—cf. Genesis 6:5; Romans 3:10-18, 23; Ephesians 2:1-3

d. **Death is a result of sin (2:17; 3:23-24; Romans 5:12)**

- Paul isn't just talking about human death came as a result of sin, but death came to creation because of man's sin—if evolution or old earth creationism were true, then death had occurred for millions of years before Adam & Eve & they would have witnessed animals dying & seen fossils & such & would have assumed they were going to die one day, too—but that isn't the picture we see in Genesis or in Romans—their sin affected their lives & all of creation, which leads to the final part

e. **All of life has been affected because of sin (Romans 8:19-22)**

- Some animals became carnivores, mosquitoes began targeting blood, cockroaches descended from other kinds of beetles/insects, people would eventually be born with abnormalities & get diseases & some women would face infertility & people have to deal with cancer & more because of sin's entrance into the world
- Not only that, but every aspect of man's life has been affected by sin—spiritually, morally, emotionally, intellectually, socially, physically, psychologically, etc.—it's what some of the Reformers call Total Depravity—man isn't as bad as he could be, or else we would all be like Hitler, but every aspect of man's life is depraved because of the Fall—if you don't believe that, then you think higher of yourself than you should

Conc. I'll talk more about God's plan of redemption next time, but let's revisit ole' Humpty Dumpty again. When he fell, all the king's horses & all the king's men couldn't put him together again. The problem with Humpty's plight is he looked to the wrong king, whether it was England's king or France's king or any other king of a nation—had he looked to the King of kings & Lord of lords, then he would have discovered that though he had fallen, King Jesus could do for him what no one else could—redeem him, transform him, restore him by God's grace & He can do the same for you, if you will surrender to Him as your only hope.