

Old Testament Story, Part 3: The Fall

I. The Fall, Part 1

- A. How does Satan tempt Adam and Eve to sin, and what are some ways in which you might see the same kinds of temptations in the world today?
- B. Was it God's intention that people would be tempted to fall? Why would he create the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the first place, or forbid people from eating its fruit, knowing we would fall and death would come?
- C. Every being in this passage is blamed for sin, even God. Who is responsible for sin, death, and suffering, in this passage and in our own lives, and who bears the consequence of it?

II. The Fall, Part 2

- A. Why is nakedness so significant in this passage? What do Adam's and Eve's unashamed nakedness and subsequent shame tell us about the effects of sin, then and now?
- B. What does it mean that God, himself, makes them garments of skins, whereas before they had made clothes for themselves from fig leaves?
- C. How do we see God responding to sin in this passage, and how does he respond to us when we sin?

III. The Curse

- A. Verse 15 is often called a "first gospel," an early prophecy of the coming of Christ and the rescuing of creation from the fall. In what way does this verse preach the gospel? Why would God preach the gospel in the moment of the fall? What does this show us about our Father?
- B. Why would God curse his own creation, when sin already weighs heavily on us? Are these curses appropriate to the trespass, or does it seem harsh? Is there any structure or logic to the curse God lays out? Where do we see the mercy of our God in these verses?
- C. Pastor Matt mentioned a "godly feminism" arising from verse 16, where men ruling over women is part of the curse. How does this affect the way we talk about and treat women in the church and, more broadly, in society? How does this godly feminism differ from other expressions of feminism?