

INTRODUCTION

1. Please take your Bibles and turn with me to Genesis chapter 3.
2. This morning we are looking at verses 20-21 as we answer the question "Where did Adam and Eve go when they died? Heaven or hell?"
3. In other words, "Were Adam and Eve Christians?" when they died?
4. "If so, when and how did they get saved?"
5. Is their salvation any different than ours?
6. We will answer these and other questions this morning as we look at verses 20-24.
7. Listen to what Moses writes: Genesis 3:20-24 (NKJV) And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. 22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"- 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

8. Chapter 3 begins with the Fall of Adam and Eve.
9. It ends with the promise of redemption.
10. Man's greatest need is to be redeemed from his sin.
11. His greatest need is for God to save Him and deliver him from his bondage to sin and his enmity with God.
12. The first mention of redemption is in verse 15 and picks up again in verses 20-24.
13. Many people have asked if Adam and Eve went to heaven when they died.
14. Let's find out as we study the word of God together this morning.
15. And to begin I'd like to have you turn to Ephesians 2:8-9.
16. Together with our passage in Genesis 3:20-24 and Ephesians 2:8-9, there are 3 truths about salvation that I want us to look at this morning and to also look more closely at whether Adam and Eve got saved.

LESSON

I. Salvation is By Grace (v.8a)

A. The Definition of “Grace”

This text defines *grace* by various terms.

1. Being *made alive by God* (vv.1,4-5)
2. Being *raised...up* (v.6)
3. Being *made to sit in heavenly places* (v.6)
4. *The exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus* (v.7)

The Greek word for “grace” is *charis*, which means “favor” – as the text also demonstrates it is “unmerited favor” – something we do not deserve – that is from God poured out on sinners who are “dead in trespasses and sins” (v.1).

In other words, “Grace means salvation completely apart from any merit or works on our part. Grace means that God does it all for Jesus’ sake! Our salvation is the gift of God” (Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"*--Jkt. (Eph 2:4). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books).

B. The Display of Grace

1. In the Old Testament

a) To Adam and Eve (Gen.2-5)

- (1) The command (Gen.2:16-17)
- (2) The curse (Gen.3:16-19)
- (3) The conclusion

- (a) The original command in Genesis 2:17 said, “you shall surely die.”
- (b) But in Genesis 5 we read that “all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.”
- (c) What did God mean in Genesis 2:17 when He said “you shall surely die?”

I believe He meant they would die in two ways: first spiritually and then physically.

Death refers to separation. One is spiritual and the other physical. One is separation from God, the other separation from the body.

The day man fell God displayed His grace!

- (1) By giving them the opportunity to confess

what they did (3:9-13)

- (2) By not killing them immediately but pronouncing a curse on them (3:14-19)
- (3) By a providing a blood sacrifice for their sin (3:21)
- (4) By driving them out of the Garden (3:22-24)
- (5) By letting them live for 930 years (5:5)

b) Noah (Gen.6-9)

- (1) The problem of demons co-habiting with “the daughters of men” (vv.1-5)
- (2) The punishment was God would “destroy man...and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air” (v.7) because of “the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (v.6).
- (3) The pardon though came to one man and his family – Noah (v.8)

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

Why did He find “grace” from the LORD? The answer is in verse 9:

“Noah was a just man, perfect (blameless) in his generation. Noah walked with God.”

Just as Enoch “walked with God; and he was not, for God took him” (Gen.5:24), Noah too “walked with God” and lived a blameless life.

You see his blamelessness as he is instructed in building an Ark to save his family and two of every species of animals on the earth.

Gen.6:22 says, “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”

Gen.7:5 says, “And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.”

Gen.8:20-9:1 says that after he and his family came out of the Ark, “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again

destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease. *So God blessed Noah and his sons*, and said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.’”

c) Abraham (Gen.12)

(1) In verses 1-3 God calls “Abram” to leave his “country,” his “kindred,” his “father’s house,” to go to a “land that I will show you” (v.1).

(2) What follows in Abraham’s life is a fulfillment of what God tells him in verses 2 and 3:

“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Isa.51:2 says, “Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.”

These are just a few. There were many individuals that received the same favor from God. God said to the nation of

Israel in Deut.7:7-8: “The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

2. In the New Testament

a) Jesus

(1) Jesus is the grace of God personified. “He is the supreme revelation of God’s grace” (Charles Ryrie, *The Grace of God*, p.9).

John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of *grace* and truth.”

(a) As a child, Luke 2:40 says, “the grace of God was upon Him.”

(b) At His baptism, Matthew says he heard a voice from heaving saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mat.3:17).

(c) God was “well pleased” with Jesus as Matthew records in Matthew 12:18-21, which is a quote from Isaiah 42:1-4. It says:

“Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; and in His name Gentiles will trust.”

Why was God pleased with His Son?

(d) John 5:30 - “By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me” (NIV).

b) The elect

(1) The source of grace is from the Father through the Son

- (a) Rom.1:1-5
- (b) Rom.3:23-24
- (c) Rom.5:1-2

(2) Salvation is “by grace”

- (a) Eph.2:5, 8
- (b) Acts 15:11
- (c) 2 Tim.1:8-9

It was God’s grace that first drew me to those words, “You can be forgiven of all your sin.” It was His love that made that a reality in my life.

It will be Thirty four years in March since I became a follower of Jesus Christ. God gave me the faith to believe in the finished work of His Son – Jesus!

On that day, He gave me the ability to comprehend the gospel by first enabling me to see my sin.

On March 16, 1984, He gave me the ability to repent. And it is only by His sovereign grace that I stand here this morning preaching from a passage that talks about His grace.

As the well-known hymn says, “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.”

II. Salvation is Through Faith (vv.8b-9)

The Reformers used to say, “sola fide” which meant “By faith alone.”

Salvation is not only by grace alone but it is also by faith alone.

A. The Definition of Faith

What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 says it “is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Or as the NASB says, it is “the *assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*”

These two parallel and almost identical phrases are saying that faith is “living in a hope that is so real it gives absolute assurance” (MacArthur), and that *hope* produces *conviction* for the *things not seen*.

Peter said it this way in 1 Peter 1:7-8: “That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ***whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing,*** you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”

Jesus said to Thomas after Thomas affirmed that Jesus was his “Lord and...God” (John 20:28), “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. ***Blessed are those who have not***

seen and yet have believed' (v.29).

“Faith is not a wistful longing that something may come to pass in an uncertain tomorrow. True faith is an absolute certainty, often of things that the world considers unreal and impossible. Christian hope is belief in God against the world-not belief in the improbable against chance. If we follow a God whose audible voice we have never heard and believe in a Christ whose face we have never seen, we do so because our faith has a reality, a substance, an assurance that is unshakable. In doing so, Jesus said, we are specially blessed (John 20:29)” (John MacArthur, Hebrews).

So how were people saved in the Old Testament?

B. Salvation in the Old Testament

1. People were saved in the Old Testament the same way as in the New. They had to trust the promises of God.

What were those promises? A coming Messiah – a Deliverer who would take away sin.

- a) It began in Genesis 3:15 where God told the serpent (Satan) who deceived Eve in eating of the forbidden fruit: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

That is a reference to the Messiah – Jesus, who was “foreordained before the foundation of the world” (1 Pet.1:20).

We know it’s talking about Him because Galatians 3:19 says, “What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promises was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.”

- b) God said to Abraham in Genesis 15:5-6, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed in the LORD and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

Both Romans 4:3 and James 2:23 quote Genesis 15:6 and state that “faith” was the reason “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

- c) In Deuteronomy 18:18-19, God said to Moses, “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.”

Acts 3:22-23 and 7:37 interprets this passage as a

reference to the Messiah.

2. Habakkuk 2:4 reveals the same truth found in the NT. It says, "...the just shall live by his faith."

That verse is repeated in Romans 1:16.

God told them of a coming Messiah, a Deliverer who would take away sin. He told them to believe His Word. That's what they did, regardless of how incomplete or vague many of those promises were.

Hebrews 11 illustrates this beautifully!

"The promises given to the Old Testament saints were so real to them, because they believed God, that they based their lives on them.

All the Old Testament promises related to the future-for many believers, far into the future. But the faithful among God's people acted as if they were in the present tense.

They simply took God at His word and lived on that basis. They were people of faith, and faith gave present assurance and substance to what was yet future" (John MacArthur, Hebrews).

C. Salvation in the New Testament

1. Our passage says, “It is by grace...through faith” (Eph.2:8)
 - a) Luke 7:36-50
 - b) John 3:14-21, 36
 - c) John 5:24

 - d) Gal.3:13-14 - “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, *that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*”

 - e) Romans 10:9-10 - “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and *believe* in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one *believes* unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

2. Ephesians 2:8 continues by saying salvation is “not of yourselves.” Verse 9 says, “Not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
 - a) Salvation in the Old as well as in the New Testament was by faith in God and His Word and never a work of the flesh

 - b) Paul said in Romans 3:20, “Therefore by the deeds of the

law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

- c) Paul says in verse 28, “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”
- d) He continues this thought in 4:1-2: “What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something of which to boast, but not before God.”
- e) Paul sheds more light on this in Romans 9:11 when he says of Jacob and Esau: “For the Children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, *not of works but of Him who calls.*”
- f) He sums it up in verse 16: “So then it is not of him who will, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.”
- g) Titus 3:5-7 says, “Not of works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

III. Salvation is the Gift of God (v.8c)

God is the Source of Grace and Faith. Paul says, “it is the *gift of God*” (v.8c).

A. It Has Been Graciously Granted

Phil.1:29 says, “For to you *it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him*, but also to suffer for His sake.”

B. It Has Been Supernaturally Provided

John 1:11-13 says, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, *but of God.*”

C. It Has Been Sovereignly Initiated

1. John 6:37, 44, 65
2. Acts 16:14, of Lydia, Luke says, “The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”
3. James 1:16-18 says, “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is *from*

above, and comes down *from the Father of lights*, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. *Of His own will He brought us forth* by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

CONCLUSION

1. Genesis 3:22-24 close with hope for Adam and Eve.
2. God drove them out of the garden of Eden because He didn't want them to eat of the tree of life and live forever in this condition.
3. Adam and Eve were now like God in knowing good and evil and had to be driven from the garden for their own protection.
4. The hope is deliverance from this fallen condition.
5. It is also the hope of the coming redeemer from verse 15 who will come and crush the head of Satan.
6. Do you have this hope this morning?
7. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved!
8. Lord's Supper.
9. Pray.