

Morning Worship – June 4, 2017

“The Fall” Genesis 3:1-6

What can we learn from the FALL?

1. Recognize the tempter: the Serpent, Satan –

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. ... (Genesis 3:1 NKJ)

1. This serpent we know was the Devil, Satan –

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:9 NKJ)

A. Of old he was the serpent, known for cunning, subtlety, even today snakes are quiet, sneaky animals. They do not catch their prey with speed like a cheetah, nor with power like a lion but rather with stealth and poison –

B. This animal was more than just an animal, Satan, the Devil, a fallen angel was speaking through this beast –

“It was the devil in the likeness of a serpent. ...” Matthew Henry

2. Since, the Devil was a FALLEN spiritual being if he had any appearance at all, it (his appearance) may have revealed his true nature and so Satan disguises himself as something else –

“Whether they had best go and sit down before Mansoul in their now ragged and beggarly guise. To which it was answered also in the negative, By no means; and that because though the town of Mansoul had been made to know and to have to do, before now, with things that are invisible, they did never as yet see any of their fellow-creatures in so sad and rascal condition as they.” John Bunyan

3. Satan still disguises himself today; Satan never shows himself to us for what he really is, for then we would know, than we would resist, but he transforms or disguises himself –

And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14 NKJ)

NIV 2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14 NIV)

NLT 2 Corinthians 11:14 But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (2Corinthians 11:14 NLT)

4. Remember too, at that time the serpent was not an abhorrent creature to Eve –

A. The enmity between the serpent and the woman is after the fall, part of the curse, fear of snakes would be part of this!

B. The serpent’s crawling on its belly was also part of the curse. This creature may have had legs at one time and may have looked quite different, likely beautiful.

5. Today, the Serpent has become the great dragon –

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world ... (Revelation 12:9 NKJ)

A. Satan started in the garden, personally tempting one woman, now he is the great dragon and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:9 NKJ)

And he – deceives the whole world ... (Revelation 12:9 NKJ)

B. Three times Jesus calls Satan the ruler of this world –

“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. (John 12:31 NKJ)

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. (John 14:30 NKJ)

“of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:11 NKJ)

Satan rules the entire world system that is why Christ was crucified and why He says to His true followers - ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (John 15:18 NKJ)

C. Paul calls him the “god” little “g” of this age –

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJ)

D. Paul also calls him –

the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (Ephesians 2:2 NKJ)

II. Recognize and resist his temptations -

... And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, `You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1 NKJ)

During the last few weeks I have had several opportunities to reference the Devil's devices – lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJ)

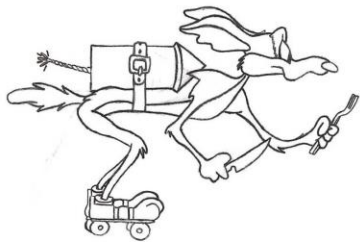
1. **Devices** - νόημα noema {no'-ay-mah} **Meaning:** 1) a mental perception, thought 2) an evil purpose 3) that which thinks, the mind, thoughts or purposes

- A. The Devil's devices, thoughts, evil purposes are all for our destruction –
- B. These are opposite of God's thoughts which are always for our good –

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJ)

- C. It is important that we recognize the Devil has SEVERAL DEVICES he uses against us. These are also called, wiles – Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11 NKJ)

2. **Wiles** - μεθοδεία methodeia {meth-od-i'-ah} **Meaning:** 1) cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery



His thoughts / desires are the destruction and devouring of Road Runner. The methods he uses, his wiles include small rockets tied to his back, roller skates, and many other "wiles." The humor of the cartoon is tied to the fact Wile E. Coyote always fails! If he ever actually caught and

devoured the Road Runner, even the cartoon would not be FUNNY!

The Devil's wiles are NOT FUN or FUNNY –

For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

3. We see some of his devices / wiles right here in Genesis 3

- A. Question God's Word, Law and Rule - "Has God indeed said, `You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1 NKJ)
Did God really SAY, make a rule, NOT allow YOU, to eat of every tree?
There is a dirty implication in this QUESTION; God is withholding something from you! In asking a question, Satan makes Eve review what God said, think and ask; is God withholding something from me?

Eve's answer includes truth, but also SEEMS to buy into a little of what the Devil said, in that she indicates a strictness to God's rule that goes beyond the actual rule -

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, `You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (Genesis 3:2-3 NKJ)

The actual rule said nothing about "touching" -

"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17 NKJ)

- B. Once the Devil sees Eve nibble the bait with his QUESTIONING, he sets the hook with outright CONTRADICTION of God's Word –
Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. (Genesis 3:4 NKJ)

- C. He then adds to the contradicting of God's Word, the maligning of God's motives –

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5 NKJ)

- D. Eve lets her own eyes, and trust in the Devil's, not God's Word's, guide her actions –

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6 NKJ)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.⁹ **Resist him**, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJ)

III. Realize you are one of his targets –

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6 NKJ)

1. There were consequences of Eve's sin that went way beyond Eve herself –

A. Adam, her husband listened to her –

Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." (Genesis 3:12 NKJ)

B. Adam and Eve's first born son was a murderer –

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:8 NKJ)

C. Their grandson, Lamech, bragged about murder –

Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. ²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." (Genesis 4:23-24 NKJ)

D. Adam's sin, because he was the Federal Head of the entire human race resulted in DEATH for almost the entire human race –

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (Romans 5:12 NKJ)

E. Their genealogy was / is characterized by this phrase –

...and he died. (Genesis 5:5 NKJ)

...and he died. (Genesis 5:8 NKJ)

...and he died. (Genesis 5:11 NKJ)

...and he died. (Genesis 5:14 NKJ)

2. Our sins, even as believers, have consequences that reach beyond ourselves, David's sin with Bathsheba resulted in:

A. Uriah's death / murder in David's desire to cover sin –

Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. (2 Samuel 12:9 NKJ)

When David first thought of what he did with Bathsheba, did he THINK he might have to murder Uriah, her husband?

B. Did he think of the death of the baby?

"However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." (2 Samuel 12:14 NKJ)

C. He did not realize what would happen to Absalom, his rebellion, and his death were also consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba –

Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom-- my son, my son Absalom-- if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33 NKJ)

Can we see where our sins go? Where they lead, can we know? Stir a fire, let Satan blow ... We KNOW - God's enemies rejoice - you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme,... 2 Samuel 12:14 NKJ) - when we make a sinful choice!

3. God is Ultimate target of Satan's wiles, through Job's own wife he would tempt Job to –

⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9 NKJ)

4. Through Peter he would attempt to tempt Jesus, the Son of God, to leave off His work (the course of the cross) for our salvation, of course He tempts us from the cross as well –

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 16:21-25 NKJ)

When we avoid the climb of the cross, the high call of God, do we impact others? Consider the Amy Carmichael poem -

From prayer that asks that I may be Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee
From fearing when I should aspire, From faltering when I should climb
higher. From silken self, O Captain, free Thy soldier who would follow Thee.

From subtle love of softening things, From easy choices, weakenings, Not
thus are spirits fortified, Not this way went the Crucified, From all that dims
Thy Calvary, O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way, The faith that nothing can dismay, The
hope no disappointments tire, The passion that will burn like fire, Let me not
sink to be a clod: Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

Amy Carmichael

IV. Remember the truth –

1. Sin really does lead to death and beyond death to HELL! –
"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for
in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17 NKJ)

Put God's Word over against the Devil's lies and you will see you have
exact opposite statements –
Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. (Genesis
3:4 NKJ)

God says, you shall surely die;

God says - For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

God says - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the
judgment, (Hebrews 9:27 NKJ)

2. The judgment Jesus speaks of is Hell's fire, in at least one
sermon; Jesus repeated this phrase about Hell, three times –
"where `Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' (Mark
9:44 NKJ)

"where `Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' (Mark
9:46 NKJ)

"where `Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' (Mark
9:48 NKJ)

3. In that same sermon Jesus tells us to go to extremes in dealing
with sin; because if we do not we will end up in HELL -
⁴³ "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter
into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire
that shall never be quenched-- (Mark 9:43 NKJ) See also Mark 9:45 & 47

4. Jesus was Himself EXTREME in what He did to save us from sin
and Hell -
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead,
and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and
washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

Of course some will ask Satan's question - "Has God indeed said?"
They will question whether or not teachings about Hell or for that
matter any part of the Bible are REALLY God's Word?

They will claim these words about Hell, are unloving ...
Of course words like Satan's about sin they like: they say SIN and You
will not surely die. (Genesis 3:4 NKJ) Or you will not go to Hell!

Sinners like those like Satan who would encourage them to EAT that
forbidden fruit, go ahead, take a bite You will not surely die. (Genesis
3:4 NKJ)

"I believe that there is a real hell. I believe that it is not loving to keep
back from men that they may be lost. Love! Shall I call it love? If you
saw a brother drinking poison, would you hold your peace?—is that,
Love? If you saw a blind man tottering towards a precipice, would you
not cry out "Stop"? Away with ... false notions of Love! Let us not
slander that blessed grace, by using its name in a false sense. It is the
highest love to bring the whole truth before men. It is real love to warn
them plainly when they are in danger. It is love to impress upon them,
that they may lose their own souls forever in hell." J. C. Ryle

"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not
give the Spirit by measure. ³⁵ "The Father loves the Son, and has given
all things into His hand. ³⁶ "He who believes in the Son has everlasting
life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath
of God abides on him." (John 3:34-36 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick