

How to Read the Bible: Genesis 1-11

Glenwood Community Church

Class 6– March 13th, 2022

The purpose of this class is to: understand and internalize the message of Genesis 1-11 and to better understand how to interpret Old Testament narrative

Genesis 3:1-24

Structure the Chapter

Scenes

3:1-7

Setting of the story: crafty serpent

Problem of the story: mankind sinned

- Tree was GOOD for food, delight to the EYES, desired to make one WISE
 - 1 John 2:16 - For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (ESV)
 - Temptation of Jesus: bread, jump off temple, showed him kingdoms of world
- Q: Does verse 7 mean that the serpent was right in v. 5?
 - There is an assumption in the serpent's temptation
“It is clear in the story that the man and the woman had believed that when they obtained the knowledge of “good and evil” they would, on their own, enjoy the good... Yet when they ate of the fruit and their eyes were opened, it was not the good that they saw and enjoyed. Their new knowledge was that of their own nakedness.” (Sailhamer, 104)

3:8-13

Climax of the Story (v. 11)

3:14-19

- Judgments
 - **Snake**
 - On your belly, eating dust as long as you live – what does this mean?
 - Phrase used to describe the humiliation of knowing defeat was inevitable
 - OT: Ps. 44:25, 72:9, Is. 25:12, 65:25; Mic. 7:17
 - NT: Romans 16:20 - The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
 - **Ironic justice**: the woman you deceived God will use to be the death of you!
 - **Woman**

Q: Where does God curse the woman? In the context of family relationships

 - Fulfilling the creation mandate will mean **pain** in childbearing
 - The husband that you correspond to and were partnered with as a helper, you will want to rule over and he will want to rule over you.
 - *Gen. 4:7 – sin is crouching at the door. It's desire is for you, but you must rule over it.*
 - **Ironic Justice**: the context in which the woman fills and multiplies through bearing children and partnering with her husband are both going to be made more difficult.
 - Man
 - Cursed is the ground because of you
 - **Painful** toil – thorns/thistles (inedible and harmful plants), hard work to eat
 - EAT 5x in this passage – why? Because he ate!
 - **Ironic Justice**: you ate, so now eating will require hard work because of not listening, in areas of creation mandate: work and keeping garden

3:20-24 – Rays of Hope

For Next Sunday

- Read Genesis 4 and write down some questions and observations about how the author is trying to make his point (repetition, tension/plot, character contrast, etc.).
- How is Genesis 4 related to Genesis 3? Note specific ties between the chapters.
- Stop and consider the things that we have learned so far in Genesis. Spend time slowly reviewing the first three chapters, stopping to pray as you read.