

PASTOR RAY’S BIBLE SCHOOL 201

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Session Six

“Echoes Of Eden”

History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. Sometimes people say, "Here is something new!" But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 New Living Testament

I. The Prophetic/Contextual View Of Scripture

A. The Book Of Beginnings

1. The Bible is more than history, it is His Story.
2. We study the Book of Genesis so we can understand the “story” from the beginning.
3. We can never understand our PRESENT without a solid connection and understanding of our PAST.

B. The Prototypical Man

1. Adam is a “prototype” of his race.

“prototype”

An original model upon which something is patterned; an individual that exhibits the essential figures of a later type; a standard or typical example.

Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition

2. Adam acted as the covenant “head” of his race.
3. We understand the spiritual condition of Adam’s race by studying Adam, before, during and after his fall from grace.

4. Adam's fall, (the subject of Session 5), was the "original sin", and contained the "seeds" to reproduce itself.

5. In this session, we'll see how man's experiences in history are what we might call "Echoes Of Eden". (See Ecclesiastes 1:9-11)

6. Man's story in Genesis 1-3 retains positives and negatives.

C. Positives

1. Adam was created "in the image and likeness of God". (Genesis 1:26)

a. Although later marred by sin, this "positive" is still true.

b. Man and woman are unique in the order of creation, possessing abilities of free-will, imagination, and most of all, the ability to fellowship with God.

2. Adam was created to "have dominion".

a. Even though his sin displaced him from the Garden, (and from fellowship with God), the "Dominion Mandate" was never withdrawn.

b. God's original intention, that men have dominion (under God) over God's creation, has never changed.

3. Man's dominion was *conditional* upon his obedience to God's law.

a. Man lost his ability to "have dominion" by disobedience; his potential to recover dominion was not lost.

4. Although man abandoned God, we will see that God did not abandon man.

5. The one commandment of Genesis 2 is later expanded to 10 commandments in Exodus 20, which tells us that the proliferation of sin requires *additional government*.

a. The foundation of man's well being is self-government (under God).

b. God is the Author of human government, (see Romans 13:1ff), because sinful man requires external boundaries and laws so that order can be maintained.

6. All was not lost in the Fall. But much was lost. So in this session, we'll seek to learn prophetic lessons from the “negatives” of man’s Fall, and how they affect us today.

II. Echoes Of Eden

A. The Mechanics Of Temptation

1. Every sin ever sinned is an “echo of Eden”, a repetition of rebellion against God’s Kingdom and righteous authority.

2. Sin is man’s inner response to an outward temptation.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

James 1:13-16 NASB

a. God never tempts us with evil. But He does allow us to be tempted with our own lustful propensity to give “birth” to sin.

b. Each man is tempted after the fashion of Adam:

“Lust” (within) + “Temptation” (without) combine to “conceive” and “give birth” to sin + which (when accomplished) + Death

c. The children of Adam possess the ability to “lust” (have strong desire) internally and yield to illegitimate temptations that are external.

d. Adam’s desire to “be as god”, (replace God), subjects him to vulnerability to exercise his free-will and express his independence from the restraints of God’s law.

B. The Immediate Results Of Sin: Man is morally aware of his failure.

**“And the eyes of them both were opened, and *they knew that they were naked...*”
Genesis 3:7 KJV**

1. Notice their “eyes are opened”, they had an immediate revelation something bad had taken place.

2. They “knew they were naked*, they had an immediate sense of being “uncovered” and exposed, a sense of fear and insecurity, an uncomfortability at the thought of God’s eyes upon them.

***We hold there to be a difference between the terms “undressed” and “naked”. If we are alone in privacy, we are hardly aware of being unclothed. Knowing we are “naked” implies that we are in the presence of someone else, where the immediate response is to “cover” ourselves.**

a. This “echo of Eden” is confirmed by the Apostle Paul, who informs us that mankind is not unaware of their sinful condition, but “suppresses” the truth in unrighteousness.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...”

Romans 1:18 NASB

C. Man’s First Response To The Revelation Of His Sin Is To Hide From God

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and **Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.**

Genesis 3:7-8 KJV

1. Instead of running TO God with their sin, our first parents ran FROM God. The human race has “echoed” this Edenic incident throughout its history.

2. When God draws near to sinful man, his natural response is to hide.

D. Man’s Prototypical Response To His Nakedness Is To Create His Own “Covering”.

“...and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

Genesis 3:7 KJV

1. Man’s natural covering in Creation was the glory of God. And they were immediately aware of it when they lost it.

2. They dealt with their loss of *relationship* by creating *religion*.

a. The seemingly endless historical creation of religious systems, beliefs, practices and denominations are “echoes of Eden”; unless man is directly connected to God in relationship, he will “invent” something to take its place...that is how we define “religion” in this school.

3. The “aprons” of fig leaves represent religion, man’s attempt to stand in God’s presence covered by the “works” of his own hands!

a. Much of the pain and woes of the human race down through history have been brought about by religion.

b. Man-made religion and religious systems are nothing else but attempts to “cover” the spiritual “nakedness” that is a result of sin.

4. The “fig leaves” may have come from the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”.

a. This was the “tree” that represented another “way”, another “truth”, another “life”, so its “leaves” represent its “fruits”!

b. We conjecture that might be so because the scene of the first sin was immediately adjacent to the first sinful act of history and that whenever we feel that our nakedness is about to be exposed, we cover ourselves with the first thing we can lay our hands on!

c. If our interpretation of this event is correct, we might connect it with Jesus’ cursing the “fig tree” cursed by Jesus in Matthew 21.

“And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.”

Mark 11:13-14

KJV

Consider:

- God is “hungry” to partake of fellowship with us
- He sees the “leaves” of religion and inspects it, but finds no fruit
- He curses religion because it produces no fruit, and pronounces it unfit for men to eat of, forever!

Then:

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Mark 11:20-22

KJV

- Some dispensationalists interpret the “fig tree” as national Israel, because her spiritual condition had become mere religion, having only the appearance of a relationship with God.
- Even if this interpretation is accurate, we might suggest it not only represents Israel, but ALL religious forms, since only “faith in God” will produce real spiritual “fruit”!

5. We might also consider that when Adam and Eve sinned, and sought to “create” their own covering with the works of their hands, they did not make hats for their heads, or gloves for their hands, or shoes for their feet...they made “aprons” to cover their reproductive areas.

a. It seems our first parents immediately understood that they had “corrupted” their ability to reproduce a godly “seed”. Since all “seed” reproduces “after its own kind”, all children born to Adam and Eve would be like themselves, spiritually “dead”, separated from God!

b. We might also glean how the entrance of sin would, from that time forward, require men and women to wear clothing because of the presence of others.

c. The sinful condition of the human race is confirmed by the universal “dress code” of all cultures: The reproductive areas of the human body are to be covered.

d. The sexual drive God placed in man, (“be fruitful and multiply”) and to “replenish” the earth, is so powerful that only when confined to the family as defined by God in creation, can a society long endure

g. The “innocence” of the man and woman, Genesis 2:25, is forever lost in Genesis 3:7.

III. Partakers Of The Satanic Nature

A. Adam’s Connection With Satan

1. The Bible teaches that the sin of Adam and Eve corrupted their very nature and linked them with the fallen angel Lucifer in rebellion.

2. This can be confirmed by two characteristics of the Satanic nature: Deception and Accusation.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:7-10 KJV

a. The first characteristic of Satan is that he is a “Deceiver”. He deceived the fallen angels into following him in his rebellion. And he *deceived* Adam and Eve in the great temptation of Genesis 3:1-6.

b. The second characteristic of the Satanic nature is that he is an “Accuser”, he deals in a spirit of accusation. In the temptation, he says...

3. The 2 characteristics of the Satanic nature in Revelation 12 is found in “seed form” in Genesis 3:

**“You shall not surely die. (Deception) “For God knows in the day you eat of it you shall be as gods...”
(Accusation) The idea is that God was withholding the forbidden fruit out of an evil motive toward them, that God was guilty of selfishness...the ultimate accusation!**

4. The impartation of the Satanic nature into our first parents is confirmed as they:

a. As they attempt to “deceive” God by “covering” their sin with the works of their own hands.

b. As Adam refuses moral responsibility for his sin by accusing the woman and even God Himself for his failure!

**And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman (Adam accuses the woman) whom thou gave to be with me, (Adam accuses God), she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.
Genesis 3:11-12 KJV (Parenthetical comments added)**

5. Thus we see how the same nature that was in the Serpent has been imparted to the human race in the Fall! This also helps us understand the harsh words of Jesus in John 8:

**“Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.
John 8:41-45 KJV**

6. The true condition of man separated from God is only truly appreciated through an understanding of the Fall.

7. Sinful man will always evade moral responsibility. And every time we do, it’s only an “echo of Eden”!

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