



PARADISE LOST



In this chapter you will ...

- (1) Understand God's plan for paradise.
- (2) Recognize man's tragic fall.
- (3) Identify the "seed of the woman" promise.
- (4) Embrace what we inherited from Adam and Eve ... and the foolish futile attempt to fix it on our own.

Genesis 3:14-19 - The Tragic Fall of Mankind



God, the author of all creation crafted Paradise for the crown of His creation, mankind. In that Paradise, man had perfect fellowship with God, a worship-filled occupation, and complete rest. Until ... the Liar broke it all with his deception, and man tragically fell into a life of sin and rebellion. Our spiritual parents, Adam and Eve, chose to believe the lie that they could be their own gods, and in doing so Paradise was lost not only for them but for all mankind. With sin comes judgment ... and always the hope of restoration. Though the original Paradise had been lost, and consequences came, the promise of a Paradise restored and the defeat of Satan was declared. In tragedy, God always offers hope!



Kingdom Paradise

In this opening chapter of the Story of God, the tide turns very quickly from beauty and joy to anguish and loss. The loss incurred from Genesis 3 colors every page of the story to come - broken relationships, evil men, suffering, selfish living, and estrangement from God. Man isn't basically good, and suffering and evil are now part of the fabric of humanity. The futility and darkness of the Old Testament bears this out. And so does the story of us today, we seek paradise outside of Christ and only find loss.

The Search for the "HE" -



Where is the Gospel hope in such a tragic tale of Satanic deception and human failure? It is in the "seed of the woman" who will ultimately crush the head of the Serpent. For sure, the promise reads that the seed of the serpent will bruise the Promised One's heel, referring to His death on the cross. But from the start, God offers hope to the fallen sinner. Make no mistake, sin must be judged, but deliverance is never beyond man's reach. It is not found in human strength or wisdom, but in looking away from self and to the "HE" promised in Genesis 3:15. Search no longer ... the "HE" is Jesus, and He is victorious (Romans 16:20)!

Story-Tellers Takeaways ...

- (1) Paradise and the Kingdom of God was and is always God's plan for mankind ... it will come to pass.
- (2) The fall of man was complete, effecting every man, woman, and child to ever walk the planet.
- (3) God never leaves men without hope. Sin and judgment are followed by grace and joy.
- (4) Quit trying to be your own savior, quit trying to fix your story ... embrace your fallenness and the "HE" who alone can rescue!

My Notes:

How to Read the Story ... the Big into the Small, and the Small into the Big ... all to Penetrate Our Hearts!

Feathers - You must have an understanding of the epic narrative of God's story ... this is Biblical Theology that guides our reading of the story.

Shaft - You must approach each text of Scripture honestly and openly ... this is Exposition of Scripture that shapes our understanding of the story.

Point - You must have a soft heart to worship the author of the story ... this is Gospel Centeredness that changes life.

For Discussion:

- (1) Talk about the curses handed out to Satan, man, and woman. What do you see there?
- (2) What do you think about the concept of Paradise? Do you view this world and the Paradise to come in the right way?
- (3) Discuss Eve's role in the Fall? Adam's role in the Fall? What did Adam fail to do?
- (4) Share where the Search for the "HE" in your life was (or is still) replaced by the search for "ME".