

180 Jesus on Genesis 3 – ‘The Fall’

I’m going to assume here that Jesus is planning a sermon on Genesis 3 for next week’s service (in 2021). But just to be clear, what I write is, as ever, just my own ideas; I’m making Jesus the subject only to try to interpret the Old Testament through Jesus’ eyes:

Let’s start with ‘the story so far’, but as you realise, Genesis isn’t a scientific explanation of how We created everything; it had to be couched in terms that pre-scientific cultures could understand and remember, and so could pass on faithfully to future generations.

So the first chapter shows how We wanted a place where all of us – the Father, Me, the Spirit and you folks – could live together in harmony. We made the Universe as a sort of ‘temple’, then We came to dwell in it with you,^[130–133] and it was good – **very good**, in fact.^(1:31)

Chapter two shows how the whole of the creation can live in harmony, but in particular it focuses on how male and female can live together in a very special sort of intimate relationship.

Now, chapter three is what we might call ‘The Big But’ – ‘*it was very good, but...*’. Love and trust are only possible if you are able to choose **not** to trust, and even in heaven some of the choices went wrong,¹ and chapter three pictures how that then infected you folks.

So trust breaks down, and you end up making wrong choices and start blaming each other; you even try to say it’s Our fault. How silly is that! Once that trust is broken, all relationships are tainted, and that includes your relationship with the rest of creation. You forfeited your position of free and intimate relationship with Us – Eden is no longer a place where you can feel at home.

As you well know, life is hard in many ways, and that’s the result of those wrong choices – yours and the forces of evil.

‘Don’t panic,’ says the author of Genesis: ‘God has a plan – the Even Bigger But’!

In the short term, We provide you with clothing to cover your unnecessary sense of shame at nakedness. Because shame comes from a lack of trust, Our long-term plan is to provide you with a way to remove that shame and to restore trust. It will take time, so we drop into verse 15 the bit about the ‘offspring’ (that’s Me) crushing the head of the ‘serpent’, defeating evil.^(Heb 2:14, Rom 16:20)

We made you good (very good!) and We love you massively, but evil entered creation, and you freely and frequently make wrong choices. But by My death you stand forgiven; so choose life – life in all its fulness!

*As you might expect, Jesus preaches about love and about **restorative** justice, but I searched for a sermon on the internet, and none of them sounded in the **least** like the voice of Jesus! It’s almost as if they enjoy talking about sin, evil, judgement, hell, ‘all your secrets are revealed’...*

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¹ I really wasn’t sure how to express the ‘fall of Satan’.