

Old School

Week 1: The First Christmas Promise

Weekly Summary: Jesus first “appears” in a promise made to two of history’s biggest failures, Adam and Eve. Although their doubt and sin brought death, pain, and frustration into our world, God made them the oldest promise of all, a promise to crush the Devil and his accusations. We might feel like failures too, especially around the Christmas season. Maybe we didn’t keep our promises to God or our resolutions to be better people. But God’s old school promise still stands.

- ❖ Genesis 3:1-19 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” 11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” 12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” 16 To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” 17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

❖ “Eden...we have a **problem!**”

- Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

❖ Sin was and still is a **serious** problem.

- Genesis 3:7 - Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:10 - He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Genesis 3:12-13 - The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:16 - To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

Genesis 3:17-18 - To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

Genesis 3:19 - “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

❖ Sin had and still has **painful** consequences.

- Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

- Genesis 3:14-15 - So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

❖ God had and still has **THE** solution - the **Promised One**.

- 1 John 3:8 - The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Points to Ponder

1. To truly understand the importance of Christmas and the reason why it happened, we need to see and know the problem that sin is for us. To do that, answer these questions and discuss them with your group.
 - In what ways has your sensitivity to sin been affected?
 - In what ways does the world's view of Christmas impact how you view and celebrate Christmas?
 - Are there sins you commit that we don't even think twice about? (Ex: sins like cursing, or envy, or greed, or gossip, or pride, or prejudice, or impatience, or just plain irritability.) Why is that the case?
 - Do you minimize those sins and delight in them, or do they truly bother you? If so, what sins in your life have you failed to confess and need to?
 - Old School assignment - Spend 5 minutes at the beginning and end of each day until Christmas by 1) acknowledging the seriousness of your sin and it's consequences, and even more importantly by 2) celebrating God's promise made and kept and thanking him for sending Jesus that first Christmas.

2. For Adam and Eve, God's oldest promise was life changing. How does this Old School promise change your view of Christmas? How will it change your celebration this year as you Gather? What will you do to keep God's solution and promise front and central as you Grow in your home this Christmas?

Homework For Next Week: Isaiah 7:1-14

*"Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven."
~ Greg Laurie*

Worship Through Song at The CORE:

1. "Angels We Have Heard On High" - by Crowder
2. "How Many Kings" - by DownHere
3. "This Is Love (Come Thou Long Expected Jesus)"
- by Paul Baloche & Kathryn Scott
4. "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" - by Jeremy Camp