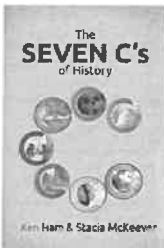



The Seven C's of World History
Adult Bible Class Series, Feb-Apr 2021

C2: Corruption

February 21, 2021




The Problem of Evil

Blaming God for our sinful world. The proposition:

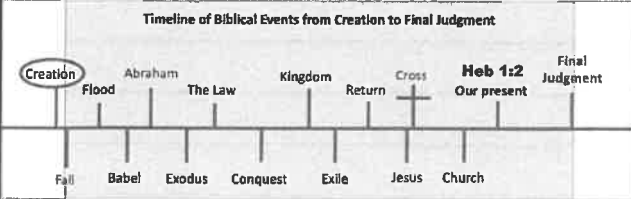
- If God is all powerful and holy, why does evil exist?
- Why did God create sin?
- If man was created in God's image, why aren't we holy?

Pagan View: Good/Evil Mix is Forever "Normal"



God's Redemptive Plan

Timeline of Biblical Events from Creation to Final Judgment



Creation of Adam

1:26, "Then God said, "Let Us **make** (הָפַעַ) man in Our image, according to Our likeness."
1:27, "God **created** (בָּרָא) man in His own image."
2:7, "Then the LORD God **formed** (יָצַר) man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (*nephesh*, soul)."

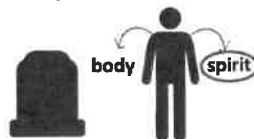
- These verbs suggest purpose, relationship, and accountability.
- Note the careful attention to detail, requiring skill and craftsmanship.

Charter of the Human Race

Genesis 1:27-28
²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Adam's Instructions (Gen 2)

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."



Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil

תַּעֲרָב, "knowledge which is of a personal, experimental nature" (TWOT); technical knowledge (HALOT); scientific knowledge (Morris).



Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil Tree of Life

Creation of Eve (Genesis 2)

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a **helper** (עֲזָרָה) **suitable** (רֵעָה) for him."

¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a **helper suitable** for him.

Creation of Eve (Genesis 2)

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

²² The LORD God **fashioned** into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Adam and Eve

God Created the Institution of Marriage. Jesus quoted Genesis 1:27 and 2:24, concluding, "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt 19:6).



1 Corinthians 11:7: man "is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man."

- At the end of Day 6, "God saw all the He had made, and behold, it was **very** good." (Gen 1:31)
- Adam and Eve lived in the lap of luxury. And there was only one prohibition: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

C2: Corruption (Genesis 3)

3:1, Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

- The serpent was Satan (Revelation 12:9 and 20:2), "the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan."
- The temptation was in the form of a **question**, to **doubt the truth of the word of God**. It's the same today, we are tempted to doubt God's word.

God's Interrogation

The all-knowing, omniscient God asks three questions:

1. He called to Adam, "Where are you? (v.9)"
2. To Adam, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat (v.11)?"
3. To Eve, "What have you done? (v.13)"

- God is a fair judge, giving the guilty their day in court.
- The questions invite honest answers.
- God listens.
- God is seeking repentant hearts (2 Peter 3:9).

Immediate Effects of Sin

Sin Corrupted Man's Human Relationships

3:7, they immediately became aware of their nakedness, an indication of self-awareness, self-centeredness. In response, they made coverings to hide their nakedness.



Sin Corrupted Man's Relationship with God

3:8, They heard the omniscient, all-knowing God walking in the garden and hid from him. They suffered a theological error from which all sinners are guilty, thinking it's possible to run from God, sin in secret and get away with it.



God Judges Satan

Genesis 3:14-15

"¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her **seed**; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

Verse 15 is the "First Gospel."

God Judges Eve

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶ To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

God's judgment upon Eve involved frustration in her relationship with her husband, and frustration in her conception. "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth (**conception**), In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

God Judges Adam

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

Were Adam and Eve Saved?

Gen 3:20, "Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living."

All people from all dispensations are saved by faith (Gen 15:6)

Adam rightly interpreted God's promise (Gen 3:15) that Eve is the hope of mankind's future, the "seed" who the Bible later reveals is Jesus Christ. In spite of the death sentence of sin, God would grant them eternal life beyond death.

God also validated their saving faith by making a covering for them (for their sin). In Genesis 3:21, "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."

Sin = Separation From God

Genesis 3:22, "Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"-- ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken."

- Reference to the Trinity "one of us" (Gen 3:22; cf. 1:5).
- Although created in God's image, Adam and Eve could no longer really be "like God" (3:5) on account of the corruption of sin.

Sin = Separation From God

- Sin rendered them in a state of eternal corruption, the only outcome would be judgment and death. God determined that they should not continue to live in a perverted state.
- By faith, Adam and Eve believed in a future redemption and resurrection of their bodies.
- Evidence of Adam's faith is seen in naming his wife Eve (lit., "living"). Thus Adam was looking to the future and not primarily to death.
- Eve's faith is manifested later (4:1) "when she named her firstborn Cain because he was from the Lord." (BKC).

Expulsion from the Garden

Genesis 3:23-24

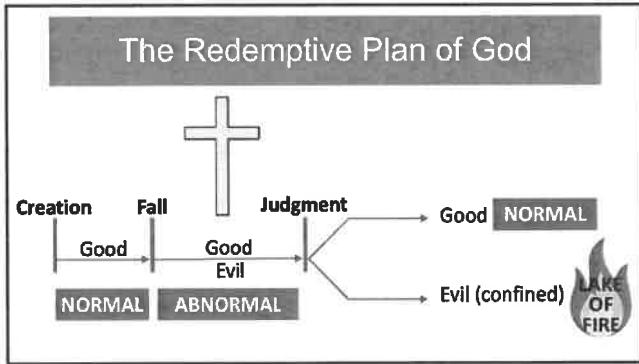
- The Tree of Life could keep them alive.
- Therefore necessary to deny access to the Tree.
- God had to drive them from the Garden.
- Unwilling to leave, God cast them out of the Garden by force.
- Cherubim prevented access to the Tree of Life.
- The Tree of Life doesn't reappear until the resurrection of the righteous. The purpose of the Tree of Life is for the "healing of the nations" (Rev 22:2).



Aftermath of the Fall

Romans 8:19-22, ¹⁹For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."





The Legacy of Sin

- Sin isn't a "thing" or a system or body of behavior or knowledge.
- Sin is anything that rejects or opposes God or His word.
- Absent the experience of sin, what would we know about God's:
 - ✓Holiness
 - ✓Judgment
 - ✓Grace and Mercy
 - ✓Love

The Glory of God (Eph 2)

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."
