Genesis 3 – The Fall

• Prior to the Fall, the cosmos existed without evil.
• Sin entered the creation through the sin of Adam (1 Cor 15:21).
• The Fall was a cosmic event (Rom 8:19-23).
• God has placed boundaries on evil.
• God established a redemptive plan in eternity past (Mt 25:34; Eph 1:4; Rev 13:8).
• Why does God allow suffering?
  ▪ This question is posed but not answered (Job).
  ▪ God denies He owes us such an answer.
  ▪ God expects us to trust Him.
Non-Christian religions ultimately fail because they trivialize evil and promote trivialized works-based salvation.

**Sin’s Damage to Human Beings:**
- The body - death penalty (Gen 2:17)
- The spirit – dead at birth (Eph 2; Jn 3:3, 7; 5:24; 1 Pet 1:3, 23)
- Though perverted by sin, we have descended from Adam, who was created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 5:3; 9:6).

**Sin’s Damage to Man’s Institutions**
- Marriage (Gen 3:16; Deut 24)
- Family (Gen 3:16; Deut 21; Eph 6:1-4)
- Workplace (Gen 1:26-28; 3:17-19)
- Societal Values (Rom 1:24-32)

**Present Implications**
- Suffering due to sin leaves no place for self-pity (2 Pet 2:13).
- Suffering for Christ is part of God’s will (Rom 8:17-18; Col 1:24; Heb 2:10; 1 Pet 2:19-23)
- Instead of asking how a loving God can send people to hell, we should be thankful that He sends people to heaven.
- When we pray for an end to evil, it is a cry for final judgment (2 Pet 3:9).
Genesis 4:2-5

Why Abel Was Right

"By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks." (Heb 11:4). [Mt 23:35, "righteous Abel"]

- Inseparable connection between the person and his offering.
- Salvation by faith in every dispensation

Genesis 4:2-5

Why Cain Was Wrong

1 John 3:11-15: "11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. [THELOGICAL] 13 Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

- Inseparable connection between faith and works (Jas 2:26).
- Faith qualifies us before God; works disqualify.
- Salvation is an individual, not corporate, matter.
- The act of murder is theological (Gen 9:6).

Genesis 4:6

"Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?"

Three Questions:
1. Why has it angered you?
2. Why has your face [countenance] fallen? (Why the downcast facial expression? Why do you feel depressed?)
3. If you do well, will you not be accepted?

- God didn’t ask questions to learn. Cain, like his parents, needed to consider his actions and repent.
- Cain gave no affirmative response. (First reprobate)
Genesis 4:7

"And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

"Sin" (κατατατ, חַטָּאת) is used throughout the Bible, 33 times in the Torah. 31 out of 33 times is translated "sin offering."

2 Cor 5:21: "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

"Crouching" (רָבַץ - to lie down or stretch out. Defensive posture, never used to describe aggressive behavior, always passive. ("Crouch" not used in BDB). Something a resting animal would do. Moses uses this word rabatz only 4 times:  
• here 
• Gen 49:9 a lion’s cub;  
• Gen 49:14 donkey lying down between sheepfolds; 
• Exod 23:5 a donkey lying down helplessly under its load.  

During the Millennium, Isa 11:6, "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down (rabatz) with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them."
Genesis 4:7

“And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

It is desire or longing (tshupah) to be your sacrifice. Word used here and in Song of Solomon 7:10, “I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.” (Sol 7:10 ESV)

You must master it (mashal) – appropriate it as yours, and submit as a sacrifice it to God.

This is the second Gospel.

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Little Tyke

- Born in a zoo in N. America
- Badly mauled by its mother
- Sent to a ranch in Washington
- Refusal to eat meat, her caretakers tried unsuccessfully to overcome
- Taurine is an essential dietary requirement for feline health, since cats cannot synthesize the compound. The absence of taurine causes a cat’s retina to slowly degenerate, causing eye problems and (eventually) irreversible blindness – a condition known as central retina degeneration (CRD), as well as hair loss and tooth decay.

Little Tyke

- At four years old, weighed 352 pounds, 10 feet 4 inches long, could run 40 miles per hour. Her skull, highly adapted to killing and eating prey, possessed short powerful jaws. Normally, African lions eat gnus, zebras, gazelles, impalas, and giraffes.
- Lived with lambs, dogs, cats, chickens and deer, in happy companionship.
- “And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down (rabatz) with the kid, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them,” (Isa 11:6).
Gen 4:8-12

Cain’s Curse

- Cain had corrupted the ground (his occupation).
- He would now be disenfranchised from his occupation.
- He would become a wanderer (vagrant, nomad).
- “Nod” (4:16) refers to an unknown territory.
- Cain built a city (4:17).

Why not the death penalty?
- Gen 9:6; Ex 20:13; 21:12; Num 35:12
- No Government

Gen 4:8-12

Cain’s Blessing

Cain would be spared the death penalty. Gen 9:6: 
“Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.”

Protection against one who “avenges the blood”
- Similar to cities of refuge (Num 35:9-34)
- Grace extended even now

A sign was put in place, designated, set up] for Cain to protect him from vengeance so that no one would kill him (4:15)

Sumerian Lyre ca. 2500 BC
Genesis 4:23-24

Song of the Sword
Adah and Zillah/wives of Lamech
Listen to me/hear my words
A man for wounding/a young man for injuring me
Seven times/seventy-seven times

Lamech

- Worst consequence of the judgment in 3:16:
  - Wife suffering under despotic husband [first]
  - “Mark what I say”
  - Humiliation of polygamy [first]
- Excessive reprisal (4:23) - (slaughter, harag, הָרַג) [used in 4:8] for a mere wounding (striking, chabburah, חַבּוּרָה) [first use]. Eve used this word (“slaughter”) in 4:25, see Ex. 21:25.
- Lamech’s gloating over a more ruthless reputation than Cain’s, like a badge of honor rather than a merciful provision.
- Schadenfreude [Prov 7:15; 24:17-18]

Gen 4:26

Birth of Enosh

- “Man” – emphasis on mortality, weakness, a need to be dependent upon God.
- Change in the pattern of behavior, a people group would worship the name of YHWH.
- John 4:23, “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.”