

As we read the first 3 chapters of Genesis, we feel the weight of what was lost in the fall. Everything was right and good and perfect as Adam and Eve lived in paradise enjoying unhindered intimacy with God and with one another. And then, in one jarring moment of disobedience at a tree, everything changed. The serpent slithers onto the scene and casts doubt on God's word and God's heart. Eve begins to listen to his lies and to long for the wisdom and life the serpent promises she will find doing things her own way. And in an act of cosmic treason, Eve takes the fruit and eats it and gives it to her husband. And at once, everything changed. The consequences for Adam and Eve were immediate but would pervade throughout all eternity—reaching even to you and to me. As sin and death were ushered in, paradise was lost. The perfect fellowship that existed between mankind and God was destroyed. And Adam and Eve find themselves hiding in shame and full of fear. If anyone's to blame, it's Eve. Right? If anyone's to blame for the mess of sin and brokenness we experience today, it's Eve. Forever, she, along with Adam, will bear the responsibility of sin entering humanity and separating us from God.

But praise God, the story doesn't end there. Instead, in His great kindness and mercy, God comes searching after them. He pursues them with questions and provides garments to cover their shame. And in the very same breath that he announces the curse that will flow from their

disobedience, He announces His plan to reverse it— to rescue his people and restore them to right relationship with Him. That plan was a PERSON- the person of Jesus- who would come to earth and through his life, death, and resurrection ultimately crush the serpent and reverse the curse of sin and death.

And while we marvel at the merciful plan, we also marvel at the merciful means through which it would come. This plan that would ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus would find its beginning in the womb of Eve! In his first great act of reversal, God would ensure that more than bearing the blame, Eve would bear the promise. The one who ushered sin into the world, would be the first womb in a long lineage that would eventually usher the Savior into the world. In His great mercy, God would use the one who brought death into the world to be the first one to bring life into it. And isn't that just like our God? Bringing life out of death.

Which is such a good reminder for us, isn't it? From its very start, the family line of Jesus was made of broken people who had less than perfect records. But God is the great redeemer- the great reverser- and He uses broken people to accomplish his purposes. Amazing Grace!

PRAYER

God, thank you for your mercy and for the hope that jumps off these first pages of scripture- the promise that you do not leave us alone in our sin, but you come to us and you rescue us and use us to carry out your purposes and bring life into this broken world. Amen.



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