

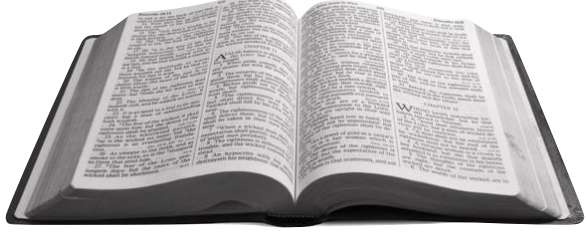
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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Genesis 3
Lesson #7
Soul Sorrow
02/17/2019


How to read the Old Testament



1

The purpose of this series of lessons

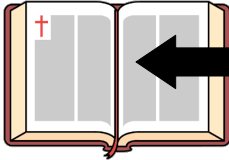
- This is **not primarily a survey or exposition** of the O.T.'s texts.
- It is a **guide** in how to **navigate** the O.T. text from the perspective of the N.T. message.
- All scripture is written **for** us but not **about** us or **to** us.
- **Context** (literary, theological, cultural) is critical.
- Recognizing **our own cultural bias** is vital.



2

Traditional cultures


Ancient culture



ancient cosmology, political dueling, concubines, slavery, etc.

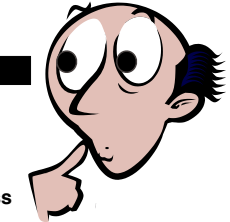
Modern Western culture

Early American culture



Pluralism
Democracy
Narcissism
Materialism

Autonomy
Pragmatism
Individualism
Permissiveness




It's easier to critique past culture's lenses than ours.

3

How are we to understand the human dilemma?


Gen.3



4

“Man, whence is he?
Too bad to be the work
of a god, too good
for the work of
chance.”

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
(German poet philosopher)



5

The relationship between Genesis 1, 2, and 3

The Bible exists because of the truths revealed in one single chapter

Genesis 3

What is the nature of our soul's sorrow and where is there hope?

6

Partial insights into the source of human suffering

1. Ancient cultures - "displeasing the gods"

- The gods were **linked to natural forces**.
- The gods were **erratic**.

2. Modern cultures - "being out of harmony with the environment"

- It has to do with **social injustice** - distribution of material goods and services. (Marxism)
- It has to do with **attachment / expectations** concerning worldly things. (Buddhism)



Answers from Genesis

- Genesis offers a foundational narrative that explains the human dilemma.

Creation

Genesis 1	Genesis 2
	Genesis 2
	Genesis 3

The Fall

- The story of "The Fall" reveals the root issue - **spiritual rebellion**.

8

Genesis 2

"¹⁵ Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to **cultivate** it and **keep** it."

Adam's **stewardship of the creation**.

"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**."

Adam's **warning that bearing God's image may tempt him to be like God**.

Genesis 3:5

"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God, knowing good and evil**."

Could "knowing good and evil" mean **defining the parameters of morality**.

9

Genesis 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?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

- **Our relationship with God is the root of our dilemma** - the free choice to trust and obey or rebel and die.

10

The human dilemma started when Adam & Eve decided they should be nouns rather than adjectives.

C.S. Lewis



11

“⁴ The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! ⁵ “For God knows that in the day 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 tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate;”

- **Seeing this worldly environment as the answer to our deepest longings is the path to sin and death.**

12

“A heretic is a man who sees with his own eyes.”

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
(German poet philosopher)



13

“⁶ . . . and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

- **Inner Shame and false hope feed outer social conflict and suffering.**

Genesis 3

“¹² The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.””

14

God’s grace and protection is hinted at in Genesis 3 but explained in the N.T.

Genesis 3:15 The curse on Satan

“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.”

Genesis 3:22

“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, . . .”

15

Four N.T. texts that explain Gen.3

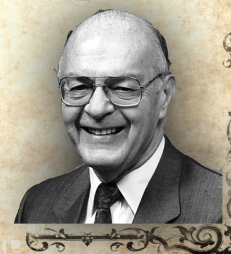
(1) Romans 1

“¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. . . . ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,”

16

The Fall reduced humanity to ticks looking for a dog.

Howard Hendricks



17

(2) James 4 "The Fruit of the Fall"

Unmet longings

"1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?"

Lust and Envy

"2 You lust and do not have; . . . and you are envious and cannot obtain;

SOCIAL CONFLICTS

so you commit murder. . . so you fight and quarrel.

Empty religion

You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."

18

Fruit of the Fall in Genesis 3-11

Gen.3 God's gracious visual aids (reminders)

- Male domination
- Painful childbearing
- Physical death

Gen.4 Cain & Abel - Social injustice

Gen.5-11 Noah & Tower of Babel - Judgment and preservation

The rest of the O.T. - Abraham's family struggles.



19

Abraham's family story

- bears witness to the Fall - judgment, patience, and hope of God.



- The O.T. is a story of human dignity, depravity, and hope.



20

Original sin

All humanity is imputed with Adam's sin as well as 1) a propensity to sin (sin nature) and 2) free choices to commit acts of sin.

Three great imputations



21

(3) Romans 5:12-19

"19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."

(4) 1 Corinthians 15:22

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."

All who are
in Adam die.

All who are in Christ
are made alive.

22

Ephesians 2

"1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. . . . 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), . . ."

All who are
in Adam die.

All who are in Christ
are made alive.

23

The three strikes of sin

Imputed sin from Adam	Inherited sin from parents	Individual sin from volition
We are united with and in Adam, sharing his guilt and shame.	We are sinners by nature before we actually do anything wrong.	We make choices that reflect our fallen nature.
Original sin	Old sin nature	Acts of sin
"death"	"shame"	"guilt"

1. We are united with Adam in his spiritual rebellion.
2. We have a natural impulse toward active or passive rebellion against God.
3. We too often yield to that impulse.

24

How does Judaism understand its HOPE?

"In Judaism, the estrangement caused by the innate human appetite for evil does not require an act of messianic redemption to be healed. Rather, the practice and study of Torah renews intimacy with the God of Israel and leads to eternal life. The Holy One created the evil inclination; He created Torah as its antidote."

Talmudic Tractate 16a

25

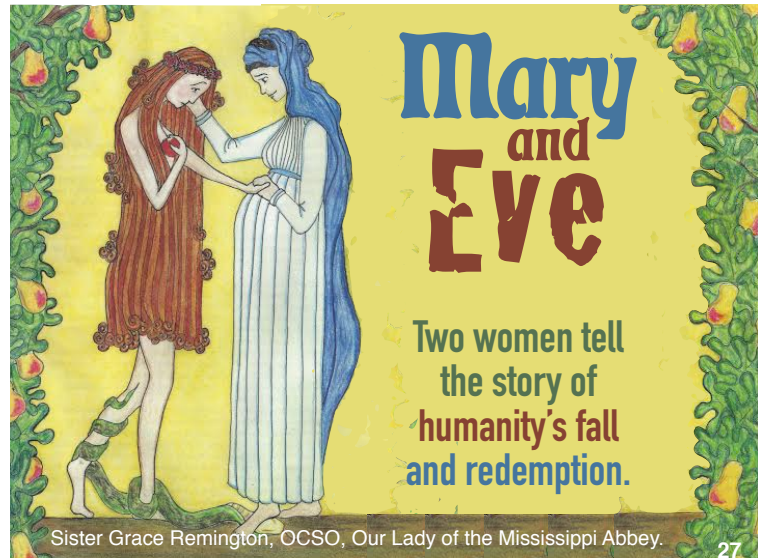
John 5

"³⁹ You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life."

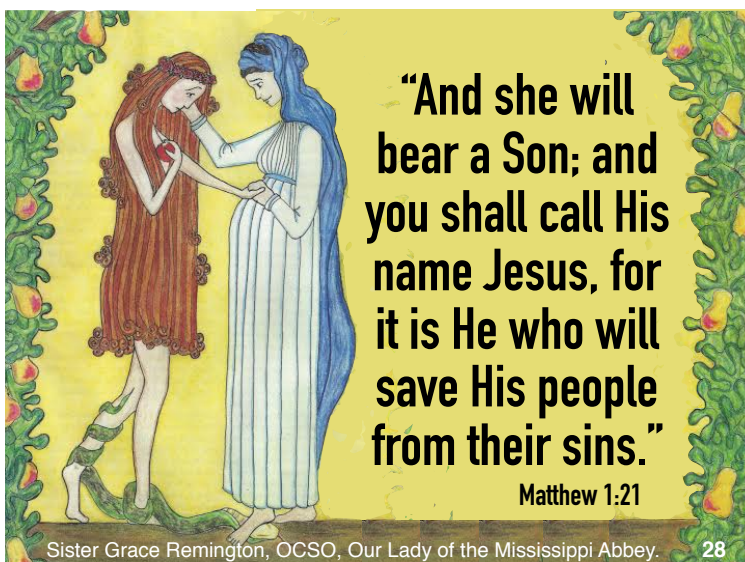
Luke 24:27

"Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, he explained to them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures."

26



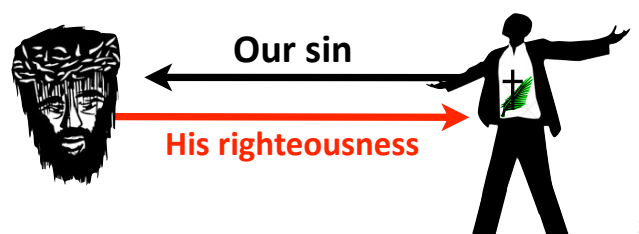
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28

2 Corinthians 5:21

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



29