

From safe to dangerous

What safe situations can become dangerous?

The world was a perfect place

- Adam & Eve were vulnerable without danger
- Everything was perfectly good!

How did good things become bad?

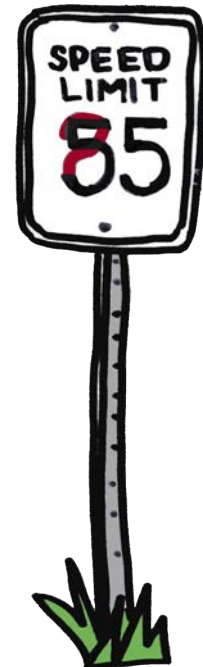
Over and over again...

Pray: "Correct me"

1

A Little Wrong and a Big Problem Genesis 3

ref.ly/Ge3;niv



2

When trouble begins

The book of Genesis = Beginnings

- The only ancient origin story where humanity goes from paradise to judgment
- What happened?

3

A very rich passage!

- Lots of disagreements and questions!
- We'll try to focus on what is clear

4

Questions that matter to us that the text largely ignores

- How could a serpent speak?
- How did the serpent (or Satan) become evil in a good creation?
- What would have happened if Adam & Eve never sinned?
- Was sin inevitable?
- Adam's roles? human, man, husband, head
- And more...

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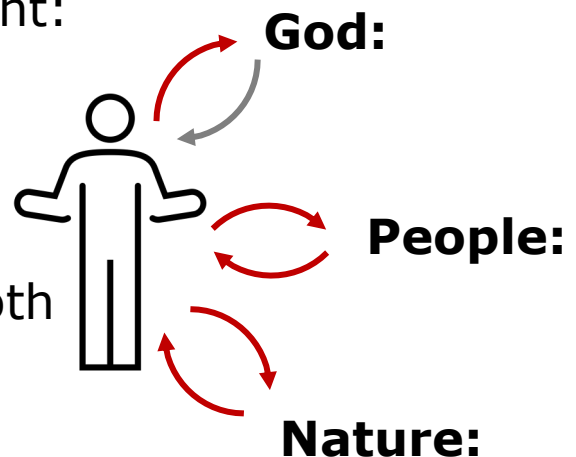
Genesis 2

God's beautiful design was to make people mutually dependent:

Adam: guard

Eve: fit helper

"Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." Genesis 2:25



6

Genesis 3:1-7

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.'"

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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." **Lawmaker**

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.

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Genesis 3:8-19

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?"

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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."

10

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."

11

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."

12

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."

13

Genesis 3:20-24

20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become **the mother of all the living**

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and **clothed them.** 22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become **like one of us**, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from **the tree of life** and eat, and live forever."

They acted in God's role as moral judge

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²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

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The Main Point

The world fell from paradise to chaotic and deadly trouble when they failed in their God-given roles

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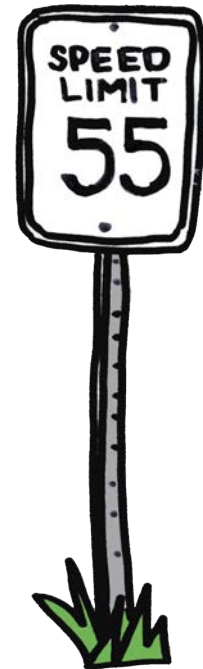
The Main Point

The world fell from paradise
to chaotic and deadly trouble
when they failed in their God-given roles

Woman	Fit helper	Moral judge Advocate for disobedience
Man	Guard	Passive acceptance

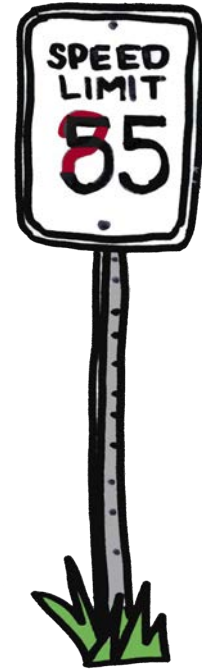
17

Proper authorities make laws
Proper authorities enforce laws



18

Proper authorities make laws
Proper authorities enforce laws
Sometimes people take over those roles



19

Proper authorities make laws
Proper authorities enforce laws
Sometimes people take over those roles



20

Proper authorities make laws
 Proper authorities enforce laws
 Sometimes people take over those roles



21

God is the only one who is wise and
 good enough to make good laws
 Satan prompted Eve to **question those
 laws...and the law giver**
 Eve chose to rewrite the laws
 (she became like God)
 Eve **invited Adam to join her**
 Adam **didn't resist or correct or guard**
Their actions
changed creation
from being good and safe
to being broken and dangerous



22

Central to Sin is...

putting human judgment above divine command

➤ actively or passively, leader or follower

Judges: "In those days Israel had no king;
everyone did as they saw fit." Judges 21:25

My colleague: "I will only believe what makes
sense to me."

"Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes
and clever in their own sight." Isaiah 5:21

23

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And it keeps happening every day

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Application

Submit to God and His commands

- His commands are always an expression of His love for us
- He is the only one who knows what is best and most life-giving
- Our understanding and goodness always fall far short of God's understanding and goodness
- Different people have different roles

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Application

Submit to God as a helper

- Don't be an unwitting advocate for rebellion
- by words or by actions
- Like Peter to Jesus

26

Application

Submit to God as a guardian

- Actively guard God's teaching and ways

27

Application

Confess to God when we stray

- We keep acting as though we know better than God
- We keep treating God as though He does not truly love us
- Stop hiding and come into God's presence, so He can clothe us
- God already knows, and is waiting for us

28

A Second Adam

The first Adam failed:

“many died by the trespass of the first man”

The second Adam (Jesus Christ)

won the victory for all who will trust in Him!

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also **through the obedience of the one man many will be made righteous.**” Romans 5:17

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Hope in Confession

Cherubim guarded access to Tree of Life

Cherubim on temple curtain guarded access to God's presence in the Holy of Holies

When Jesus died, the curtain was torn in two
the cherubim stepped aside
and no longer prevented access
to those who are in Christ!

Our hope is in Christ our rescuer!

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