

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Life Through
Devastation

Speaker:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 3:1-24

Theme: Life shines through the devastation of the fall and refreshes us.

Introduction: Scripture contains many stories of God working to save his people during times of incredible darkness, such as the miraculous survival of Moses during Pharaoh's purge in Egypt. Stories like this point to the ultimate rescue that came through Jesus; and they all point back to the crisis that originated in Gen 3, and to the hope that the Lord included even in the midst of profound rebellion.

We can consider the story within the story under 3 points:

1. Man fails the test (1-8)

The serpent was part of God's creation; but he became a tool of the devil, used to entice man to rebel against God. He is the deceiver (Rev 12:9).

The test of the tree was whether man would trust in God, or would seek to replace God by trying to assume divine knowledge and power in the world.

The serpent tempts in several clever ways: he goes to the woman (undermining God's order), he mixes truth and falsehood, and he accuses God of evil.

Eve eats and gives to Adam, breaking the covenant and ushering in death and judgment. Instead of enlightenment, they realized their nakedness and shame.

2. The consequences explain our experience (9-19)

The fall of man explains our world, our struggles, and the state of our hearts. It also prepares us for the answer to our problems in Christ.

After the shame of sin, man begins to blame-shift. The Lord holds Adam accountable first because he had been entrusted with authority.

The Lord then curses the disobedient, beginning with the serpent, then the woman, and finally the man. Woman and man are cursed in their areas of primary purpose (childbirth and relation to man; hardship in dominion/work).

Yet the Lord promises redemption through the seed of the woman. He will raise up a Deliverer who will crush the serpent's head.

As Christian men embrace their God-given responsibilities, we can work to undo the curse and to bring blessing. Much evil comes when men abdicate their charge.

3. But God's stance heartens us (20-24)

Even after the curse, there are many signs of life. The Lord shows contempt for the enemy and he will be defeated (Rom 16:20).

The Lord also shows his goodness toward us in many ways, including especially in his compassion toward us in our weakness (Psalm 103:14).

Questions:

1. How do you struggle with discontent and envy?
2. Are you ashamed? How can you apply God's grace to your sin and suffering?
3. How do you want to grow in embracing your God-given responsibilities?