

What Went Wrong?
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Gen 3:1-7 and Rom 1:18-24
Dr. Jeff McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

Two weeks ago I told you that the Bible is a story, a take on universal history. It is the story within which we find our story. Today we pick up the story again. There is something that is out of joint in the world's story. What went wrong?

Scripture teaches that to be fully human is to live in obedience to God's command and prohibition, with the temptation to do otherwise lurking in our minds. What went wrong? You and I chose/choose to be less than human.

This week we look at the *reason* behind what went wrong. Next week we look at the *results* of what went wrong.

I.

Is Something Wrong?

Rom 1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools

Everyone has a story (two weeks ago): Elements

Basic World View Questions: 4

1. Who are we?
2. Where are we?
3. What's wrong?
4. What's the solution?

Bible's answer to #1 and #2

Who? = created in image of a good God

Where? = cosmos that is not divine but created by a good God

Question 3# What's wrong: Possible answers

1. No wrong (Materialist) beyond good and evil (Nietzsche)
2. Wrong is an illusion (Christian Science)
3. Right and Wrong in a cosmic battle (Star Wars)

Look at each diagnosis:

Holocaust 6 plus million
Stalin killing in the Gulag and elsewhere
Khmer Rouge killing fields
9/11
Starvation in Somalia

Young Dugard girl recently

Movie: Grand Canyon 90's: Plantinga p.7

Danny Glover and Kevin Kline (car breaks down, hoodlums)
“Everything is supposed to be different than what it is here.”

*What went wrong here?

II.

Bible's Story: Human Sin

Gen 3:6 The tree was desired to make on wise

READ Gen 3:1-7 and tell the story

-connect to Gen 2:15-17 (command/prohibition)

-snake = not Satan (can't blame the devil! Flip Wilson)

-watch dialogue:

1 snake pushes

3 woman extends “touch”

4 snake challenges (temptation)

*What is the temptation? Do bad things? NO

5 be like God = not be human

Human =

created 6th day with animals, limited, in image of God, but not
God, live with command, prohibition, temptation (choice)

6 choice (words “desired” = covet Exod 20:17)

7 both there!

8 result = play on words (crafty 1, naked 7)

Human Sin: Definition

Two word fields and a personal disruption:

Overstepping

Missing mark

Personal disruption

READ Psalm 51:1-4

1. Overstepping = **transgression** = *peshah/paraptoma* = crime, see this in Adam and Eve's desire to be like God
2. Missing mark = **sin** = *hata/hamartia* = wandering/not making it; see this in Adam and Eve's deliberate suppression of the truth from God (not only sin because we are ignorant, we are ignorant because we sin); suppress the truth
3. Personal = has to do with **God** and human relationships

*Sin is overstepping, missing the mark, and distorts our person, relation to God. Sin disrupts God's creation/shalom = how things are supposed to be.

What's wrong with world story? Human sin

III.

Our Story: Does the Shoe Fit?

Rom 1:21 For though they knew God, they did not honor him

READ Romans 1:18-24 Paul's analysis of Gen 3

- We knew God and commands
- We see evidence of God in the creation
- We suppress this and become darkened
- We worship something, either God or idols
- This choice (Gen 3) distorts everything = less than human

Fine theology but does the shoe fit? Examples

- How do we live with limitations, boundaries, humanness?
- Do we desire more than being human?
- Do we suppress the truth? Step over boundaries, miss mark?

IV.

Our Story: Then Wear It

Matt 4:10 Worship the Lord your God and serve only him

Question #4 What's the solution?

In Jesus Christ, we have been given a restored identity

- we do not have to make the bad choice anymore
- we are given Holy Spirit to guide us
- we can choose the right, deny the wrong

*How does this happen?

What if Gen 3 went another way?

- Gen 3 (Temptation)
- Matt 4:1-11 (Temptation)

In Jesus Christ we can become human again
Say yes to Jesus and begin the restoration