

# THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

## Genesis 3:14-19

### INTRODUCTION

**Illustration** – On Aug 21, 2013, the New York Times published an article by Adam Frank – “Welcome to the Age of Denial”. The article begins: *“In 1982, polls showed that 44% of Americans believed God had created human beings in their present form. Thirty years later, the fraction of the population who are creationists is 46%.”*

So ... 46% is a “fraction of the population”?? There is a huge percentage of the population that hasn’t bought the idea of evolution.

Blessing for Obedience  
Curses for Disobedience

### READ Gen 3:14-19

God aligns the external environment with the internal heart.

#### **Proposition: 3 Judgments:**

- I. The Serpent**
- II. The Woman**
- III. The Man**

To each: God pronounces His judgment on their life function and on their relationships.

There is judgment for the serpent.

There is judgment and grace for the woman and the man.

**So That:** We understand the severity of sin and the hope in the midst of the judgment.

## **First Judgment ...**

### **I. Serpent**

**Gen 3:14-15**

Point –v. 14 – Curse primarily on the snake (physical creature)

v. 15 – Curse primarily on Satan (agent behind the snake)

#### **A. Snake**

Point – The craftiest animal (3:1) now becomes the loneliest and strangest animal

- there is **humiliation** and **subjugation that is part of God’s judgment on the snake**

Chrysostom – an early church pastor from the 4th century said this:

God destroys the instrument that brought Man to fall *“just as a loving father, when punishing the murderer of his son, might snap in two the sword or dagger with which the murder had been committed.”*

Proof – **Gen 3:14** – **“And the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, And dust shall you eat All the days of your life;”**

“bless” is used three times in **Gen 1:1-2:3**

“**curse**” is used three times in this *toledoth* (the Hebrew word for generations - an account of the generations of the Heavens and Earth in **2:4** and then on to people; **2:4–4:26**)

- sin has entered the world
- what was lost in the Fall
- banishment from the place of blessing

“**more than every beast of the field**” – all of the animal kingdom is affected by the Fall and this curse, but the serpent “**more**”

### Humiliation

“**On your belly shall you go**” → there is some kind of physical change that takes place in the serpent

Satan desired to exalt himself – **Isa 14; Ezek 28**

- God cast him out of heaven.
- in the same way ... the Serpent is brought down to slither on his belly
- this is a symbol, a reminder for us
- the serpent must have been a beautiful and upright creature

We can only imagine what kind of reaction of horror Adam and Eve must have had when they witnessed the transformation of this once beautiful creature into the hissing and slithering snake. What should they expect from God but the same??

### Subjugation

“**And dust shall you eat All the days of your life**”

God’s judgment matches the sin.

**Illustration– Exod 21:23-25 – “you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, <sup>24</sup>eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup>burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise”**

In the same way, he who tempted Eve to eat will now “**eat dust**”

- to “**eat dust**” is to experience defeat

Continues as a reminder even during the millennium.

**Isa 65:25 – “The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,’ says the LORD”**

From snake to.....

### **B. Satan**

Point – this begins the conflict between good and evil

Proof – **Gen 3:15 – “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.”**

**“enmity between you and the woman”**

**Illustration** - A few years ago, the Animal Planet television channel broadcast a program on the most extreme, top 10 deadliest animals to man. Crunching the numbers, they found that there were more human deaths per year attributed to #1 on the list than #2-10 combined. Number one on the list was ... snakes.

And this word “**enmity**” brings out more than mere hostility with a dumb animal. The Hebrew word brings out the conflict between moral responsible agents.

**“bruise”** – crushing blow to the head vs. crippling blow to the heel

- fatal blow vs. wounding

This is where we begin to see judgment for the serpent and judgment and grace for the woman and the man

Point → victory for the woman's seed

This is the verse that theologians call *protoevangelium* – the first Gospel/Good News – **Rom 16:20 – “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”**

The only remains of a crucified man ever found had the spike driven through the heels.

“**your seed**” – spiritual fatherhood

**John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.”**

- Christ speaking to the corrupt leaders of Israel
- Satan is the father of those who lie

Sets the stage for the ongoing contrast between:

- God's children and the enemies of the gospel
- Cain and Abel and then a contrast between ungodly Cain and godly Seth

**Second Judgment ...**

**II. Woman**

**Gen 3:16**

Point – Man sins. God punishes. God also protects and provides.

God's judgment on the **woman** and the **man** is in the domain of their primary responsibility, their highest fulfillment.

The judgment comes in her area of primary responsibility

→ the **home**

- Creation Ordinance

Proof – **Gen 3:16** – “**To the woman He said, ‘I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.’**”

- it affects and influences her relationships with her **children**
- it affects and influences her relationship with her **husband**

**“greatly multiply your pain in childbirth”**

Pre-fall “**pain**” was protective; not punitive

- Adam's toe would have hurt if he stubbed it

What about **Rev 21:4**?? Exactly.

- The state of glorified redemption in **Heaven** is greater than state of innocence in **Eden**.

**“In pain you shall bring forth children”** – parallelism with slight variation

- broadens the scope from the physical pain at birth to the toil and struggle in child-bearing and child-rearing

The conceptions will also be multiplied

- because it will take more conceptions and births to fill the earth
- before the fall/curse, there was no death

If Eve had been judged similar to the serpent, she would have been childless, barren (“banned”)

- because the mercy and grace of God intervenes, she will not be barren

It also affects her relationship with her **husband**.

**“your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”** – the beginning of the “Battle of the Sexes”

The Fall perverts the headship. It does not reverse the headship.

- attempt to defy the God-ordained hierarchical relationship
- because there was a defiance of the God-ordained roles, this will be an ongoing arena of temptation, struggle, and sin

**“your desire shall be for your husband”**

Point – This is the birth of the feminist movement.

- this is the birth of the “women’s liberation” movement
- here has been rebellion against the authority of man ever since

Proof – **Gen 4:7** – sin’s attempt to master and control

**“And he shall rule over you”** – The husband will dominate and lord over, rather than sacrificial servant-leadership

The exploitation of women by sinful men is conspicuous because it is often harsh and violent. This is demonstrated vividly in many cultures of the world, Islamic cultures for example.

But exploitation of men by sinful women is just as pervasive in our society. The difference is our sinful society sanctions the one perversity and not the other.

**Question:** How does a woman today live victoriously under the curse? How does a woman today have the original creation order and ordinance be a **blessing** not a **curse**??

**Answer:** 1 Tim 2:14-15 – “*it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.* <sup>15</sup>*But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.*”

**Third Judgment ...**

**III. Man**

**Gen 3:17-19**

Proof – Gen 3:17a – “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat from it;”’”

“**Adam**” – first time we see the proper name (no definite article)

- God is getting personal with him

Similar to previous dialogue, God’s statement to the man (now monologue) is lengthier than His dialogue with the woman.

Hebrew from the lesser to the greater

- the man’s judgment is greater than the woman’s
- full force of the judgment falls on the man

“**you**” is second person, masculine, singular

- He is talking to Adam and Adam alone

**“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife”** – Adam obeyed Eve rather than God ... in defiance .... twisted.

- perversion and twisting of God’s original creation ordinance

## The Curse

Point – The judgment comes in his area of primary responsibility

- the **field** (workplace) – Creation Ordinance

**“curse”** → what was lost in the Fall

- banishment from the place of blessing

Proof – **Gen 3:17b** – **“Cursed is the ground because of you;”**

God created the material universe, animal world, and man.

The judgment falls on: the same ..., ..., ...; all three components are experiencing an affect of the sin.

**“Cursed is the ground”** – lack of water, problems with the soil, problems with weeds, with the elements, the weather, destructive animals, destructive birds, destructive organisms and insects.

**Jer 12:4** – **“How long is the land to mourn And the vegetation of the countryside to wither? For the wickedness of those who dwell in it, Animals and birds have been snatched away”**

Some may ask what is the point of a deer breaking its leg in the woods with no one around ... **Gen 3:17** gives the answer.

**“because of you”**

This is the grammar of accountability

- **“Because you ... Because of you ... Because”** (three times)
- **Rom 8:20,22** – creation is subjected to vanity and is groaning because of the sin of man

## **CONCLUSION**

In the final analysis, the greatest mercy of God is seen in His taking the full curse of the punishment of our sin on Himself at Calvary. This is why Adam and Eve are not directly cursed.

Did sin bring pain in childbirth? No pain is equal to that of Jesus who bore infinite pain in order to bring many children into glory.

Did sin usher in thorns? Jesus wore a crown of thorns.

Did sin bring sweat? Jesus sweated great drops of blood.

Did sin bring death? Jesus tasted death for everyone who belongs to Him.

**Gal 3:19** – **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”**