

# The Lie that Broke the World

Genesis 3:1–24

*An Expository Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing*

## Big Idea

God is reclaiming a sin broken world through the promised victory of His grace in Christ.

## I. Sin starts when we listen to the wrong voice and doubt who God is (vv. 1–5)

- The serpent appears, craftier than any other creature God made. Behind the serpent stands Satan, a rebel spiritual being.
- His goal is to drag humanity into the same rebellion, right in the middle of God’s garden.
- He begins with a question, not an accusation.
  - “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”
  - He twists God’s generous command into something stingy and restrictive.
- Eve replies, but she adds, “neither shall you touch it,” which God did not say.
  - This is how suspicion starts, either by loosening God’s word or by making it sound harsher than it is.
- Then the serpent moves from twisting to denying.
  - “You will not surely die.”
  - He attacks God’s character, saying God is holding them back.
- **The temptation is not just about fruit. It is about who gets to define good and evil.**
- Every temptation asks the same question:
  - Who will I believe in this moment, God or the deceiver?

## II. Sin lures us in while quietly dragging us away from God (vv. 6–13)

- Eve looks at the tree and evaluates it on her own terms.
  - Good for food.
  - Delight to the eyes.
  - Desired to make one wise.
- She moves from seeing, to taking, to eating, then to handing it to Adam. He eats.

- Sin rarely stays private. It spreads into homes and relationships.
- Adam is “with her.” He is silent when he should have spoken.
  - God called him to work and keep the garden, to protect his wife with God’s truth.
  - His first failure is not the bite, but his silence.
- Their eyes are opened, but not into freedom, into shame.
  - They know they are naked, so they hide and try to cover themselves with fig leaves.
  - We still do the same, hiding behind image, excuses, and self protection.
- God comes walking in the garden and calls, “Where are you?”
  - Not for information, but as an invitation into the light.
- Adam blames Eve and God.
  - “The woman whom you gave to be with me...”
- Eve blames the serpent.
  - “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
- Life Truth: Sin looks reasonable and desirable until we are standing in the ruins it leaves.

### **III. God meets sinners with both curse and promise to open a path of hope (vv. 14–24)**

#### **1. Judgment on the serpent (vv. 14–15)**

- God curses the serpent to humiliation, eating dust.
- He promises ongoing conflict between the serpent’s offspring and the woman’s offspring.
- One particular offspring will come.
  - The serpent will bruise His heel.
  - He will crush the serpent’s head.
- This is the first announcement of the gospel. It points forward to Christ who will defeat Satan through the cross and resurrection.

#### **2. Judgment on the woman (v. 16)**

- Pain in childbearing multiplies.
- Relationship with her husband becomes marked by conflict and power struggles.
- The blessing of family remains, but it is now touched by pain and tension.

### 3. Judgment on the man (vv. 17–19)

- Because Adam listened to another voice over God's, the ground is cursed.
- Work becomes toil, sweat, and frustration.
- Death enters the story.
  - "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

### 4. Mercy in the middle of judgment (vv. 20–24)


- Adam names his wife Eve, "the mother of all living."
  - He believes God's promise that life will still come through her line.
- God clothes them with garments of skin.
  - Their fig leaves were not enough.
  - God covers their shame, hinting that a life will be given for their covering.
- God drives them out of the garden and blocks the way to the tree of life.
  - This is judgment, but it is also mercy.
  - He will not let them live forever in a cursed state. He is preserving the way for a better salvation.

## Conclusion: The Gate That Was Shut and the Way That Is Open


- Revelation ends not with a closed garden but with a restored one, a new heaven and new earth, a river of life, and the tree of life for the healing of the nations. No more curse. No more hiding. No more distance.
- The gate that was shut in Genesis is open in Christ.
- **The question now is simple:**  
"Will you continue to believe the lie that broke the world, or will you come to the One who tells the truth and gives life?"

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