

Discussion Notes

Beginnings: What went wrong (Pt. II)? Genesis 3

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How does our story start? The beginning of a story makes sense of the rest. Genesis 1-3 sheds light on our God-given nature and purpose. Here we begin again, rediscovering the origin of our humanity and hope. This nine-week series will ask questions like: Who made us? Who are we? Why are we here?

Cain and Abel

- After expulsion from the Garden, Eve has children.
- Cain's sacrifice is not his best offering and God gives good fatherly advice: Do what is right!
- Cain is spared after receiving the consequences for striking down Abel, and the bloodline continues with the birth of Seth.

The Old Testament and Christ

- Gen. 3.15 is the "Protoevangelium"—the first hint of Jesus' coming in Scripture.
- The Serpent will be crushed and Jesus will only be hurt momentarily.
- The Old Testament is full of imagery pointing to Jesus—sacrifices, songs, Exodus, wisdom literature, etc.
- Lev. 23.27-28—yearly sacrifice of Goat for the sin of the people, the other "scapegoat" has sins placed on it by priest and is released into the wilderness.
- Exodus 29.38-41 daily sacrifice of two perfect lambs.
- Heb. 10.1-7 shows that the old system was a precursor to Christ's sacrifice. Their problem was their impermanence.

The Cross

- The redemption story has been on its way from the very start. God makes a way forward after human failure.
- Jesus' sacrifice does more than deal with sin and consequence, it restores relationships.
- Rom. 3.23-25 demonstrates that sacrifice of his perfect Son was a gift from God.
- God forces no-one to accept this gift, but all must make a choice.
- Acceptance requires thoughtful examination of our lives and repentance.
- While we still mess up, the cross has us covered.

Discussion Questions

- Describe a time when you got good advice and didn't follow it.
- How has God made a way for you through some of your missteps?
- When was a time someone forgave you? How did it feel?
- What are the benefits of maintaining belief in the seriousness of sin and the free gift of grace?