

God's Mercy in Judgment

Introduction & Review

- The consequences of sin for the serpent involved a curse from God that included humiliation & ultimate defeat (Gen. 3:14-15).
- The consequences of sin for the woman included pain in childbearing & reluctant submission in marriage (Gen. 3:16).
- The consequences of sin for the man included pain in working to provide family's needs & physical death (Gen. 3:17-19).
- The consequences of sin for the woman & man **were not a curse** from God, but a penalty & life-long reminder for disobedience.
- The consequences of sin for the woman & man was immediate spiritual death & ultimately physical death (Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1f)

I. Hope After God's Judgment

A. Procreation (Gen. 3:20)

God made & named Adam (2:7). Adam was given the responsibility to name all other living creatures, including Eve (2:19). This was his God-given authority before & after he sinned. Before he sinned, Adam called Eve "Woman" (2:23) & after he sinned he named her "Eve". Adam demonstrates faith in her name – "the mother of all living" (1:28; 3:16). All of humanity has Eve as our mother.

B. Provision (Gen. 3:21)

*God Himself **made** clothing that is appropriate for them to live in the sin infected world. The death of an animal was necessary to meet Adam & Eve's needs after their sin. This foreshadows the offering & sacrificial system yet to come which will culminate with the sacrifice of Christ. Adam & Eve now experience the first death after their sin – *an animal dies to provide for them. God Himself provided the sacrifice!**

II. Mercy in God's Judgment

A. Mercy inside the garden (Gen. 3:22)

As an angel, Satan wanted to be exalted & independent (Is. 14:12-14). Satan tempted Adam & Eve with the prideful desire for knowledge to be independent (Gen. 3:5). No one will ever be wise enough to be independent of God. Neither the devil nor mankind can wisely handle the knowledge of God alone without sinning – "the man has become like one of us...". Preventing Adam & Eve from living eternally in that fallen condition was an act of mercy (Gen. 3:22b).

APPL: Adam & Eve want the blessings of God without obeying Him. If left in the garden, they would continue to do so forever – tree of life. This is a natural, unbelieving response to God's blessings – mixed multitude with Israel, multitudes that Jesus fed, healed, protected... even Judas. The garden of Eden (pleasure) is for those who love & obey God!

B. Mercy outside the garden (Gen. 3:23-24)

God commanded & forced Adam & Eve to leave the garden of Eden – "God sent him out", "He drove out the man". They cannot stay even though they are grieved & maybe even repentant – consequences. This pleasure & blessing has ended for the rest of their lives & all of humanity. God still ensured that their needs would be met – though with difficulty (v. 23; Hab. 3:2c). This judgment was irrevocable & no one can gain a right relationship with God & eternal life by their own efforts (v. 24).

ILL: Samson had sweet fellowship with God & miraculous power from God while he obeyed. When he disobeyed he lost both the fellowship & power while becoming weak like other men.

APPL: The same is true of believers today. We can have sweet fellowship, power, provision, protection, etc. from God, but we must love & obey Him. To disobey is to jeopardize & lose these blessings with awful consequences.