

Week 5 The Great Story

Gospel from this week: Matt 22:34-40

Tonight:

- **Pray**
- **3 stages of our relationship with God**
 - **A bit about Sin**
 - **God's rescue plan**

Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of
your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow
love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are
pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

The 3 Periods of History

Original justice:

Ordered and
graced

Us and God

Us and ourselves

Us and each other

Us and nature



Original Sin:

Disordered and
dis-graced

w/ God

w/ ourselves

w/ each other

w/nature



Restoration in Christ

Supernaturally
healed

Re-ordered and re-
graced:

w/ God

w/ ourselves

w/ each other

w/ nature

Original Justice: In the Garden

- Proper balance internally and eternally
- 4 main relationships of man properly ordered:
 - 1 Us to God
 - 2 Human to human
 - 3 Humans to ourselves
 - 4 Humans with Nature

Imago Dei

- We were made in God's image and likeness
- **Special: spiritual and rational soul**
- **Body and soul one: a unity**
- **Both genders equally (but in different ways) reflect fully the Creator**
- **We were created for or TOWARDS God naturally**

Original Justice

- **Justice here means health or integrity; made whole and good and in harmony with God**
- **We had an equalizing gift- grace in us. God created us with something special (grace = God in us) so we could be in relationship with God. God makes everything GOOD!**
- **We had special gifts such as immortality, integrity and enlightenment that came from the wholeness gifted humanity by God.**

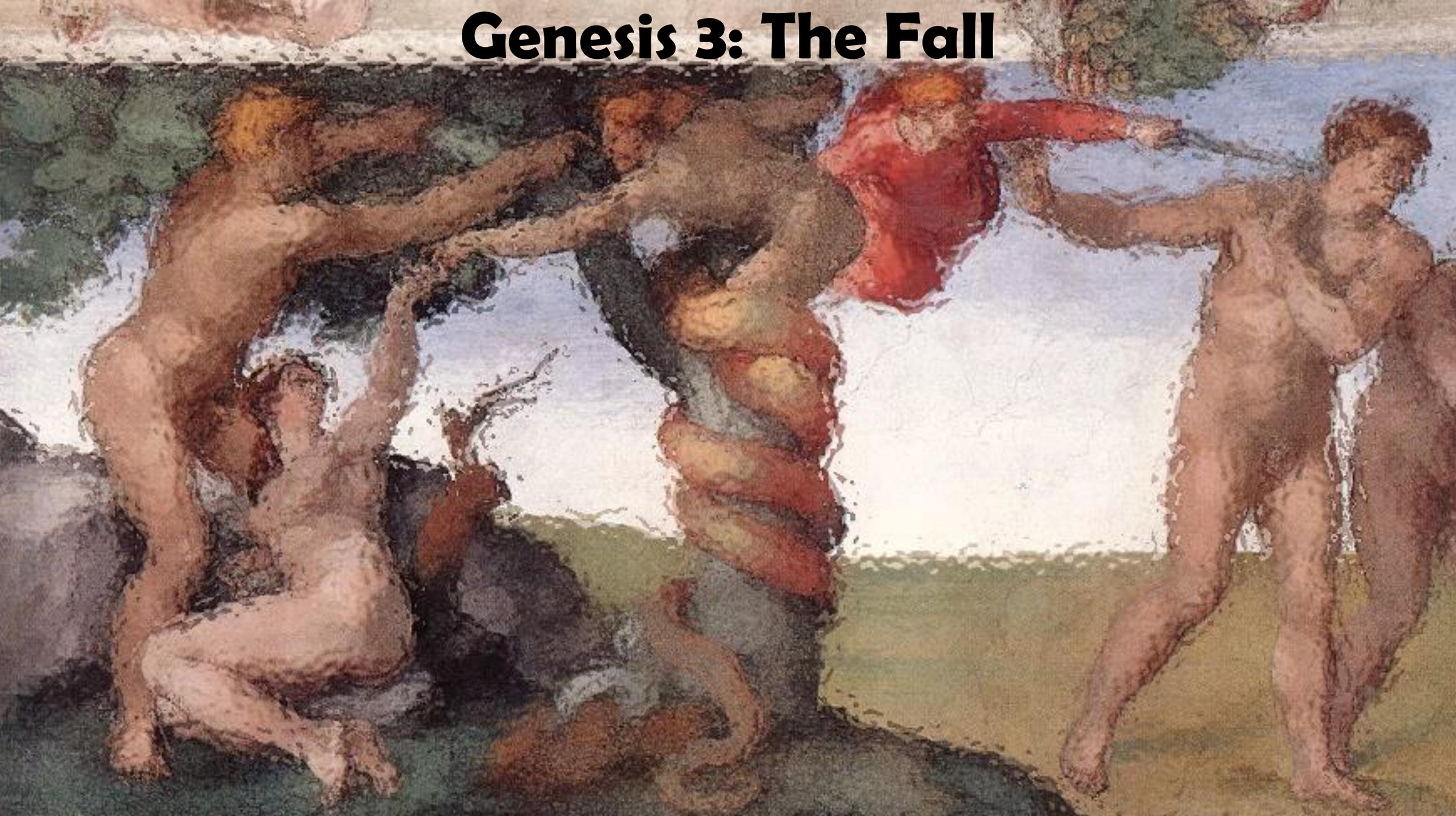
Genesis 1-2

- God met with us in creation
- God gave us a role in His creation:
 - Till soil
 - Multiply and fill the world
- Not eat of Tree of knowledge of good and evil
- Everything else was ours to name and have

The Fall: The Original Sin

- **This calamity changed everything: the great lapse**
- **Recounted in an epic-ish story style in Gen 3**
- **What was the sin? Key to understanding it is disobedience**
- **The first humans no longer wanted to obey:**
- **Rather they wanted to do things on their terms, not God's**
- **Today sin remains essentially the same- disobedience**
- **Elevation of ourselves to (the illusory) position of God**

Genesis 3: The Fall



Results of Fall

- We see the gifts lost
- Death enters the world
 - Integrity gone
- All becomes disordered: man-God, man-man, man to self, man to nature
- Lingering desire to tendency to sin: concupiscence
 - Mind twisted and God not so evident in world around us.

What is sin?

- Handout for your perusal later
- Ultimately sin is alienation from God
- And all the effects this bring

What is sin?

- **Original sin: passed down**
- **Personal sin: chosen by us**
- **Rest of Genesis (and the OT) chronicles the escalating growth of sin in the world**
- **And God's patient guidance as we continue to deny Him.**

Worst part of sin: Broken relationship

- We (humans) have offended a God who gave us everything
- We on our own cannot fix this
- The one thing God asked of us (love through obedience) is now beyond our ability to give
- Our hearts become polluted and thus not a pure gift
- A breach has opened that mankind cannot cross
- But the problem is compounded because we are the ones who need to fix it- we caused it. Even if we want to give it- we are unable to do so.

Deprived, not depraved

- The Church teaches that we are broken, not completely destroyed by original sin.
- God does not abandon us in our rebellion.
- **We are still lovable sinners- there is something worth healing in us.**

God still loves us- He never stops loving us.

- Some thinkers disagree- some hold that we are total reprobates, both before and after being rescued by Christ.
- Yet God continues to remain present to His people.

The Divine Rescue plan begins in earnest

- **Gen 3:15-16 hints at what God already is putting in motion. A rescue plan.**
- **This hint is known as the EARLY GOSPEL**
- **The Protoevangelium**



The Rescue Plan

God's plan has two stages:

- OT: prophylactic and preparatory (promise)
- NT: salvation and redemption (fulfillment)



The Rescue Plan

- Why so long?
 - Why so hidden?
 - Why not fix all of sin's effects?
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- Hints of the why are found in the scriptures and told by Jesus Himself.
 - Revelation itself shows us that God progressively shares Who He is because we as limited and now sinful humans require it.

Grace Restored

- Christ came to elevate the chosen people into the place of his envoys and disciples.
- His plan now is extended to the entire world!
- Through being united with Him (in baptism) we can have what he has won (family relationship with His heavenly Father)



Discussion Questions

- 1. Can you think of any signs of sinfulness in the world around us?
- 2. Where can sin effect –our relationship with God?
 - -our relationship with our own selves? (mind, heart body?)
 - -our relationship with others?
 - -our relationship with the world around us?
- 3. Reflecting on God's rescue plan and How God did it- have there been times in our own lives when we shared or done something that went unappreciated?
- 4. Why do you think God never abandon the human race?
- 5. Have you ever felt the need to be saved or rescued from a situation?