Part 3/33 – **Things go wrong**

*09/20/15* – Genesis 3-9 – [The Fall/Cain & Abel/Noah]

Key thought – God's original, good plan is spoiled by sin. He is not to blame for the misery which follows. Rather, He continued to love and care for His fallen creatures, and plans to save them from sin, suffering, and death.

*God's original, good plan was spoiled by sin. He was not to blame for this, nor for the misery which followed. Human beings themselves brought sin, suffering, and death into the world by disobeying God when they were tempted by the devil.*

*Yet God continued to love and care for His fallen creatures, even though they deserved nothing but punishment. His master plan now became* ***His saving plan****: He would still carry out His eternal purposes for human beings by rescuing them from sin. His promise that a Savior would come gave hope and blessing and restoration.*

*When men and women began to multiply, and the world became full of sin and violence, God decided to destroy the earth with the flood and to begin all over again. He rescued one man and his family who feared and trusted Him. Through this man and his offspring, God carried on His plan for the world.*

1. Where does evil begin?

2. What are the results of the fall into sin?

3. What would have happened if sinful man had eaten from the tree of life and lived forever?

4. What is the Protoevangel (first Gospel)?

5. God would have been quite justified in wiping out His creation. Why didn't He?

6. What does God do through His covenant with Noah?

Main takeaways

* By disobeying God, human beings brought sin, suffering, and death into the world. Though they didn't deserve it, God in His mercy for sinners planned to save them.
* God's promise to His fallen and creatures gave them hope. He would still carry out His great plan of rescuing them from sin.
* We must face the fact of sin and its consequences in our own lives, look to God for forgiveness and help, and praise Him for His constant love and care for us.

Key Bible passage: Genesis 3:8-9 – This text contains within it the haunting question to a freshly fallen sinner, ***“Where are you?”***  In order to feel and appreciate the full force of this, contemplate what it would mean to be lost and separated from God.

For reflection: ***“Lord, have mercy!”*** Is our constant cry for help. And God shows His mercy. Think about how the story of Adam and Eve is your story, and how you, too, have received mercy and hope.

Part 3/33 – **Things go wrong** – **Bible Study**

Bible search

1. **Genesis 3:8–19:** God confronted the guilty pair in the garden, and pronounced His judgment on them and on the snake. *Why did God come looking for Adam and Eve? Why didn't He simply destroy them? Whom did Adam and Eve blame for their fall into sin? Why didn't they own up? Talk about God's judgment on the snake and on the man and woman.*

2. **Genesis 4:1–16**: Sin had tragic results in the life of the first family group. Relationships were disrupted by hate and violence. *Why was Able accepted by God? Why was Cain not accepted? (see Hebrews 11:4) Trace the development of sin in Cain which led to his final violent act. How did disruption and division in the first family become permanent? (4:16,17)*

3. **Genesis 6; 7:11–24; 8:13–22**: Judgment fell on the whole earth because of rampant evil. God, in His grace, rescued Noah and his family, and begin again with them. *What drastic lesson did God teach by sending the great Flood? How did He carry on as planned, despite sin and its consequences? What covenant did God make with Noah?*

For discussion

1. Sin has many tragic consequences. Trace some of them by means of these texts: Genesis 2:16 and 3:19; Isaiah 40:6,7; Psalm 51:5; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:7; Matthew 15:19

2. Although we are sinful people in a wicked world, God still loves us. Read Genesis 18:20–22 and 9:1–17. What does God's promise mean for us? Why does God still let us live from day to day, even though we do not deserve this? How does God make a new start with us every day?

3. “These first chapters in the Bible show the pattern of sin and grace which is characteristic of the whole Bible story.” Discuss.

For reflection

Read Psalm 90. “Lord, have mercy!” is our constant cry for help. And God shows His mercy. Think about how the story of Adam and Eve is your story, and how you, too, have received mercy and hope.