

## Fall: God Judges

*Teaching Transcript*

- All right. What we're trying to do is follow generally speaking the storyline of the Bible from creation all the way to new creation. And today we find ourselves at the fall and the subject that God judges. So let me start with a story. When I was a little boy, there's a lot of good material from my childhood 'cause I was that kid that was always sort of pushing the envelope. So, I was a little boy and I remember setting my toothbrush on the counter and grabbing the tube of toothpaste and I squeezed it and it was kind of fun. So what do you think I did? I just kept squeezing until I covered my entire toothbrush in toothpaste, and I thought it was kind of fun. And then it dawned on me. I'm gonna get busted. My mom's gonna kill me. That's a complete waste of a whole toothpaste filled with, toothbrush filled with toothpaste. So what I decided as a little boy was that's okay, I'll just put all the toothpaste back in the tube. You ever tried to do this? I was very unsuccessful. I couldn't get all the toothpaste back in the tube no matter what I did or how hard I tried. And I used that little analogy to just say if you look at the world, if you look at the environment, if you look at the nations, if you look at the governments, if you look at families and you look at your life it seems like somebody squeezed the tube. Amen. And we can't get it all back together. We can't get it all back to way that God made it to be. And so we wage wars. But we don't get all the paste back in the tube. We raise taxes and we still don't get all the paste back in the tube. We then also just tell people, you're a good person, you're evolving, you have huge potential. And they never see that come to fruition and their lives are disappointing and sad. And so when we come to the storyline in the Bible Genesis 3 is one of the most significant chapters in the Bible. And it's one of the most insightful for human history. And it explains to us why things are broken. It explains to us why people are broken. It explains to us why institutions are broken. Which means everything is broken. And that means if it is to be rebuilt, remade, that ultimately that rescue mission, that rebuilding effort needs to come from beyond this world. It's not a person or an institution or a nation that is able to fix this problem. And so as we get into it, we're gonna talk about Satan, demons, sin in the fall. And I wanna start by giving you a four legs of a biblical worldview. You're sitting in a chair and you've got four legs. And if you had one, you'd be in trouble. If you had two, you'd be in trouble. If you had three, you'd still being a bit of trouble. And thankfully with four, hopefully you won't have any trouble. To think biblically to come to the storyline of the Bible and to have the storyline of the Bible shape our interpretation and our understanding of human history and also our own life, it requires four things. Number one, an understanding of the unseen realm. Our world has two realms that make one reality. There is the unseen realm of the spiritual world. There is the seen realm of the physical world. The reason I tell you that is in a moment when we turn to Genesis 3 you're going to see human beings who are tempted by a spirit being. And so the two realms come together in Genesis 3 and ultimately reality is two realms. Which means you don't really understand reality unless you understand God, Satan, angels and demons. It's where Paul says in Ephesians 6, "That our war isn't just against flesh and blood, powers, principalities and spirits are behind the world we do see." So the unseen realm is involved in the seen realm. The unseen world is active in the seen world. And unless you understand this you don't understand the two realms. And as a result, you won't have an appropriate view of reality. Number two, binary thinking. And that is that God creates and Satan counterfeits. That God is the creator. We learn that in Genesis 1 and 2. We'll see in Genesis 3, that Satan comes to counterfeit. And so I've got some categories for you. So there is God and Satan. There are angels and demons. There is

obedience and rebellion. There is truth and lies. There's being spirit filled versus being demon possessed. There is cleansing versus defilement. There is humility versus pride. Forgiveness versus bitterness. Worship versus idolatry. Contentment versus coveting. Peace versus fear. Unity versus division. Shepherds who lead God's people versus wolves who devour God's people. God esteem versus self-esteem. A covenant with God an inner vow with yourself. The spirit versus the flesh. Freedom versus slavery. Revival which God creates and a riot which is how Satan responds. God brings life. Satan brings death. And God's people are found in the church. And the Bible says that the world is a counterfeit kingdom that is ruled by a separate king that is against the church and the kingdom. And that ultimately you end up either in the kingdom of God or hell. That God creates, Satan counterfeits. That Satan doesn't create anything. All the way back to an early church, father Augustine he would refer to sin as a privation. Meaning it is not a thing. It is the corruption of a thing. It is the privation of a thing. So for example, blindness is not something in and of itself. It is the loss of sight. So there can be good without evil. There can be a perfect world without the imperfect, but the imperfect, the fallen, the corrupted, the evil, the demonic. It is a corruption or a privation of what God made. And so ultimately, as we understand the thinking of the Bible, we have to think in binary categories and we have to say, "Okay, is this from God? And according to the word of God and the kingdom of God, by the spirit of God. Or is this a counterfeit?" And as soon as you understand that, you'll start to understand the difference between religions and ideologies and philosophies and spiritualities. And you'll want to get so familiar with that which God created that you'll easily be able to distinguish a counterfeit. Number three, there's also something in the Bible called group guilt. And that is that when multiple persons are involved in a transgression or offense, they're all held responsible. You're gonna see this in Genesis 3. So Satan is going to show up and he's going to tempt Eve, Eve is going to sin and then hand that forbidden fruit to her husband and then God shows up. Who does He show up first to? Adam. And what does Adam do? He blames Eve, God, everything was fine, this woman showed up. Everything went south, probably the woman. I hope this is 1.0, you know, we need to make some upgrades to this woman. And most men since that time have tried to use that same excuse. It's not my fault. You know, I married her. She's really created some problems Lord, deal with her and I'll be praying for you both. So what Adam does, he blames it on his wife and then God shows up to Eve and who does she blame it on? The devil. Well, certain serpents, she pulls the whole... The devil made me do it. And what God does, He holds Adam accountable and Eve accountable. And then He goes to Satan and He holds Satan accountable because ultimately they have group guilt. And sometimes what happens, we say, "Well, it's not my fault, they did it. Or they did it first or they tempted me or they tricked me or they led me into it. Or, you know, the devil got me, the devil made me do it." There may be multiple persons involved but each person is responsible in the sight of God for the decisions and actions that they make and that's group guilt. So as we talk about Satan and demons, don't think that you can automatically blame them for your behavior. They're responsible for tempting you but you're responsible for giving into the temptation. They're responsible for lying to you, but you're responsible for believing those lies. And then number four, you can either live heaven down or hell up. And so culture and by culture, this can mean nations. This can mean the culture of your business. This can mean the culture of a church. This can be the culture of your family. It's the environment you live in. It is either kingdom down or hell up. Right? And so hell ultimately is the place of sin, self-indulgence, covetousness, pride, rebellion, bitterness. And any time you are choosing those things, you are literally pulling the culture of hell up into your life. And some of you've made these kinds of decisions and you realize, yeah, a lot of darkness comes

with that. And that leads to devastation. The other option is to invite the kingdom down. That right now in the presence of God and we're gonna investigate this pretty intensely in a moment. Right now in the presence of God, there is a culture. There are the departed soul of saints who love the Lord that are right now in the presence of the Lord. Paul says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. You'll see it as well right now in the presence of God or the angels, there is a culture there. It's a culture of love Not hatred. It's a culture of light, but not darkness. It's a culture of truth, not lies, right? It's a culture of forgiveness, not bitterness. It's a culture of humility and not pride. And so you and I every day the decisions we make are incredibly important because we're either pulling hell up into our life or we're inviting heaven down. You say, "I believe the truth." You're inviting heaven down. I wanna serve the Lord. You're inviting heaven down. I wanna forgive that person who offended me. You're inviting heaven down. And you see this. When in the Old Testament, a pillar or a cloud comes down or a ladder comes down, or the glory of God comes down or the Lord Jesus comes down and ultimately the Holy spirit comes down. And that's bringing the culture of the kingdom so that we can live as Jesus prayed we would. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. For the child of God, we wanna live according to kingdom culture that God created and not according to fallen culture, which Satan has counterfeited. Okay? That being said, those are sort of the big categories to get us going. And I wanna start by talking about Gods two families. What are God's two families? And I'm gonna say that God has a divine family of supernatural spirit beings. And God has a human family of physical human beings. That there are two families that ultimately are God's family. And in Job 38, if you're familiar with the story of Job his life underwent a lot of pain and difficulty. And it tells us because he was being attacked by Satan because of his righteousness. Sometimes you may think why is my life so hard? I love and serve the Lord. It may be because you have an enemy who is opposing you. Okay? Job was a godly man. He was a righteous man. He did know and love and serve the Lord and his pain and the death and loss and grief in his life was the result of a satanic against a godly man just like the Lord Jesus suffered. So to some degree, Job similarly suffered. Well, in his pain, Job's friends and they're not that great of friends. They have a lot of questions for him and God. And then it reaches a point where Job himself is really struggling. "God, if you are good, and if you exist, why is life hard? Why are things broken? Why do I have funerals to go to? Why do I have physical ailments in my body? Why did my bank account get drained?" These are exactly the things that Job was dealing with. And I'm sure they sound familiar to you. And then he has a list of questions for God. But they're really more accusations he's hurting. And so he's got a lot of questions for God. Well, God, doesn't like to be on trial. And God doesn't like it when we sit in the seat of sovereign authority and render a verdict regarding Him. And so he takes Job out of the judgment seat and He puts himself in. So here's how the conversation goes. He looks at Job and He's like, "Okay, Job you've got questions for me, I got questions for you." Here's one. "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" He's going all the way back to creation. He's going all the way back to creation. "Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements surely you know. Or who stretched a line upon it? On what were its basis sunk, who laid its cornerstone." And then here's the key I wanna unpack. "When the morning stars sang together and all sons of God shouted for joy." Job is a member of God's human family. And God is telling him before I made the world or the people in it, I had a divine family that was present before you. And when I created the world, the morning stars sang together. In ancient literature the stars tend to be symbols for angelic or demonic beings. So there is, you know, the heavens above and we're here on the earth. And from our vantage point the

stars are somewhere between us and the heavenly realm. So in the ancient world, they started using the concept of stars to use as an analogy toward that which is an angelic or demonic a supernatural spiritual being. So here, what are you saying is that the angels sang and worshiped together at creation. As God was creating, the angels were worshiping God as He was creating. And then there's this other category the sons of God. The sons of God He says, they are the ones who shouted for joy. So we've got God's human family here with Job and God is teaching him about the rest of His family. Right now, let me just say this. I'll unpack this in a moment. But some of you may be wondering how I've never heard about the angelic, the demonic, the sons of God. Why don't we talk about that? And I believe ultimately it is that the Bible is clear but as culture resisted, that which was supernatural, Christians became afraid or ashamed or embarrassed of things that the Bible said because it seems superstitious. And it seemed outdated to those who were more modern in their understanding during a period called the enlightenment. I'll give you an analogy. So Martin Luther is the father of the Protestant Reformation and God was using him to bring forth the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And part of that was to take the word of God and to translate it into the known languages of the people so that everybody could hear the word of God in their native language. So, the story is told that Martin Luther a Germany sat down to translate the Bible into German. And in his study, he says, that Satan showed up physically bodily to oppose and stop him. To stop him from translating the word of God and getting the gospel of Jesus Christ out to the nations throughout all of human history. And so what Luther did, he had his inkwell, you know, you dip your quill into to do your translation or work, and he grabbed it and just sort of in a reaction he hooked the inkwell at Satan. Who's physically appeared in his study. And it hit the wall and it exploded. So there's ink all over the wall. So for many years after that, even after Martin Luther died people would go to that place and they would take a tour to learn about the history of Martin Luther. And what they would tell people is as you see the ink stain on the wall. Yeah, well in front of that is where Satan was and Luther threw the inkwell at him. If you go there today, they don't tell you that story and they've painted that wall. They've painted that wall. Because at some point it's like that sounds primitive, superstitious, Satan, demons, angels. Let's just paint that wall and cut that out of the story so that when the tourists come through, they don't think that we are primitive or superstitious. And what I would say to you is that since that decision was made physically on the wall, in the study of Martin Luther's library, that ultimately theologically there's been a lot of paint that's been added to the word of God. There's a lot of covering over, explaining a way and ignoring parts of the Bible. I'm off my notes, but I just feel compelled to share this. When I was teaching through one of the gospels the story was for example, that Jesus walked on the water. And I read the commentator and he was one of the most respected commentators in the last hundred years. And he said that an alternate explanation was that they were in the boat. Jesus was on the shore and as Jesus was walking, it gave the illusion of walking in deep water but He was in fact just walking on shallow water. And so I look 'cause they're in three of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, they mentioned Jesus walking on water. And in every occasion when I picked up his commentary, he said the same thing, probably Jesus walked on the shore of the water which gave the illusion that He was walking on water. We know that people don't walk on water. We don't believe in superstitious stuff like miracles in the supernatural. But that's what it says. In fact, if you read it, it says that, He was walking on the water and then Peter tried to do what? The same thing. And how did it go for Peter? Well, temporarily it went fairly well. All things considered. He was actually walking on the water in faith by the power of God. And then he began to doubt and get a little afraid. Which I understand, people always say, "I

can't believe Peter doubted." I can't believe he got out of the boat. I mean, to me, you know, Jesus looks at him and says, "Oh, ye of little faith." I'm like, that's better than the other guys in the boat who had no faith. He's doing pretty good. But it says that he started to sink and drown. And just let me tell you this, that doesn't happen on the shore. That only happens in the deep water. Okay. So what I'm saying is there are parts of the Bible that maybe we just sort of ignore or we paint over, or we explain a way because they're supernatural, because they are beyond the natural realm. They're into the realm of the supernatural. So God does have two families. He has a human family that He works through. Let me ask you this. Does God need us? No, okay. God also has a divine family of spirit beings. Does he need them? No. And every time I teach this, people are like, "Well, God doesn't need angels." Well, He doesn't need us. He doesn't need anyone. He doesn't need anything, but He's so loving and relational. It seems like the God of the Bible just keeps trying to make a family. He just keeps trying to make a family. That's what He seems to be always working on. And so ultimately that spiritual, supernatural family it includes angels. Angels appear 300 times in the Bible, roughly 90% of the books of the Bible mention angels, supernatural, spiritual beings. We don't know how many there are. The Bible uses the language of innumerable angels, and a thousand, thousands and 10 thousands times 10,000. Right? If you're a kid you're like, you know, infinity, right? It's just your way of saying, I don't know. But as many as possible. The Bible just says there are so many angels you can't even count them all. We don't know the exact number. There are only two angels in the Bible that we know the name of, Gabriel and Michael, everyone else is sort of anonymous but they are very prominent. In addition, there's different categories of angels. Some are called archangels. One is called the commander of the Lord's army. And there are different kinds of angels. There are categories like the Cherubim and Seraphim that we sing about in the Christmas hymn every year. So those would be, I would say the morning stars because ultimately the word angel literally means a messenger, right? So this is God's version of the post office or an email or a text. If He has something to communicate, He sends the angel. And then in addition, there's another category of supernatural, spiritual being called the sons of God. The sons of God are also called the gods. And you'll see that in a moment. So there are angels, but there's this other category of supernatural, spiritual beings in the unseen realm. And God loves them and has a relationship with him. And they are the sons of God. And if you read the New Testament especially the apostle Paul. If you belong to the Lord Jesus, you and I are what? We're also the sons of God. So God has one family across two realities. I believe that we were together until sin entered the world. And we'll be together after Jesus returns to remove sin from the world. I believe God's ultimate plan is to have His whole family together for all eternity. Couple of things about angels. They don't have a human body like we do because they are spirit beings. In addition, they do not possess a gender but they can appear, give the appearance almost like a military soldier. That's sort of on a clandestine operation and comes in under the guise of some, you know, disguise or participating in that culture. Angels will come appearing like human beings but they don't have a gender or a body. And so Hebrew says that, some of us have entertained angels and we didn't even know. We just thought they were people. Okay. Because the goal of an angel is not to draw a lot of attention to itself, but to point ultimately to the Lord. So they're not hottie trying to impress us. They're humble trying to seek to get us to be impressed with God. In addition, when it comes to angels, they don't possess the divine attributes. Okay? So God is all knowing, an angel is not all knowing. God is eternal without beginning or end, angels are created beings that had a beginning. God is all present. Angels have to go from one place to another. The reason this is important is because it prepares us for the understanding of Satan, a fallen rebellious angel. He

doesn't know everything, right? He can't read your thoughts. So your communication with God and your thought life is a private secret line of communication that God knows your thoughts. Now, Satan can observe your behaviors and he can hear your words, but he can't know your thoughts. Satan is not attacking every one at the same time 'cause he can only be in one place at one time, he will deploy and dispense demonic beings to attack the children of God and to recaveat in the earth. But all that to say, only God is all knowing. Only God is eternal. Only God is all powerful. Only God is all present. And there is no angelic or other divine beings, supernatural being that possesses those divine attributes. So that's God's two families. Now, the next one. How did God's two families meet at the divine council? This is very recent research and it comes in large part from a man named Michael Heizer. So I wanna give him some credit and he's a scholar who's done some tremendous research on some of these passages. But his point is that God has a divine council, the God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, they invite the sons of God into this divine council meeting. Psalm 82:1 says that, "God," and the word there is Elohim in the original Hebrew. Part of the confusion when it comes to the angelic and the demonic and the unseen realm is that typically, historically theologians have used the word Elohim as exclusively a name for God like Yahweh. But the word Elohim means any being from the unseen realm. It can refer to an angel. It can refer to a demon. It can refer to God. So it's a general word about spirit beings, not just a designation for God and I'll prove it to you right here. "God, Elohim has taken his place in the divine council." Divine council is like God having a staff meeting. Any of you have a family and you ever call a family meeting? Grace and I've got the five kids and there'll be times it's like, "All right, time for a family meeting." You know what that means? There's something we wanna talk about with you so we can get your input and listen to you. And we need you to participate in what we're doing. And this is what we're gonna do as a family. Sometime when we moved to Arizona we had some family meetings. When we decided to plant a church we had a lot of family meetings. When we have big decisions to make, we call a family meeting. The divine council is like a family meeting. It's like God pulling his entire family together saying "Okay, I wanna tell you what's going on. Here's what we're gonna do. Here's your responsibilities." It's like a staff meeting. "God has taken his place in the divine council in the midst of the gods, the Elohim, he holds judgment." So, there is one God and then there are other divine supernatural beings in the unseen realm. Okay? And when God holds His divine council meeting He invites those members of His unseen family into that meeting. Let me just let that sit for a moment. How many of you have never heard this? You've never heard this. Okay. It's really not talked about. And when this comes up, people will say, "Oh, God's." You know, they try to explain it away. Those are human rulers or no, what they are is they are divine beings. Could be the angels, could be the sons of God, but nonetheless they are the divine council. Other titles for the divine council in the Bible is the assembly of the holy ones, the council of the holy ones, the throne, the seat of the gods, the mount of assembly, the court in judgment and the heavenly host. There are times in the Bible that God holds a divine council meeting and He has His angelic or His unseen and His human or His physical family together. There's a place in Genesis with a guy named Jacob. And he's going along and down comes a ladder. Who or what is ascending and descending on the ladder? The angelic beings. So now here's God's physical family and coming down is his angelic, supernatural, unseen family. And God shows up and they have a big meeting. And it's a significant moment. And what ultimately he says is this is Bethel. This is the house of God. He was in the divine council meeting. The two families came together under one father. The two realms came together under one reality. A couple of other things on this. You know that you are getting a glimpse into a divine council

meeting and the Bible gives you a clue and it's a throne. It's a throne. I'll give you an example. Isaiah 6, one of the most famous sections of the Old Testament, Isaiah says, the heaven opened up and he got to see. Here's Isaiah living in the seen realm and he gets to peer into the unseen realm. And he says, I saw who? The Lord, high and exalted, seated upon His throne and around Him, were all the angels and they are singing and crying out. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty God and the supernatural divine beings that He has as His unseen family. Suddenly Isaiah is brought in to that divine council meeting. He's like, "I'm a man of unclean lips. I come from a people of unclean." What he's saying is, I shouldn't be here, right? We're sinful. We did what the demons did. We're not obedient like the angels. I'm a sinner and I'm in the presence of God and I am invited now into the divine council meeting. And it says that he sees God seated upon His throne. I think it's in John 12:41. John says this. He says, "Isaiah saw Jesus and spoke of His glory." That's a divine council meeting. Can you think of other times where the divine council is seen? Places like Daniel, where it talks about things that are going on in the heavenlies and behind the seen realm. In addition, there's a guy named John, and John writes the last book of the Bible called Revelation. And the central piece of furniture is a throne. Revelation breaks into two parts. There are earthly scenes of wars and conflicts. And then there are heavenly scenes of conflict behind the scenes between demonic forces and God and the angels. Okay. And when he looks up, he sees Jesus seated on His throne, surrounding Jesus. I think the throne appears in 14 of the 22 chapters of Revelation if my memory is correct. And the one seated on the throne is the Lord around the throne are human beings and divine beings. The whole family is present for the divine council meeting. And then God commissions some of His angels and supernatural servants. Commissions them on missions to come from the unseen realm into the seen realm. And then it is the connection point between those scenes of the heavenlies and those scenes of the earthlies that distinguished the book of Revelation. But over and over and over it keeps talking about the throne and around the throne are both members of God's family. Those that are seen in physical human beings, those that are unseen spiritual and angelic or other divine beings. I want that sink. Now, what happened in heaven is there was a governance war. This is the storyline of the Bible. I'll explain to you the governance war in heaven. Revelation 12:7-9, "Now war arose in heaven." So God exists eternally. He creates angelic and other divine beings before He creates the heavens and the earth. They were there at creation. They were worshiping God at creation. So they're created beings, but they precede us in history. But at some point in the past, a war arose where? In heaven. In the presence of God. "Michael," one of the only two angels that are named, "And his angels fighting against the dragon." Who's the dragon? It's Satan. "And the dragon and his angels," fallen rebellious angels. This is a governance war. The kingdom of God is a governance issue. And that is who gets to govern, who gets to sit on the throne. So ultimately the war in heaven is God is on the throne. And Satan says, "You know what? We need a new governance." Going to take God off of the throne, put myself on the throne. We're going to dispossess His divine family and we're going to replace it with my demonic family. Okay. In a moment, we're gonna get to Genesis 3 and we're gonna talk about the fall. You need to know that that's the second fall. The first fall was at the governance war in heaven. "The dragon and his angels fought back." So there's a conflict, "But he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to earth and his what angels." So there are some angels that remained obedient. There are others that were disobedient. Those who were obedient remained in the presence of God. And those who are disobedient are cast out of the presence of God. Peter says in the New Testament that Jesus didn't

die for demons. So God has every right to treat you and I the way he treats the demons. As He cast them down to earth, He could cast us down to hell. But human beings get something given to them, that demonic fallen, angelic rebellious beings don't and that's grace and forgiveness and reconciled relationship. And so here's how Jesus says it. In Luke 10:18, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." That's what Jesus says. And so what happens is, there was a governance war in heaven. Who will be on the throne and which family will rule and reign? And so Satan, a rebellious fallen angel, probably high rank, recruits, the Bible says a third of the angelic beings and they have a coup attempt against God. And there is a big fight, but God and the angels win. And then Satan and the demons come down to the earth. All of this is an introduction to Genesis 1 and 3 We looked at in Genesis 1, that God created the heavens and the earth. Okay? Now, prior to that, He created these divine beings and some rebelled against Him at some point and they were cast down. But when God is done making the world God saw everything He had made and it was very good. So all the problems that we have in the world are not from God. Sin, death, suffering, lying, abuse, murder, war, theft, not from God. That's hell up culture. That's not heaven down culture. When God got done, everything was very good. And what's interesting is that human beings still have this inkling this internal vestige in sense that things at some point were better and we need to get back to that. Anybody who's ever picketed, anybody who's ever protested anybody who's ever raised their voice, anybody who's ever honked their horn, anybody who's ever cast a ballot is saying, "The world needs to change." And it's not because God did anything wrong. Everything wrong is the result of what we have done not what He has made. So Genesis 3, this brings us to one of the most important chapters in the Bible. There was a governance war in heaven, and now the governance war comes to earth. Satan recruited spirit beings in his rebellion. Now he's coming to recruit human beings for his rebellion. He recruited a portion of God's unseen family. And now he's going after God's seen family. Now the serpent, Satan, Revelation 12 and 20 say it's Satan. "Now the serpent was more crafty." He's clever. He's subtle. He's sly. He's covert. He's complicated. "Than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to who? The woman. 'Did God actually say, you shall not eat of any tree in the garden.'" What did God say? You can eat any tree in the garden with one exception. God is not a law God with a gray streak. God is a grace God with one law tree. What God says is everything you can have, except for one thing, that's the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan comes along and he says, "Did God say you can't have anything? That's not what said. That's a green light dad, not a red light dad. It's yes to almost everything. It is yes to everything. And it's only no to thing. It's a good lesson there for parents, right? Most of our answers should be green lights. That's how God parents us. You shall not eat The Bible says that she's deceived and I'll jump forward a little bit in the story. But she's having this conversation. Let me make this observation. Maybe you have not seen it before. It dawned on me recently, Eve and Adam are in the garden and a serpent, a divine being shows up. Question. Do they seem surprised at all? Like if it was like right now, if a serpent came in we'd be like, "That was a thing. And man, that was a thing right there." For them it was nothing. Why? I believe because Eden was the place of God's divine council meeting. I believe it was a place that commonly the two realms came into one reality and the two categories of God's family would come together for meeting. So God would show up there and Adam and Eve were welcomed there and supernatural beings would show up. So if a serpent or an angelic being shows up Eve is not shocked. And she just has a regular conversation. Let me posit this possibility. This might've happened frequently and commonly. So she's not stunned by it. She's not taken aback by it. "She took its fruit and she ate, she also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate." We'll get into that in the covenant lecture.

"The eyes of them were both opened and they knew that they were naked." Now their identity is in their sin, not in their God and now they are separated from God. And the story continues, "And they sewed fig leaves together." All of human history from this point has been a fig leaf sewing operation. How can I cover up who I am, pretend I'm someone else and not let you know the real me? "They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord among the trees of the garden." They knew that God would come to that place 'cause that's the place of divine council meeting. And they say, "When He comes back, He's gonna see what we've done." And so these naughty kids, they're hiding from God. How many of you have raised kids and you know that they're being naughty when you find them? Can't find them. Okay? We are the children of God and sometimes when we act naughty we get silly and they're hiding from God. Can you hide from God? No, no, you can't hide from God. "They hid, but the Lord God called to the man, the woman sinned first, but he calls out to the man and holds him firstly responsible and said to him, 'Where are you?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit and I ate it.'" God shows up, says, "What happens?" And again, the blame shift begins. Okay? The blame shift begins. So God won the governance war in heaven. Humanity lost the governance war on earth. Who's now in charge? Satan is. A couple of things. Satan was in the heavenlies recruiting spirit beings and Satan is still to this day recruiting human beings for his coup attempt. He's recruiting you. So what the Bible says that we're all born into a war and ultimately we start on his side because of Adam sin. A couple of things I just wanna say as well. The storyline and pattern of the Bible is wedding and then war. Genesis 1 and 2, there's a wedding, Genesis 3 there's a war. You need to know that once you are married there will be increased satanic demonic attack on your relationship with God and your relationship with each other 'cause God is covenantal and He is pursuing relationship and Satan counterfeits that by seeking to break and destroy relationship with God and one another. So you need to know that your spouse is not your enemy, that you and your spouse need to stand together against your enemy. And here's the point too, if you don't lead your family, Satan will. Adam didn't lead his family so Satan did. If you don't lead your family Satan will. And we'll get into this in the next lecture. So let me explain how this applies to you. Next slide please. What is the fall of humanity? Because we looked at Satan's fall, Adam and Eve's fall. How does that affect us? Okay? Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man." Who's that? Adam, the father of a soul. "And death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." What he's saying here is that Adam sin is imputed or reckoned or credited to us. Okay? So when Adam made a decision, he made a decision for the entire human race. And somebody will say, "I'm an individual." Actually, no, you're not. You're part of humanity. Well, I don't like that. Well, let me just tell you this right now. If the president of the nation declared tonight that we're going to war, guess what? The whole nation is involved in the war. The leader makes decision that implicates everyone else. That when Adam decided he decided for all of humanity. And some of us get mad at that and we say, "I can't believe he did that." We do the same thing every day. And he's saying, not only did Adam sin, but we sinned too. So we're sinners by nature from Adam, but we're also sinners by choice with our own life decisions. And some people will say, "Well, I'm a good person. I believe that I'm a good person." Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceived me." What he's saying is, I was a sinner before I was even born. Before I was even born. There's kind of a false teaching about angels and that is that let's say a woman miscarries or a baby dies. They get to be an angel. They become an angel. You sort of get this picture on the Sistine Chapel where the picture of angels looks like chubby babies. That's just all

fanciful. That's not reality. That's not how it works because let me just tell you this, we're not conceived and born as angels. We have a sin nature. We're on the wrong side of the governance war. We're not born pure and clean and good. How many of you have a child and you've noticed this? Do you need to teach your child how to be selfish? They just seem to have that naturally. Do you need to teach them how to be mean? No, all we say, the difference between an angry baby and a terrorist is simply size. That's the only difference. The child is beating on you, yelling at you. They just lack the capacity to do the kind of damage that a full grown adult would. So what this means is it's not just enough to parent your kid or discipline your kid or raise your kid. Your kid needs to be saved from sin and they need a new nature. They need to not just be born to of the Bible they need to be born again and so do you. Psalms 38:3, the wicked are estranged from where? The womb. Our God can save from the womb. But sin starts at the conception of human life. "They go astray from birth speaking lies." And the result is here's how we begin Ephesians 2:3, "We are by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind." So this is where we start, Satan and demons fall, Adam and Eve fall. You and me fall. No possibility of salvation for Satan and demons but the promise of salvation to Adam and Eve and the gift of salvation to we who believe. That is the fall of humanity. And let me just say this. So anytime somebody gets up and says, "You're a good person, you're born the right way. You don't need to change. We need to celebrate you and have a parade and a hashtag. And we need to just really blow some , handout some party favors for your lifestyle." It's all demonic. It's satanic. It's a counterfeit. It's not the kingdom of God. It's the culture of hell. We are not to celebrate our sin nature, we are to repent of our sin nature. And we start there. So anybody who gets up and says, "You're all good people, we're all evolving. It's all getting better. We're making progress." They're not dealing with reality. Okay? They're not dealing with reality. Last slide. How far has humanity fallen? Right, okay. You're okay. Doctor tells you, "You got cancer." Okay, how bad is it? Right? You're a sinner, okay, how bad is it? Proverbs 20:9, "Who could say, 'I've kept my heart pure, I am clean without any sin?'" Who can say that? Only Jesus, the rest of us guilty. And some people will say, "I'm a good person." God isn't looking for good people. He's looking for perfect people. Jesus says, be perfect as your heavenly Father is for I'm not perfect, nobody is perfect. That's what the non-Christian uses as language to explain their fallen nature. They won't say that they were a sinner but they'll simply say no one's perfect. We're all sinners. Romans 3:22-23. "There is no distinction." We wanna make distinctions between good people and bad people. God sees Jesus and sinful people. Those are His two categories. "There is no distinction for who has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Everybody. Everybody, which means everybody needs Jesus. This is where the storyline is going. And ultimately Jesus Christ comes as the last Adam. Romans 5:12-21 says, "You're either under Adam or Christ." You either have reckoned or imputed to you the judgment of sin because of your participation in Adam's rebellion, or you have the righteousness of Jesus Christ, reckoned or imputed to you if you belong to Him. It says the same thing in 1 Corinthians 15:45, that Christ is the last Adam. So everything that Adam failed in, is everything that Jesus fixed, you see that? And the result is that the wages of sin is death. So how do we know that sin has entered the world? Death. Cause God is the living God. And when God was done everything He made was alive and very good. And now there's death. Why? Because we have sinned and made things very bad. And death is the guarantee that ultimately our sin comes to an end. Let me close with this. And then I'll do some Q&A. And let me say this too. Actually, let's leave that for one second. Let me just say a few things. Biblical images for sin include rebellion, folly, self-abuse, madness, treason, death, hatred, spiritual adultery, missing the mark, wandering from the path, idolatry and sanity, irrationality, pride

selfishness, blindness, deafness, a hard heart, a stiff neck, delusion, unreasonable in the worship of self. So the Bible has a lot to say about this rebellious sinful human condition. Sin includes commission, where you do a bad thing and omission where you don't do a good thing. So let's say what the story of Adam and Eve. Hers was a sin of commission. She part took a forbidden fruit. His was a sin of omission. He sat idly by saying and doing nothing. And that is the sin of many men quite frankly, they're passive and they're cowardly and they're silent. And as a result, Satan takes over their family. And so there is sin of commission and omission. Sin includes your thoughts 'cause God knows your thoughts. Jesus talks about loss to the heart. Only God can see that. In addition to your thoughts, sin includes your words. God knows every word you and I have ever spoken typed, texted. Just fathom that. It includes sin does or deeds, everything we do. Sin also includes our motive. So if you're doing a good thing to impress somebody so that they will praise you, you're guilty of the sin of pride. If you're really nice to that girl 'cause she's cute and you hope that there's a chance and you're not really pursuing her best interests but yours, even though you were very kind to her, it's still a sin because in your heart you're manipulating the relationship toward your benefit. So again, if you look at it thought would beat motive. And how many of you are really glad right now, right, that God doesn't have like a teleprompter on your forehead that would show everyone what you're thinking about? Right? But you need to know that that's what God sees all the time He sees your heart. He sees your motives. He sees your deeds. He hears your words. And He knows you've got a serious problem. And you are the problem, not the solution. So here are some sinful responses to sin. Then we'll do Q&A. Some people just minimize it. It's not a big deal. We always pull this out. I didn't kill anybody as if that was the only bad thing. Well, at least I'm not Hitler. Once Hitler enters the conversation, you know that you're guilty and you just need to surrender. If you're like, "I'm looking really bad. I gotta pull Hitler up and say, 'Hey, look I'm doing pretty good.'" Now you pull up Jesus. Oh, okay, I'm doing really bad. We tend to minimize it. We tend to make ourselves in the exception to . I know people aren't supposed to do that but let me tell you my circumstances they're very complicated. I have a reason and it makes a lot of sense. Rationalizing blame shifting which is what Adam and Eve did. Oh, they made me do it. The culture made me do it. My parents made me do it. The institution made me do it. The systemic sin in the world made me do it. Diversion. This is where you change the subject. How many of you have kids? And you've seen this. Did you clean your room? I sure love you. Whoa. That's not what we're talking about. We're talking about your room. I really appreciate you. I prayed for you this morning, dad 'cause I love you. Okay, I see what we're doing. We're changing the subject. Okay? I see what we're doing. How about partial confession? This is where we tell some of what we've done to alleviate or assuage a little bit of our guilt, but we don't fully confess to all that we've done. And so we need to get caught. Also excuse making. We have a lot of those. Victimization, and that is, it's not my fault. I grew up in a poor family. My dad wasn't nice, I'm Irish and everybody always uses their ethnicity. We're Irish. Yeah, we just get drunk and hit people. You know, it's our thing. Don't judge us. You know, while we're Italian, we're just very loud and violent and we're Latino, we're just a very expressive people. Everybody uses their culture to explain their behavior. And sometimes people even now today, and I like personality tests and getting to know people. But sometimes we'll even use those an excuse for our sin. I'm not nice to people. I took my test and I scored as a J-E-R-K. That's my personality type. Don't judge me. And then lastly, there's worldly sorrow. Paul tells the Corinthians that non-Christians have worldly sorrow, meaning they feel bad and they will confess, but they don't repent. They don't truly ultimately want to change. So they feel bad about the consequences but they don't intend to change the actions. Paul calls that

worldly sorrow. So what we'll deal with in the next lecture and I'll take your questions in a moment. We're gonna deal with how God responds to our sin. Okay.