

"What Happened?"

Part 1

Genesis 3:1

Introduction: Today in our study of the book of *Genesis* we have come to chapter 3. Now there are some things which you need to know concerning this chapter before we start to dive into the spiritual depths.

This is one of the most important chapters in the Bible. Without this chapter we would not be able to understand how *God's* perfect creation became filled with sin and violence. Let me just give to you a list of what we find in this chapter:

1. The entrance of sin into the world.
2. The character of Satan.
3. The love of *God*.
4. The consequences of sin.
5. The Promise of a Redeemer.
6. The reason why life is so empty on this earth.
7. The reason why we struggle day after day.
8. The need of bloodshed for the forgiveness of sin.

These are just some of the spiritual riches which are found in *Genesis* chapter 3 which we will see as we go through this chapter.

I have heard numerous people blame *God* for the suffering and the sorrow which is in this world. One man I spoke with told me there was no way *God* could be a loving *God* because of all the suffering which He has caused in this world. What I attempted to explain to him was that *God* created the world perfectly and it was the entrance of sin into the world which brought with it all the suffering. But he continued to blame *God* and as far as I know he still does to this day. We shall see that the suffering of this world is a result of man's sin and is used by *God* for a specific purpose.

I. The Ways of Satan (3:1-5)

A. His Craftiness

Notice *Genesis* 3:1

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The first thing we see when we read this verse is that the serpent was a very crafty animal. But the description goes beyond the snake to the very one who has possessed the animal and that is Satan.

Satan is very intelligent and very powerful. Let me show you a verse that may help you grasp onto the strength and the intelligence of Satan.

Jude :9

⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

After the death of Moses Satan desired to get the body of Moses. If he could get his body and indwell his body he knew he could lead the nation of Israel directly into destruction. The angels buried Moses and they only knew where he was. Satan came to Michael the arch angel and was contending for the body. But Michael knew better than to take on Satan so he simply said, "The Lord rebuke thee".

Now if Michael knew he was no match for Satan then we should understand that we are no match for him in our own power. That is why we must stand in the power of God's might. Satan is the most powerful being created by God.

B. His Target

Notice Genesis 3:1

It is very important to notice that Satan went to Eve and not Adam. There is a reason why he did this. She was the weaker of the two when it came to knowledge. Satan wanted to lead a rebellion against God and he knew he had to get Adam to rebel so he went through Eve because she was the weaker of the two. Let me show you why I say this.

Notice Genesis 2:18-22

Here we see that Adam named all the animals before Eve was created. Therefore he had the biggest part of a day with them and so he knew they could not talk. Eve apparently did not have that knowledge and so she entertained the conversation with the serpent. Satan could not have gone to Adam because Adam knew the animals could not talk.

Application:

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I want you to pay very close attention to what I am about to say because it is so fitting for this church.

God had created everything perfectly and Satan's desire was to overthrow God by getting the human race to rebel against Him. Satan wanted to gather an army to attempt to defeat God.

Isaiah 14:12-14

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Therefore, Satan worked through the weak person to carry out his plan.

Today Satan works the very same way. Here at this church we are in the talking stages of adding on and moving ahead for God. That means several things:

1. More people will come in and sit under the teaching of God's Word and be trained to serve.
2. More people will be saved through the ministry here.
3. More young people will come and learn the Word therefore this church will not die out when we are gone.

The entire motive behind what we are looking at is to advance God's kingdom.

With all of that said I can assure you that Satan and his demonic forces will set their sights upon this advancement of God's work. So we must understand that Satan will use anyone he can to disrupt the unity, to drive in a wedge, to lead toward compromise and to stop the advancement of this church for the kingdom of God.

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His main focus will be on the weak because they are more easily persuaded to be controlled by the sin nature or I should say they are controlled by the flesh and not by the Spirit.

Let me show you another picture of this and then I will get personal with the application.

I want to take you to the book of Exodus when Israel was on their journey to the land of Canaan and they encountered their first battle.

Exodus 17:8-13

⁸ Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

⁹ And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

¹¹ And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

¹² But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

¹³ And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Now let us notice what is written in the book of Deuteronomy about the very same attack.

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

¹⁷ Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt:

*¹⁸ How he met thee by the way, and **smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee**, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*

You see here who was attacked first? It was all of the people who were weak and feeble.

Satan does not fight fair. He will use those who are weak or even weary to cause divisions or to stand against the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Now let me get personal with the application:

We must all be careful as we move forward. If it is God's will that we build on to this building to make more room for the purpose of training people for the ministry and I believe it is, and if we commit to the project then we must all be on guard. The enemy will, in a crafty way, try to use anyone here that allows themselves to be used.

How would he work within a church?

A. Dividers

- ✓ Someone may say something which offends you and instead of letting it roll off of your back or going to that person to talk it over you harbor within your heart unforgiveness. Then from that day forward you have an edge about you when that person says something. You now stay away from them and you treat them differently. The unity begins to dissolve. You may think it only affects you but everyone around you can sense that something is wrong and so the spirit of unforgiveness suppresses the Holy Spirit.

Let me tell you what that does. It grieves the Holy Spirit and when you refuse to deal with it quenches the Holy Spirit. But the bottom line is that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is hindered and it is the seed of division.

B. Discouragers

- ✓ Another way Satan can cause problems within the body of Christ is by using people to be discouragers. Let us think about something for a moment. To follow God and to be used of Him to glorify Him we must walk by faith.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith is not sight and so there are going to be many times as we follow God that we will not be able to understand how it will all work out and sometimes in the human mind it seems unreachable. That is exactly why it is called faith. So to glorify God we must not walk sight and human reasoning but by faith as we follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. Let me show you what faith can do.

Matthew 14:29

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

For Peter to walk on the water he had to get out of the boat. For you and I to glorify God there will be times we must get out of our comfort zones and walk by faith not sight.

With that said there will be people in our lives that will not understand and they will say many things to discourage you and stop you from stepping out in faith.

Remember when Moses sent the spies to Canaan the first time? Here is their report:

Numbers 13:27-33

27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

There will always be discouragers but you do not have to be one of them. How would you like to answer someday for keeping someone from stepping into the will of God because

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your words discouraged them? Satan will attempt to use people to be discouragers to stop the advance of God's kingdom.

Conclusion:

We have just started on this chapter but you can clearly see that way in which the enemy works. Let me give you 3 points of advice:

1. Study the Word.
2. Walk close to the Lord.
3. Resist the Devil.