



## Week 3: Paradise Lost

This only have I found:  
God created mankind upright,  
but they have gone in search of many schemes.  
~ King Solomon (Ecclesiastes 7:29)

### APPETIZER: The Story So Far

1. Genesis 1 mimics ANE (Ancient Near East) creation myth, but in a religiously subversive way.
2. We were created outside Eden, then placed in the garden with a purpose.
3. Our mission is to meet with and grow with God in the garden, and then to move out from there to rule over, subdue, serve, and protect creation.
4. This does not preclude the possibility of other people existing outside the garden, where death and disorder are still evident.
5. There may be another force at work in the disorder of creation outside the garden, and now working its way inside...

**Revelation 12:7-9**

### DINE IN: Naked and Afraid

**Genesis 3**

“crafty” (Heb, *ARUM*) = wise, shrewd, sensible, prudent  
**Proverbs 8:5; also 13:16; 14:8, 18; etc.**

WISDOM + LOVE = \_\_\_\_\_

WISDOM – LOVE = \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 9:10**

*The first sin?...*

**Romans 5:13**

*Are we all guilty because of Adam and Eve?...*

**Romans 5:12**

*Eve in the New Testament...*

**2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:12-14**

*The seed of the serpent...*

**Matthew 23:22**

*The seed of Eve...*

The Protoevangelium? **Romans 16:20**

*Heel strikes & Head strikes...*

*The Temptation of the Second Adam...*

**Luke 3:37-4:14**

### TAKE OUT: Rejecting the Blame Shame Game

Who do you blame for the way you are?

**Romans 16:20; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Colossians 1:15-23**

*Dear Father,  
Thank you for your forgiveness, kindness, and care.  
Today I want to freely give to others what you have freely given me.  
Today I forgive those who have hurt, deceived, or manipulated me.  
Today I let go of the need to remind myself of the pain and wrongdoing.  
Today I trust you to judge, so I can cultivate grace.  
Today I accept responsibility for who I am and what I choose.  
I am your precious child, and I choose to live like it.  
I am your beautiful work of art, and I choose to live like it.  
I am your image and likeness of love to this world, and I choose to live like it.  
Thank you for the privilege of being me today.  
Amen*

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Track with the Bruxy Blog – [www.bruxy.com](http://www.bruxy.com)

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. So where are you leaning so far regarding what genre of literature to put Genesis 1-4 in? a) Literal history (young earth, literal Adam and Eve)? b) Old earth, evolution used by God, but a literal Adam and Eve? c) Figurative story, telling transcendent truth? d) Something else?

Watch the home church hangout video.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read about the sixth and seventh day of creation in **Genesis 3**.
  - a. What stands out to you from this passage or Sunday's message?
  - b. Have you ever seen yourself in the characters of this story: Eve (a bit confused and naïve)? Adam (present but passive)? The serpent (using your people skills to manipulate)?
  - c. In this chapter, do you see God as angry and punitive? Or grieved yet merciful? Use the text to help you explain why.
  - d. Some Christians argue that this chapter teaches complementarianism (male authority), because God gave the Torah about the tree to Adam, and because the husband will "rule over" his wife, and because Adam names Eve (a sign of authority). How might you respond to that line of thinking?
3. IF TIME PERMITS: Read **James 1:13-18**.
  - a. What does James seem to have on his mind as he writes this?
  - b. How is our experience of temptation and sin similar to and/or different to Adam and Eve?
  - c. What are some of the good gifts God gives us that we should focus on and be content with? (Speak generally, or personally.)
  - d. When we trust Jesus, we are reborn by the Spirit, and this new life is a kind of foretaste of what all creation will one day experience (also see **Romans 8:18-23**). In the meantime, what are some things we can do to live in tune with our true selves and in tune with creation? (Name some general principles, or something specific God is convicting you about.)

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. We all play the "Blame Shame Game" in some contexts. In what situations are you most likely to blame others for your own bad choices? What is God saying to you about making better choices this week? What will that look like? How can your group help you take those next steps?