

Genesis 3 – The Fall

1 Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’”

2 The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

3 it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”

4 But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die!

5 God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”

6 The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So, she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

LOSS OF ORIGINAL HOLINESS, IMMORTALITY

Genesis 3 – the Promise of Redemption

9 The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you?

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid...”

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;

They will strike at your head,
while you strike at their heel.

Exodus 19

4 You have seen how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

5 Now, if you obey me completely and keep my covenant, you will be my treasured possession among all peoples, though all the earth is mine.

6 You will be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. That is what you must tell the Israelites.

7 So Moses went and summoned the elders of the people. When he set before them all that the LORD had ordered him to tell them,

8 all the people answered together, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do." Then Moses brought back to the LORD the response of the people.

Exodus 24

3 When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD, they all answered with one voice, "We will do everything that the LORD has told us."

4 Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and, rising early in the morning, he built at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve sacred stones for the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 Then, having sent young men of the Israelites to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice young bulls as communion offerings to the LORD,

6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar.

7 Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will hear and do."

8 Then he took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.”

9 Moses then went up with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel,
10 and they beheld the God of Israel. Under his feet there appeared to be sapphire tilework, as clear as the sky itself.

11 Yet he did not lay a hand on these chosen Israelites. They saw God, and they ate and drank.

2 Sam. 7:1-16

5 Is it you who would build me a house to dwell in?...

11 the LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you:

12 when your days have been completed and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He it is who shall build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever...

16 Your house and your kingdom are firm forever before me; your throne shall be firmly established forever.

Jer. 31

31 See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke my covenant.

33 But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days—oracle of the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Lk. 22

14 When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles.

15 He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...”

19 Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.”

20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.

Tree of Life – St. John Chrysostom

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? Shall I tell you something still more marvellous? Learn in what way the victory was gained, and you will be even more astonished. For by the very means by which the devil had conquered, by these Christ conquered him; and taking up the weapons with which he had fought, he defeated him.

Listen to how it was done. A virgin, a tree and a death were the symbols of our defeat. The virgin was Eve: she had not yet known man; the tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; the death was Adam’s penalty. But behold again a Virgin and a tree and a death, those symbols of defeat, become the symbols of his victory. For in place of Eve there is Mary; in place of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the tree of the Cross; in place of the death of Adam, the death of Christ.

Do you see him defeated by the very things through which he had conquered? At the foot of the tree the devil overcame Adam; at the foot of the tree of the Cross Christ vanquished the devil. And that first tree sent men to Hades; this second one calls back even those who had already gone down there. Again, the former tree concealed man already despoiled and stripped; the second tree shows a naked victor on high for all to see. And that earlier death condemned those who were born after it; the second death gives life again to those who were born before it. Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory. The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory. Let us praise the Lord and say,

Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy victory?

O death, where is thy sting?

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent. The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.