

Dive! FBCD Women's Ministry

*From Garden to Glory* by Courtney Doctor - Chapter 3 (But Then an Evil Serpent...)

November 9, 2025

**Once upon a time...**

*Characters:*

- God is the Source of everything, the sovereign King, and a good and loving Father.
- Human beings are the crown of God's creation made in the image of God to be his representatives in the world.

*Setting:*

- The garden is full of God's glory, and everything is very good.
- The pattern of the kingdom is established. The kingdom of God exists perfectly as God's people in God's place under God's rule.

**But then an evil serpent...**

**THE FALL**

**1. THE SERPENT**

- a. "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made" (Genesis 3:1).
- b. Revelation 12:9 refers to the serpent as "the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world."

**Question:** What else do we learn about this character in the Bible? What should we do in light of these truths about him?

- c. The serpent asks a simple question: "Did God actually say...?" (Genesis 3:1). This one question is an assault on everything God has shown himself to be. It introduces doubt concerning who God is.
- d. The serpent is a problem, but he is not our primary problem.

## 2. THE SIN

- a. Sin is irrational. In other words, to sin is to act or think in a way that is not based on logic, reason, or clear thinking.

**Question:** Do you agree that sin is irrational? If so, in what ways is sin irrational?

- b. "As faithful readers, we are supposed to feel the absurdity of it all. We are supposed to be puzzled and scratch our heads because sin should always confound us" (66).
- c. No matter how crafty we are in our argumentation or how many factors are at play, we are always fully responsible for our own sins.
- d. Sin is treason against the sovereign King and disobedience against our good and loving Father.

## 3. THE SHAME

- a. "...the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God" (Genesis 3:8).
- b. Adam and Eve are no longer naked and unashamed. They hide from God and make a feeble attempt to cover their shame with fig leaves.

**Question:** What fig leaves do we use? How do we try to cover our sin?

- c. We should feel shame for our treason and disobedience, but there is no hope of redemption unless the King initiates it.
  - i. "...the man and his wife hid themselves. ... But the LORD God called to the man..." (Genesis 3:8-9).
  - ii. "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked. ... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:1, 4-5).

## 4. THE SENTENCE

- a. As the sovereign King, God holds absolute authority and gets to set the rules. As a good and loving Father, he sets parameters as a part of the provision and protection of his children.
- b. In response to sin, we still see God as the sovereign King and a good and loving Father. As the sovereign King, he still has absolute authority and gets to judge and punish when his rules are broken. As a good and loving Father, he disciplines his children when they disobey him.
- c. Adam stands as our representative, which means we are born as sinners and bear the consequences of the curse.
  - i. "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).
  - ii. "...in Adam all die..." (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- d. The curse affects humanity's relationship with God, man, and the earth.
- e. Although the sentence is a curse, it contains a very important blessing that sets up the rest of the Bible's story. "Punishment will not be God's ultimate answer to sin, but redemption" (76).

## THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

### 1. THE FIRST GOSPEL (PROTOEVANGELIUM)

- a. "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15).
- b. The sovereign King acts in sovereign grace.

### 2. FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST

- a. "The purpose of Scripture is to point you to the one who carries fallen humanity's hope so that you will embrace your need of him, put your trust in him, and receive the greatest gift ever given: *life in his name*" (*Everyday Gospel Bible*).
- b. There is a long time between Genesis 3:15 and its fulfillment in Christ, but the rest of the storyline of the Bible points to him.