

Genesis 3 - The Descent and Ascent of the Soul

Kid's Message: "The Truth About Lying" youtube video by Ben Crawford

Intro: There is Something Terribly Wrong in the World

Share one thing that is terrible and bothers you in your life or in the world.

An Anatomy of the Fall

Exposure to Evil (v.1)

It's not what you let into your life but who.

In the ancient near east, the serpent was a sign of protection, wisdom and even healing.

So who is the serpent?

Where in Genesis is the identity revealed?

It's not.

But in this context, the serpent is anti-God.

Poor Company corrupts good character.

Who are you listening to?

Listening to the Lie (v.2-5)

Falsehood

Listening to the Devil

Are you able to discern the truth from Error?

Entering thought life

Forgetting what is true "Eat" becomes "touch" 2:16-17

Poor memory or poor teaching?

How well do you know God's word?

Be still and know that I am God. (Ps. 46:10)

Moderation in all things. (Aristotle's Neomachean Ethics)

A fool and his money are soon parted. (From Thomas Tusser's 1557, 500 points of good husbandry.)

Money is the root of all evil. (No. 1 Tim 6:10 says, "is the root of all kinds of evil," Not "ALL" evil.)

God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7)

God helps those who help themselves. (Originally Aesop's Hercules and the Wagoneer,

but in this form from Ben Franklin's Farmer's Almanac.)

To thine own self be true. (Shakespeare - Hamlet)

Cleanliness is next to Godliness. (Babylonian & Hebrew Lit. In English, Sir Francis Bacon and finally John Wesley)

Your word is a lamp to my feet. (Ps. 119:105)

The Lion shall lie with the lamb. (Nope. Isaiah 11 & 65 pair the wolf with the lamb and the lion with the calf or ox.)

Once saved, always saved. (Nope, this is a reformed doctrine but it does not occur in the Bible.)

If the son should set you free, you are free indeed. (Jn 8:36)

Evil turns everything into a sin.

It is the evil of legalism.

It is all about who you trust.

It is a matter of deep paradigms

Accepting the invitation without critical thought.

Humans have the incredible ability to rationalize anything away.

Whether it is God or sin.

We can even rationalize God into being.

But what matters is not what we imagine or construct.

It is a matter of reality.

God's existence is not dependent on our belief.

God's goodness is not dependent on our experience.

The question is whether or not we are willing to challenge our perspective and put things to the test.

But in the end, the rational is not enough.

For lies are made to be believed.

Believing the Lie (v.6)

God is not Good

Acting on the Lie (v.6b)

Where was Adam?

Who really entertained the serpent's lies?

Inaction is itself a sin.

He was there the whole time.

And in the end he didn't follow God.

Why? He believed the lie.

He wanted the wisdom, the power, the control over himself.

We become, for lack of a better description, god.

From being his image bearer, we wreck his image and distort it.

Hiding (v.7-13)

Alienation, fear, shame, denial, deception, blame

From God, from self, from others

Death

The ripple effects flow everywhere.
There isn't just something wrong in the world.
There is something wrong in us.
And so fixing the world around us, masking our true selves doesn't make things better.
It makes things worse.
It is death.

This is the descent of the soul, the fall from grace into death.
Is there a way out?

The Ascent of the Soul

Rebirth

Yes.
It started painfully though.
The history of a nation named Israel - which means struggle with God.
For is this not what we have been doing?
Through the history of struggle, comes a young girl and her husband who bear the shame of a seemingly illegitimate birth.
Who are hunted.
God comes to save us himself-personally.
Not from mere circumstance.
But from the inside out.
For it is not in the garden that the darkness comes.
It is from our hearts.
And when the Spirit of God comes to us,
We begin to question our broken paradigm.
We begin to hope.
And we might even begin to believe.
Believe that there is more than hiding and fear.
We believe there is love.
And this leads us to a very powerful but difficult ascent.

Confession

Admitting who I am and what I have done.
I am not good.
I cannot make myself good.
Only God can and I want to let him.
I am not in control - I live by grace and not by power over myself or even others.
I need God.
I need forgiveness.
I want it.
I want to change.

I want to bear the image again.

Believing

I believe in forgiveness.
I believe in grace.
I believe in the resurrection.
I believe God's love.
bearing witness.
no fear
no shame
no condemnation
security
truthfulness

Acting on our Belief

Faith, love & obedience flow from the same place of relationship with God.

Speaking Truth

You can only speak what you learn and know.
You can only share what you experience.
Otherwise you are defenseless.
Growth in character

Engaging Evil

Live the truth.
Not a retreat from tough places but the ability to enter into.
Not with pride but with understanding and confidence.
The ability to defend yourself and others.
Participate in Redemption.
Not complacency.
Action.
Most of all, tell the truth about yourself.

Conclusion: There is Something Amazing Happening in the World

Where are you in this descent and ascent?
We are always somewhere.
What are we hiding from others, from ourselves, from God?
What do we really want?
There are only two directions in the spiritual life.
Up and down.
Towards God or away from him.
Complacency, apathy vs. purpose, hope, peace and joy.

Share something amazing with your group.
How you see God.