

There is No Going Back!

Introduction

²⁴ *After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

And its crucial we grasp this point: **There's no going back!** Everything that follows in the Bible, from Genesis 4:1 onwards, deals with this truth: **There's no going back!**

When you hear the word "Cherubim" what image comes to mind? Cherubim are powerful beings and part of God's heavenly host, v.24 includes flaming swords. This is a terrifying and tragic moment for Adam and Eve. They are cast out of Eden and **There's no going back!**

To understand the tragedy of how mankind got to this point we need to go back and do a quick overview of Chapters 1 & 2.

Genesis 1 opens with: *'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep - and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters Genesis 1:2b*

Chapter 1 asserts that it is God who is the Creator, He willed everything into being.

He is all-powerful, He is God, He is King, He is Lord. He declares it "Very Good!" - It is for Him to decide what is good and what is bad, **not us.**

He is Lord and King, and we, the created, cannot oppose him or even negotiate with Him. We need to accept that and believe that if we are going to understand the gospel, turn to God, and be His disciple.

Chapter 2 now retells the story. The relationship with God is not Tyrannical, rather Fatherly – its family, inclusive and embracing. Both men and women are to have loving relationships with God and with one another. We are included and given responsibility within God's creative work and creative order.

God is God and we are not, He is the Creator we are the created, and in Chapter 2 God drew the boundary ¹⁶ *And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'*

Chapter 3 immediately introduces us to the enemy, the serpent/the devil who wants to destroy. He tells half-truths and lies, his agenda is rebellion and seeks to create enmity between mankind and God.

But the serpent is only a tempter, it's Adam & Eve's choice that brings about the fall. They disobey God because the pride in their hearts makes them think they can disregard God and have more.

The results of eating the fruit are immediate, *Then the eyes of both of them were opened* and it's pathetic. They are now in the position of regarding the whole cosmos with new eyes but instead they immediately focus on their nakedness. They have always been naked, yet the immediate result of the fall is self-obsession. Immediately their relationship with God has changed, they are ashamed, and they hide from God. The nature of the relationship with God has changed from love to fear.

Despite the dire consequences, they had rebelled against God and sort to usurp God's position. As a result there would be now pain and toil, the ground was cursed, and they were cast out away from God's light, life and presence in the garden.

Genesis 3

This isn't about a trivial bit of naughtiness, its terrible act of betrayal and unfaithfulness. It's not that the image of God is a little bit dirty, the image is broken and the relationship with God is rock bottom or ground zero. And **there's no going back!**

The consequences of The Fall affect us all, Psalm 53:³ *Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.* Romans 3:²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* There is nothing we can do to put things right with God, Isaiah 64:⁶ *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

But in the curse, there is hope: ¹⁵ *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head,* The promise that one day Christ would come to rescue us from this pitiful state, John 3:¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* Because, Romans 5:⁸ *... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Christ came to rescue us, take the curse of our sins upon ourselves and restore us to God, John 5:²⁴ *'Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life',* John 8:¹² *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'*

Conclusion

There's no going back? On my own under the curse, the answer is 'No'. But, Galatians 2:²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* In Christ we are given access once more to God, and the Cherubim must stand aside. We are restored to the Lord God and once more we are to serve Him and take part in His wonderful work, 1 Peter 2:⁹ *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*