

## Genesis 3

New resource: Is Genesis History?

Question: Does the New Testament support the Genesis Account? Absolutely!

- The genealogy in Mathew 1 traces the ancestry of Jesus (through Mary) back to Abraham (Gen 12).
- *Luke 3:23-38, traces the ancestry of Jesus (through Joseph) all the way back to Adam!*
- *John 8:44, [Jesus, talking with some unbelievers] You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells <sup>[a]</sup>a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of <sup>[b]</sup>lies.*
- *1 Cor 11:8-9, For man <sup>[a]</sup>does not originate from woman, but woman from man; <sup>9</sup> for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.*
- *2 Cor 11:3, But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
- *1 Tim 2:13-14, For it was Adam who was first <sup>[a]</sup>created, and then Eve. <sup>14</sup> And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman was <sup>[b]</sup>deceived and <sup>[c]</sup>became a wrongdoer.*
- *2 Pet 3:5-6, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, <sup>6</sup> through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.*
- *Rev 12:9-10, And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole <sup>[a]</sup>world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

People are self-contradictory who say they believe the New Testament, but do not believe the truths found in the Genesis account.

### Stress the importance of a literal reading of Genesis.

In the early 20th century David L Cooper came up with the 'golden rule of interpretation':

*"When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, and usual meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."*

### Even so, Genesis Chapter 3 is one of the most attacked passages in the bible – PLAY THE VIDEO

- *2 Pet 3:3, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires.*
- *Jude 1:17-19, But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>18</sup> that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." <sup>19</sup> These are the ones who cause divisions, <sup>[a]</sup>worldly-minded, <sup>[b]</sup>devoid of the Spirit.*

**But it's Genesis chapter 3 that explains why the world is the way it is. Why is there evil and suffering and death? Why are there wars, famines, diseases and pestilences? Why is there rape and murder and adultery and abortion? Why do we need a Savior? Throw away or distort chapter 3 and you can't explain our purpose for being here, what's wrong with our world, and you eliminate our need for the gospel.**

So, let's dig into Chapter 3 – we have a lot to cover!

**Gen 3:1a, Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.**

- The Hebrew word “Nachash” in the bible is literally a serpent (or snake) and is also used figuratively
  - Nachash is synonymous with Hebrew Tannin, which mean “dragon”
    - Rev 20:2, uses both terms, *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years*
  - Literally
    - Ex 4:3, *Moses throwing his staff on the ground and it became a serpent*
    - Num 21:7, *“intercede with the Lord that he may remove the serpents from us”*
  - Figuratively
    - Gen 49:17, *“Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a horned snake in the path”*
    - Psa 58:5, *“The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from <sup>[a]</sup>birth. They have venom like the venom of a serpent;”*
    - Psa 140:2-3, *Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men; Preserve me from violent men <sup>2</sup> Who devise evil things in their hearts; They continually stir up wars. <sup>3</sup> They sharpen their tongues as a serpent; Poison of a viper is under their lips.*
- We can safely say that the Genesis 3:1 is both literal and figurative
  - Probably Satan inhabited the body of serpent, and because of the nature of his activity in the garden (that of deception)
- “More crafty”, because snakes are crafty? But also because Satan was behind the craftiness
  - Means deceitful, shrewd. You could say snakes sneak up on their pray and then pounce
  - Mat 10:16, *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so <sup>[a]</sup>be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.*

Notice the phrase “Lord God” in 3:1a, and also NINE TIMES throughout Genesis chapter 2

Who listened to the Hebrew of Chapter 2 for the words Adonai Elohim?

Now notice how Satan addresses God here in the second part of verse 1

**Gen 3:1b, And he said to the woman, “indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?”**

- Where is the word “Lord” (Adonai)? Why is it missing?
  - Isa 14:13, [Satan Speaking] *“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’*
- What was Satan’s motive?
  - He wants to corrupt God’s creation. He is the heavenly usurper.
- Why did Satan attack the woman?
  - Adam was given the prohibition. How much did he share with Eve?
  - What about the nature of the woman by God’s design?
    - Designed to be tender, compassionate, caring, under the protection of the husband
    - The husband is the hunter, protector, provider, the one who loves, leads
    - Perhaps he, as her covering and authority, wasn’t with her when she was being tempted

- What was his tactic? Distorting what God had said, and turning it into a question
  - He implied that God was restricting them from something good.
  - This was disguised as a deceptive request for clarification of God's word
  - In other words, he intended to lead her in the "correct" interpretation of God's word
  - He wanted her to make a decision apart from Adam
- The fact that she even engaged the serpent in a conversation is surprising, a tribute to his cunning
  - Should we even entertain anything that desires to tempt us to do wrong?

***Gen 3:2-3, <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup> but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will (may) die.'"***

- So what do you see going on here?
  - She demonstrated an incomplete understanding of God's command
    - Hebrew "pun mut" means "you may die" (subjunctive form)
    - Gen 2:17, "you shall surely die" translates "mut mut", dying (absolutely) you will die!
    - Using the word "mut" twice establishes certainty, and may also reference physical AND spiritual death
  - She also added a command to what God said, "or touch it"
    - This may have been a prohibition given by Adam for her protection
    - It's a form of legalism that we know is ineffective in bringing forth righteousness
    - Or, she added "or touch it" because she felt that God was harsh and restrictive

***Gen 3:4-5, <sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."***

- Satan outright lies, you surely will not die! You will absolutely not die, "not mut mut", die dying!
- This is why Satan is called by John a murderer (bringing death), and a liar from the beginning
  - *John 8:44, <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks <sup>[a]</sup>a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of <sup>[b]</sup>lies.*
- What is his strategy? In short:
  - He gets her to doubt character of God; "God is withholding something good"
    - He makes God's Word subject to her own judgment
    - Should we bring our own judgment to bear on the clear meaning of God's Word?
  - He gets her to focus on the prohibition instead of the abundant freedom she was given by God
    - This prohibition makes it seem like God is restrictive and Satan is for complete freedom
    - QUESTION: What's really happening here? Is God restrictive? Is Satan for freedom?
    - Is the knowledge (experiential) of evil a good thing?
  - He gets her to doubt the Word of God; "You shall not surely die"
  - He gets her to believe the lie of Satan; "You will be like God"
  - QUESTION: IS it OK to want to be like God? Does God want us to be like Him?
    - How is what Satan requires different from what God requires.
      - How do Christians become more like God?

**Gen 3:6, <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.**

- What were the three things that tempted Eve to take and eat the fruit?
  - Lust of the flesh – even though she could have chosen from all the other trees
  - Desire of the eyes – beautiful, but the tree of life is also beautiful
    - *Rev 22:2, On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve <sup>[a]</sup>kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*
  - Pride of life – The desire to be like God
    - QUESTION: Why do we need to be like God if we really know and follow God?
    - QUESTION: Do we get more fulfillment out of disobeying God or obeying God
- So, is there something “magical” about the fruit itself? Definitely something spiritual!
- The real issue was one of trusting God and being obedient to God’s commandment!
  - *Pro 5:6-7, <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*
- So Eve was deceived
- Question: Was Adam deceived? No. He was DISOBEDIENT! Paul explains it like this:
  - *Rom 5:19, <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*
  - Perhaps Adam saw that Eve did NOT die after eating the fruit, sight doesn’t reveal everything!
  - Anyone who says obedience doesn’t matter doesn’t get it!

**Gen 3:7, <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves <sup>[b]</sup>loin coverings.**

- Their worldview had changed, and now they saw their whole world through sinful eyes
- Sin can pervert even the most innocent things, and turn them into evil
- When they made loin coverings for themselves, was that the correct response? Yes, but inadequate!
- Why do we wear clothes today, other than for fashion and warmth? To cover shame!
  - What about indigenous tribes that go without clothes, or nudists? Have they found freedom from shame? No! They trample over their own conscience.
  - What about pornographers? What do they do? What is the intent of their uncovering?

**Gen 3:8-13, <sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the <sup>[c]</sup>cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”**

- QUESTION? How can God, who is spirit, “walk” in the garden?
  - *Gen 18:1-2, Now the LORD appeared to [Abraham] by the <sup>[d]</sup>oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth.*

- The promise of Isaac this time next year, and Abraham negotiating with the Lord over Sodom
- *Then... Gen 18:33, As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place.*
- *Gen 32:24–25, 28–30, Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. . . . And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”*
- These are known as Theophanies, or Christophanies (God-appearances, or Christ appearances)
- How could Jacob see God and not die? Probably a “veiled” version of God in the form of Christ
- E.J. Young, a well-known Old Testament scholar, writes, “God is the infinite one. He is a spirit. In order to reveal Himself to man in an intimate way, He did appear during Old Testament times in human form. Such appearances were called theophanies and these theophanies found their culmination in the incarnation of the second person of the trinity. Pre-incarnate appearances of the Lord is what they were. In most loving and tender condescension, God appeared in the form of a man so that He might speak to man as friend to friend.”
- QUESTION? How would they have responded to God walking in the garden before the transgression?
- QUESTION? Why did they hide? What do we do when we are ashamed over having done something wrong?
- QUESTION? How do people hide from God today?
- QUESTION? Is it even possible to hide from God?
  - *Psalm 139-7-10, Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in <sup>[m]</sup>Sheol, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, <sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.*
- QUESTION? When God asks Adam “where are you”, what information is He looking for? Confession!
- QUESTION? Does Adam give God a confession, or an excuse? **Why is Adam afraid of God now?**
  - *Heb 2:14-15, <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share in <sup>[m]</sup>flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*
- QUESTION? Then what does Adam say when God asks him if he ate from the tree? He shifts blame!
- QUESTION? Who told Adam and Eve that they were naked? They were always naked.
  - Nobody! It came from sin within them.
  - This was an opportunity to confess what was going on within them
  - Instead Adam shifted blame to “the woman”, and to God
    - Adam is supposed to defend and protect his wife, instead he blamed her
    - Guilt-Blame balance!
- Likewise, Eve did not accept blame for her transgression. She blamed it on the serpent!
  - The devil made me do it!
- Suddenly, Adam and Eve went from praising God to blaming him for their own transgressions
  - In an instant, sin turned them from lovers of God into haters of God
  - They are void of any love for God, they now see him as their judge
- QUESTION? How can they (we) solve their (our) problem without God making the first move?

So now Satan, who wanted to become the sovereign of heaven, and now sees himself as the “sovereign” of earth. Adam and Eve are under his control, and so he thinks, are all the generations of man that proceed from them. He is the god of this age, and the ruler of this world.

- *2 Cor 4:4, the god of this <sup>[a]</sup>world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving <sup>[b]</sup>so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
- *John 12:31, Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*

### The curse on the serpent

***Gen 3:14, <sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;***

- The serpent was the instrument of Satan to lie and deceive, and as such is cursed
- The serpent is punished as a symbol and lasting reminder of the punishment of Satan
- Rabbinic Legend holds that the serpent was upright and had legs before the curse
- The serpent was compared to the “beasts of the field” which are predominantly quadrupeds
- After all, what’s the point of the curse, if the snake slithered on its belly before the fall?
- Plus, there is the book of Revelation using the term serpent and dragon synonymously
- Nearly all cultures throughout the world have legends of dragons, which seem to no longer exist
- Eating dust is symbolic of the humiliation and defeat of a vanquished enemy
  - *Psa 72:9, Let the nomads of the desert bow before him, And his enemies lick the dust.*
- Snakes are associated with demon worship, and the occult.
- The symbology of the snake: when we see one what should we be reminded of?
  - That Satan is defeated and humiliated, and even in the Millennial Earth, snakes are there!
  - *Isa 11:8, The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand in the viper’s den. They will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain.*
  - *Isa 65:25, The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD.*
- QUESTION: What is the rainbow a perpetual reminder of?

### The curse on Satan

***Gen 3:15, <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall <sup>[d]</sup>bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”***

- This isn’t really about opposition and hostility between women and snakes, but rather God will make a way for Eve and her seed to oppose and be hostile toward Satan, and also Satan’s “seed”.
- Here we see the introduction of God’s redemption plan for mankind
- Satan may believe he has usurped God’s authority on earth by making Adam and Even his friends and God’s enemies, however, God is still sovereign!
- Satan was cast out of heaven, taking 1/3 of the angels with him, which are now demons:
  - *Rev 12:3-4, Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. <sup>4</sup> And his tail \*swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.*
    - *Fallen angels have no redemption, and will be forever under the authority of Satan*

- Notice that Satan also wages war with the woman who was about to give birth
  - Think about the slaughter of the innocent babies
    - *Mat 2:16, Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.*
    - *Rev 12:9, <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole <sup>[a]</sup>world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*
- However, angels do not procreate as does mankind, and people can be redeemed and taken out from under the authority of Satan!
- So with the fulfillment of be fruitful and multiply, we see those who live by faith and those who don't!
- So what does between you and the woman mean? Literally who is this referring to? Satan and Eve!
  - Eve was deceived, but God can still make Eve his friend by faith, and the enemy of Satan
  - Later in Genesis we will see evidence that this was actually the case in Eve's life
  - In this curse on Satan, God introduces his plan for election and salvation
  - "So Satan, you can't even keep this first couple in your Kingdom!"
- So who is the woman's seed and who is Satan's seed?
  - The woman's seed are the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, but specifically the redeemed
  - Satan's seed are also sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, but specifically the wicked
  - "So, the righteous seed of Eve will oppose your unrighteous seed throughout human history"
- HE (Jesus-from Eve's seed) shall bruise you (Satan) on the head
  - A head-blow is a fatal, deadly blow. Satan will be judged and condemned!
- And you (Satan) shall bruise him (Jesus) on the heel. Painful, but not a fatal blow. Jesus will rise!
- From the beginning, 2 Kingdoms are being developed on earth; **Read Thy Kingdom Come, page 37-38**
- All in the providence of God! And Satan thinks he's got this!

### The curse on the woman

***Gen 3:16, <sup>16</sup> To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain <sup>[e]</sup>in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."***

- Her curse is in her realm, the family
- She fell into sin pursuing something she thought would bring her pleasure and joy. This is her stigma
- So, the woman's curse is in the two areas that should bring her the most joy in life:
  - Giving birth to wonderful children
  - Being the wife of a loving, caring, protective husband
- Instead, at the risk of her own life she gives painful birth to little sinners and is married to a big sinner!
  - Rebellious children can break a mother's heart, or can be killed in senseless violence or a crash
  - A husband can take advantage of her, rule over her, fail to love her, frustrate her
- The curse has nothing to do with dishes or laundry or cooking or cleaning house
  - It comes with the difficulty of birthing and raising children, and dealing with a human husband
  - Her greatest desires are for her children and her husband, and they can cause her the most grief
- Yet, Godly women will derive satisfaction and praise by raising godly offspring (Two Kingdoms)
  - *1 Tim 2:15, But women will be <sup>[a]</sup>preserved (released from her stigma) through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with <sup>[b]</sup>self-restraint.*
- This God's blessing experienced by the godly woman who pours herself into her family.

- *Pro 31:25-31, Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
And she smiles at the <sup>[a]</sup>future.  
<sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
And the <sup>[b]</sup>teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
<sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household,  
And does not eat the bread of idleness.  
<sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and bless her;  
Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:  
<sup>29</sup> “Many daughters have done nobly,  
But you excel them all.”  
<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,  
But a woman who <sup>[c]</sup>fears the LORD, she shall be praised.  
<sup>31</sup> Give her the <sup>[d]</sup>product of her hands,  
And let her works praise her in the gates.*

### **The curse of Adam and the ground**

***Gen 3:17-19, <sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In <sup>[f]</sup>toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the <sup>[g]</sup>plants of the field; <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”***

- Adam’s curse is not so much on him, but in his realm, the workplace
  - Adam did what his wife told him to do (nothing wrong with that, unless...)
  - She told him to do what she wanted, rather than what God wanted
  - And he did it.
  - The creation was affected:
    - *Rom 8:19-23, For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, <sup>[i]</sup>in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*
- The ground becomes his enemy and he has to subdue it to survive
  - *Ecc 2:18-23, <sup>18</sup> I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. <sup>19</sup> And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless! <sup>20</sup> So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world. <sup>21</sup> Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn’t worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. <sup>22</sup> So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? <sup>23</sup> Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless. (NLT)*
- What’s the point? That every day a man works he is reminded of the curse that came through disobedience in the garden
- And we have it good in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I spend a lot of time in front of a computer. That’s work?
  - In the middle ages, the birth rate the death rate were the same, and people lived to 40



- Men had to toil in the fields, and in the rain and snow, without power tools or shelter
- We work until we die and then return to the dust
- QUESTION: Was man originally designed to return to dust?
- How can a man be saved from this futility?
  - By recognizing that God always has a greater purpose in all our toil
  - Each of us works for someone, and each has someone working for them
    - *Eph 6:5-8, Slaves, be obedient to those who are your <sup>[a]</sup>masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup> not <sup>[b]</sup>by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the <sup>[c]</sup>heart. <sup>7</sup> With good will <sup>[d]</sup>render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. <sup>9</sup> And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*
- So, in a similar way that a woman is “restored” (not saved) through raising godly children, Man is restored by his faithful service to his superiors, and by treating subordinates with respect
  - This is a living testimony in the workplace, and gives glory to God
  - *Rom 2:6-8, <sup>6</sup> [God] WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: <sup>7</sup> to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.*

**So, we see the curses we are under are mitigated (redeemed) by obedience to the LAW OF CHRIST.**

**We still live in a fallen world, but by obedience to Christ we can soften the effects of the curse!**