

Genesis
Ch. 3-5

Personal Reflection

- What is/are the main message(s) of the Genesis 3-5, for you?
- Is there something from the readings you find difficult to understand? To believe?

Background

Chapter 3: Disobedience and temptation. We know that the snake was made by God and that all things made by God are good. However, the devil worked through the snake. Eve knew God's will; she knew not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and that the consequence of eating from that particular tree was death. Satan tempted Eve leading her to believe that disobedience (sin) actually had no consequences. Eve's choice was to disobey God. Adam also knew God's will, but he also chose to disobey God. Their disobedience resulted in fear. God admonishes Adam, Eve, and the snake. God says to the snake, "They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel." (Genesis 3:15). This verse is interpreted as the first promise that a redeemer will save humankind (NABRE, Genesis Chapter 3). God changes the world for man and woman, they must now endure labor. Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden of Eden, preventing them from eating from the Tree of Life (Genesis 4:22-23).

Chapter 4: Eve gives birth to Cain and then Able. We learn that Cain and Able present sacrifices to God and that God finds favor in Abel's sacrifice but not in Cain's, and that this makes Cain angry. God goes to talk to Cain and teaches Cain that if he does good, he will be accepted (Genesis 4:6-7), but Cain does not follow God's teachings. Instead Cain kills Abel and then tries to deceive God by saying that he does not know where his brother is. Cain has sinned again. God banishes Cain to the land of Nod, but marks him to protect him from being killed by others. Cain marries and has children, one of his children, Lamech, also kills a man and boasts about it, Genesis 4:24 (sinning continues). Adam and Eve give birth to Seth. "The name Seth (from the Hebrew verb *shat*, "to place, replace") shows that God has replaced Abel with a worthy successor" (NABRE, Genesis Chapter 4). The lineage of Seth includes Enosh which translates to humankind (NABRE, Chapter 4).

In Genesis chapter 5, we learn the genealogy of Adam to Seth to Enosh to Noah. Adam lived to be 930 years old (older than his children). The lineage of Enosh includes Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Methuselah, and Enoch. We learn that Enoch walked with God for 3 hundred years, and that God took him, Genesis 5:24. The interpretation is that Enosh did not die but was taken to heaven. (NABRE, Chapter 4). We learn that the lineage of Methuselah includes Noah. Methuselah knows about the Lords curse upon the ground and names his son Noah, of whom he says Noah will bring relief from work and the toil of our hands, Genesis 5:29. Genesis, Chapter 5 concludes with the birth of Noah's sons.

References:

New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE). Genesis Chapter 3.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+3&version=NABRE>

Questions for Discussion

- What can you say about how Satan can test us and lead us to disobey to God? Is it subtle, is it obvious? How do you protect yourself against Satan?
- What is the significance of Ch. 3 vs 15?
- What is the significance of Ch. 4 vs 7?
- Why did God put a mark on Cain? What is the significance of Lamech killing a man and boasting about it?
- How does God deal with disobedience?
- What is the significance of Methuselah naming his son Noah?

Application

God taught Adam and Eve how to live in the Garden of Eden; both knew God's will. Satan deceived Adam and Eve. Good and evil have been revealed to us through the stories in the bible and everyday life. Today, we are still tempted by Satan to disobey God's will. How do you find help with choosing between good and evil? How are we redeemed?