Genesis

## **Sin’s Consequence (3:14-21)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible.*

## **To the serpent… (3:14-15)**

* The devil in disguise
  + It is really a serpent, yet one whom Satan entered into
  + But still gets punished
    - Unfair?
    - “Although before the curse it was a very pretty little beast, it is now more frightful and more hated than all the other animals.” – Luther
    - “Before sin, the serpent was a most beautiful little animal and most pleasing to man, as little mules, sheep, and puppies are today; moreover, that it walked upright (like a deer or peacock).” – Luther
      * Because of sin the nature of the serpent was entirely changed.
      * “Dust you shall eat”
        + Humiliated and defeated

Parallels how defeated rulers in history were at times forded to do homage by placing their faces on the ground.

Psalm 110:1

Isaiah 65:25

Micah 7:16-17

* What is not said:
  + “Why did you do this?”
    - Why would the LORD God refrain from saying this to Satan?
* “Because you have done this…”
  + Something had happened prior in their relationship, and there is no mercy for Satan.
  + Satan had previously sinned
  + There is a theory that because the serpent was condemned to lose its ability to walk, so too has Satan lost that ability.
* Real comfort for Adam and the woman (and their children)
  + Enmity
    - Hostile intention
    - Specific judgment for Satan
      * Yet spoken for Adam and Eve to hear
      * A judgment that is not linked together with Adam and Eve.
        + But think about what went through their minds!

“If the serpent is being punished this way, we may be in real trouble!”

* + - And there will be continual conflict between Satan and mankind.
  + BUT…
    - “Through her seed”
      * As Satan used the woman to deceive man…
      * God will use the seed of his created woman to crush Satan
        + Isaiah 7:14
        + Micah 5:3
        + Galatians 4:4
        + Luke 1:34-35
      * “Women gave birth up to the Flood and later until the time of Mary; but their seed could not in truth be called the Seed of the woman, but rather the seed of man. But what is born from Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit and is the true Seed of Mary, just as the other promises given to Abraham and David testify, according to which Christ is called the Son of Abraham and the Son of David.” – Luther
      * We know how Satan rages against this promise.
      * Will it be her first born?
        + Genesis 4:1
        + A question of hope for all women until the time of Mary.

“Will it be my child?”

* + - “He shall bruise/crush your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
      * Gospel
      * It will take this special seed to be the one to put an end to this enmity
        + Romans 16:20
        + Hebrews 2:14
        + Revelation 20:10
      * A certain hope of death’s cure
* A historical oops
  + The Latin Vulgate wrongly translated “he shall bruise your head” with the feminine form “she”
    - Who would that point to???

## **To the woman… (3:16)**

* It could have been worse.
  + Was not tied to the devil’s punishment
  + Was not separated from Adam
  + Was still allowed to have children.
    - And one of them would crush Satan’s head! (Yay!)
  + Luther believes in such a bad situation, there is hope and joy because of what the LORD God had previously said.
* Yet…
  + Great pain in childbearing
    - A hinderance to marriage and family
      * Avoidance of this pain
      * Abortion
    - Not fair.
      * “For what is there of such things that a man suffers on his own body?” – Luther
      * Yet…
        + “But because through marriage the husband transfers, as it were, a part of those punishments upon himself (for he cannot without grief see those things in his wife)…” - Luther
    - John 16:21
  + “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”
    - Danger… thin ice ahead.
    - “The rule remains with the husband, and the wife is compelled to obey him by God’s command.” – Luther.
      * 1 Corinthians 11:3
      * 1 Corinthians 14:34
      * Ephesians 5:22-24
      * 1 Timothy 2:11-12
      * 1 Peter 3:1, 5-6
    - How far does this desire reach?
  + 2 Corinthians 4:17

## **To Adam… (3:17-19)**

* It could have been worse.
  + Was not tied to the devil’s punishment
  + Was not separated from the woman
  + Was needed to have children.
    - And one of them would crush Satan’s head! (Yay!)
  + Was still the chief steward.
* Yet…
  + Who was Adam supposed to listen to?
    - Genesis 2:17
    - What was an aspect of Adam’s stewardship of the LORD God’s creation?
  + The earth gets punished
    - Unfair?
    - Although the earth was used to grow the fruit of the forbidden tree, and as Adam and the woman would need other fruit and vegetation from the earth to support their lives and the lives of their children…
    - “cursed is the ground because of you.”
      * Romans 8:22
      * Ecclesiastes 2:22-23
    - Adam still has a responsibility
      * He is still the steward of the LORD God’s creation
        + He has responsibilities
        + His family needs to eat.
  + “You will return to the ground…”
    - Death WILL come to Adam and his descendants
      * Psalms 103:14
      * Ecclesiastes 12:7
      * Romans 5:12
    - A case for burial over cremation?

## **Because He cares (3:20-21)**

* As steward over what God gives to Adam, he now names his wife Eve.
  + Luther makes the connection to a wife who takes on her husband’s last name.
  + The name is a play on Hebrew wording for “life”
    - A result of Adam believing in the promise of what was to come.
* “And the LORD God made garments of skins”
  + Why?
    - They were supposed to be naked!
    - The clothes were to serve as a reminder.
      * “Whenever they looked at their garments, these were to serve as a reminder to them to give thought to their wretched fall from supreme happiness into the most utmost misfortune and trouble. Thus they were to be constantly afraid of sinning, to repent continually, and to sigh for the forgiveness of sins through the promised Seed.” – Luther
      * Yet…
        + What would the promised Seed bring?

Isaiah 61:10

2 Corinthians 5:2-3, 21

* + - The first death??