

Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Pastor Margaret Mendenhall

Genesis 1:1-2 (KJV)

¹In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

²And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

A great event occurred between verse one and two.

Lucifer's fall:

Isaiah 14:12-15 (KJV)

¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

¹⁵Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 28:12-17 (KJV)

¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

¹³Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

¹⁴Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁵Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

¹⁶By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁷Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Luke 10:18 (KJV) (Jesus speaking)

¹⁸And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Genesis 1:26-28 (AMP)

²⁶God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.

²⁷So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth.

Before Lucifer turned Satan he ruled on earth and wasn't going to give up his authority and we know that Satan came in and caused Adam and Eve to sin. When they sinned their divine connection with God was severed. So Satan had his authority back in the earth.

Promise of a redeemer. This was in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:15 (KJV)

¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The seed spoken of in the above scripture was confirmed in the following scripture.

Matthew 3:16-17 (KJV)

¹⁶And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Now Satan knows the plan. The Word, as Jesus was known in Heaven, had become flesh. So now Satan tries again. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. One account says for 40 days. We know he was tempted over and over at every point just like flesh is tempted. The last three are recorded in Matthew 4 and Luke 4. At the very end there were three significant temptations, to turn stones into bread, jump off the highest point of the temple, and then he was shown all the kingdoms of the world and Satan said to him if you would just bow down and worship me one time I will give you all of these kingdoms for it has been delivered to me. And was the god of this world.

1 John 2:16 (KJV)

¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lust of the flesh – craving for sensual gratification

Lust of the eye – greedy longing of the soul

Pride of life – assurance of one's own resources and the stability of earthly things.

Jesus knew his mission. He knew he would be crucified. He talked about it to his disciples but it went right over their heads. They didn't comprehend what he was telling them.

Matthew 16:21 (KJV)

²¹From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

The whole time satan wanted Jesus to do something different than the Father God wanted him to do. If Jesus would have yielded to just one He would have been just like Adam and Eve and He would have become impregnated with sin, but He spoke the word of God and said:

Luke 4:8 (KJV)

⁸And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Jesus's ministry demonstrated a righteous' man's authority over Satan's kingdom and what righteous men can do in the earth. He went about tearing down satan's kingdom and establishing the kingdom of God right in the middle of darkness, right in the middle of the demonic territories all around. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and brought deliverance. He was the son of God but operated on earth as a righteous man, the son of Adam, or as he called himself, the son of man. He was demonstrating to the world what God intended for Adam and Eve to do in the beginning by taking dominion and having the authority and he was showing how very powerful a human being can be that are under the authority of Almighty God.

In the Garden of Gethsemane it wasn't the physical death that Jesus dreaded – it was the spiritual death that he was agonizing about. It was the cup of sin that he was going to have to partake of that he spoke of in the Garden. All about the cup! It was a cup that all of mankind had drunk out of, so full of sin and the evilness of satan pleasures. All of the sins that anyone ever committed or would ever commit for ever and ever were in the cup that the Father offered to Jesus. His righteous soul recoiled at putting that on the inside of him. He had always had perfect fellowship with the most high God and now He was facing the decision that He would become sin when he

drank of the cup. He would take into Him ALL the sins of the world. He was struggling and agonizing with that and how He was going to come under the authority of His archenemy, satan himself.

He told his disciples that his soul was in grief, distress, deeply depressed, and was sad and almost dying of sorrow

Matthew 26:38 (KJV)

³⁸Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

In the old covenant there was a sin offering where a lamb had to be slain and the blood was taken to the holy of holies and would cover the sins of the worshiper, but there was a second goat that was a part of the sin offering. It was called the scapegoat. Leviticus 16:8-10 and verses 21 and 22. It was brought in and the priest would put his hand on the scapegoat and would confess the sins over the scapegoat and then they would take that lamb out into the wilderness and there the goat would carry the sins. Jesus was the scapegoat.

After Jesus breathed his last breath on the cross he went to the pit of hell before he went to heaven.

Matthew 12:40 (KJV)

⁴⁰For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

As the scapegoat He took the sins of the world to hell and paid the penalty to redeem mankind from the clutches of the authority of satan. The blood replaced all the sins. It paid the price.

Romans 5:17 (AMP)

¹⁷For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

We are now ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ under the authority of God himself.