

## The Kingdom and the Fall

Genesis 3:1-24, The Big Picture of The Bible:

As we tried to see a big picture, it is found that the theme of the Kingdom of God underpins the whole of the Bible story. G. Goldsworthy defines 'the Kingdom of God' as 'God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing'. The story so far is 'God's people, Adam and Eve, live in God's place, the Garden of Eden, under God's rule. God, the Creator and King of the Universe, lives in harmony with his people in His paradise, the Garden of Eden.'

Now in today's text, we find the story of how God's perfect creation being spoilt and perfect relationships being broken. It all begins with a rebellious evil serpent. It causes Adam and Eve to doubt on God's word. It twists God's word (3:1, **"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"**): it questions God's word (3:4, **"You will not certainly die."**): It distorts God's motives (3:5, **"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**)

Unfortunately Adam and Eve disobeyed God's clear command (2: 16) and decided for themselves how to live their lives, rather than submitting to God. It is an act of fundamental rebellion. And their wrong choice damaged perfect relationships in the Perfect kingdom: damaging relationships between men and women (3:12, Adam blames Eve.), men and creation (3:17), and men and God (3:8-10, they are ashamed and hide from God.) Not only that the sin was passed on to everyone. For example, Cain murders Abel (Gen. 4); God destroyed the earth because of corruption and full of violence (Gen 6-9); People built the tower of Babel (Gen 11).

However, God is a loving, caring and gracious God, who comes looking for Adam and Eve (v 8-9) and shows his continued love for Adam and Eve by providing clothes for them (v 21). He promises that a saviour will come who will crush Satan (v 15). He wants to restore his kingdom on earth and the rest of the Bible tells how He does this.