

## Finding Your Story in HIStory

We Had a Great Fall  
Genesis 3, 6, and 11

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**Introduction:** My prayer for us in 2012 is that we find our story in God's story, in HIStory. Last week, we started in the beginning and observed that God has a plan for our lives that is revealed in creation. That revealed plan shows us that God desires a relationship with us and that He decrees a purpose for our lives.

The second part of the story is the fall. You will recognize it as the sin of Adam and Eve.

With a baby again, I've kind of gotten back into reading Children's Stories. One book I like to read to read is a book of Nursery Rhymes. (The Nursery Rhymes are short of enough to meet both mine and Dru's needs for short attention spans.) You remember Humpty Dumpty, don't you?

*Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,  
All the king's horses and all the king's men,  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.*

In the book we have at home, there sits Humpty Dumpty pictured as an egg. As a matter of fact, I remember hearing somewhere in my life that this rhyme was written to be a riddle, therefore making the answer to the riddle an egg. But, I have learned that this is not true. Actually, the rhyme of Humpty Dumpty is not a riddle, but actually a piece of propaganda that dates back to the English Civil War fought between 1641-1652. One of the points that might confirm this is that there are a few more stanzas that go with the one in which we are familiar. The rest of it goes like this:

*In sixteen hundred and forty-eight,  
When England suffered the pains of state,  
The Roundheads laid siege to Colchester town  
Where the king's men still fought for the crown.*

*There One-Eyed Thompson stood on the wall,  
A gunner of deadliest aim of all.  
From St. Mary's Tower his cannon he fired,  
Humpty Dumpty was its name.*

*Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;  
All the king's horses and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.*

The story goes that Humpty Dumpty was the name of the canon that sat on the wall by the bell tower of a church. One-Eyed Thompson was a deadly shot with this canon. He kept the enemies of the king at bay with this canon. Not until the canon fell, did the revolutionists win the battle. The rhyme was then distributed into all of the villages so that even the children could learn to recite the demise of the king.

When we read Genesis, we said last week that we see the beginning of several things. Obviously, we see the beginning of creation. Not long behind that, we encounter the beginning of sin. Many people rightly refer to this beginning of sin simply as The Fall. So, I couldn't help but think about poor 'ole Humpty Dumpty this week. Like Humpty, creation's story tells us that humanity sat high on the wall—in perfect relationship with God, but like Humpty Dumpty, through Adam and Eve, we have had a great fall. There are several things that I would like you to notice this morning. I actually want you take a collective look at three stories with me that are in pretty close proximity to one another.

Genesis 3—Adam and Eve's sin—Man's rebellion

Genesis 6-9—God's Renewal through the family of Noah—We could see this as beginning again.

Genesis 11—Man's rebellion through the tower of Babel—We could see this as failure again.

### **The Fall shows us the constant central conflict of History.**

Genesis 3:1-6-- <sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden." <sup>3</sup> But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, "You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die."

<sup>4</sup> "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

The Tempter The first thing you ought to notice in Genesis 3 is that the serpent is crafty. This personification of Satan in Genesis 3 is consistent with the word "devices" in 2 Corinthians 2:11 and Ephesians 6:11, which instructs us to "put on the whole armor of God that {we} might be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The devil's way is a scheming way.

The Tactics: We see that here in Genesis 3. Notice 3 Schemes of Satan.

1. Satan causes us to doubt the Word of God.

Notice the way that the serpent begins the conversation with Eve. "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden.'" In Genesis 2:16-17 we read what God said. Satan comes behind that and distorts the word of God and thus creates a doubt for the word of God. Interestingly enough, we see from Eve's response that she even added to God's word for she added "or touch." God, according to 2:16-17 never said this.

That still is the scheme of Satan. Take any issue that we do not like what God's Word says. Our first temptation will be to say, "Well, maybe that's not what God meant." We take away and sometimes even add to God's Word.

This is the place where all sin starts. Here's the way this doubt works. First, we doubt the word of God. When we begin to doubt the word of God, then we begin to question the Bible's accuracy. If we question the accuracy, we replace the truth of the Bible with another view—a view that comes from the world.

Someone has said it this way: "Satan puts a question mark where God put a period."

## 2. Satan deceives.

The second scheme of the devil is that he deceives. He lies! In the Gospel of John (8:44) Jesus said, "Satan does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him." In this same scripture, Satan is called a "liar and the father of all lies."

Once Satan begins to cause us to doubt the Word of God as accurate, he will begin to fill us with lies.

## 3. Satan promises what he cannot deliver.

The Third scheme of Satan is that he promises what he cannot deliver.

This is the constant central conflict of human history.

## **The Fall shows us the temporary and eternal consequences of that sin.**

Genesis 3:7 tells us of the consequences of sin. The story of Babel in Genesis 11 is a good illustration as well.

<sup>1</sup> At one time the whole earth had the same language and vocabulary. <sup>2</sup> As people migrated from the east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup> They said to each other, "Come, let us make oven-fired bricks." They used brick for stone and asphalt for mortar. <sup>4</sup> And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down to look over the city and the tower that the men were building. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said, "If they have begun to do this as one people all having the same language, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let Us go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another's speech." <sup>8</sup> So from there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> Therefore its name is called Babylon, for there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth, and from there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Here is the truth of sin. Sin separates us from God both now and forever.

That's the whole point of this sermon. Sin separates us from God. The Prophet Isaiah made this clear as recorded in Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God..."

The story of Babel is such a good illustration of this. The people tried to make their way to God, but their sin caused them to be even farther away from God.

It is important that we recognize that sin separates us from God both now and forever. Now in that our sin causes us to feel away from God. Forever in that the sum total of our unforgiven sin is an eternity apart from God.

**The Fall shows us that where sin abounds, grace abounds. Here is the reason for the cross!**

Follow the story. God wanted the people of Babel to scatter and fill the earth. This is also what God told Adam and Eve upon creation. The people of Babel wanted to stay to make a name for themselves. God scattered them.

God always has a plan. God has a plan to deal with the sins of the world. That plan was Jesus coming to live among us so that He might pay the penalty for sin on the cross.

You see, just like Humpty Dumpty was a propaganda piece, the story of Satan and sin is a propaganda piece. Satan wants you to think that there is no hope. Satan wants you think all of the king's horses and all of the king's men cannot put you back together again. And look, you cannot put yourself back together again, but God can! How do we know? The cross!