

ECHOES OF EVE

David Asscherick

SOME BACKGROUND

- all of humanity has fallen short (1-3)
- therefore the law cannot save (3:20-31)
- Abraham believed God (4)
- Jesus' grace exceeds Adam's disgrace (5)
- servants of God vs servants of sin (6)

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE
INDICATES THAT PAUL
IS ADDRESSING THE
FALSE CLAIMS OF
DETRACTORS

ROMANS 7:1-6
PRESENTS AN
ALMOST HOPELESS
LEGAL SITUATION

STRONG CONTRASTS

- old vs new (7:6)
- death vs life (7:5, 6)
- the letter vs the spirit (7:6)

PAUL IS PAINTING
THE LAW IN A
NEGATIVE LIGHT,
BUT WHY?

HIS OPPONENTS IN
ROME INSIST THAT
SALVATION ORBITS
AROUND THE LAW
AND LAW-KEEPING

NOW, LISTEN
CAREFULLY FOR
ECHOES OF EVE'S
EXPERIENCE IN
ROMANS 7:7-11

THE EVE STORY IS
THE PRIMEVAL
HUMAN STORY OF
DECEPTION AND
DESIRE

SARA GROVES, *GENERATIONS*

I can taste the fruit of Eve

I'm aware of sickness, death and
disease

The results of our choices are vast

Eve was the first but she wasn't the last

SARA GROVES, *GENERATIONS*

And if I were honest with myself

Had I been standing at that tree

My mouth and my hands would be covered
with fruit

Things I shouldn't know and things I
shouldn't see

SARA GROVES, *GENERATIONS*

She taught me to fear the serpent

I'm learning to fear myself

And all of the things I am capable of

In my search for wisdom, acceptance

and wealth

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

GENESIS 3:6, NKJV

Then the serpent said to the woman,
“You will not surely die. For God
knows that in the day you eat of it your
eyes will be opened, and you will be
like God, knowing good and evil.”

GENESIS 3:4, 5, NKJV

NOTICE THAT
DECEPTION
PRECEDES DESIRE;
DECEPTION IS THE
CRUCIAL ELEMENT

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

GENESIS 3:1, NKJV

CLEARLY HERE, THE
SERPENT/SIN HAS
“SEIZED THE
OPPORTUNITY
AFFORDED BY THE
COMMANDMENT”

R.W.L. MOBERLY, *DID THE SERPENT GET IT*

[What matters here] “is not that the serpent’s words are obviously false, but that they imply that a total prohibition is the sort of unreasonable prohibition that one might expect from God.”

IN TRUTH, THE
COMMAND WAS LIFE-
PROTECTING, LIFE-
AFFIRMING, AND LIFE-
ENHANCING

DESIRE BASED ON
DECEPTION AND
MISREPRESENTATION
IS THE HEART OF
EVE'S STORY

In Genesis, the serpent's misrepresentation of the command is thus intended to bring about distrust. The relational avalanche that follows the deception is shattering.

Misperception leads to distrust, distrust to alienation, and alienation leads to fear... For a predicament that sees the misrepresentation of God's command as the core problem,

SIGVE TONSTAD, *PAUL AMONG THE ECOLOGISTS*

cognizant that misrepresentation preceded violation, the solution will have to address more than the problem of violation. [It must address the underlying issue of trust!]

YOU DON'T REALLY
WANT THE LAW
FORBIDS, EVEN IF
YOU THINK YOU
DO

IF YOU LONG TO HAVE
THAT WHICH HE WHO
LOVES YOU MOST AND
KNOWS YOU BEST SAYS
IS HARMFUL, YOU ARE
DECEIVED

THE LAW IN WRONG HANDS

- “sinful passions aroused by the law” (7:5)
- “sin seized the opportunity...” (7:8)
- the commandment sprang sin to life (7:9)
- the commandment brought death (7:10)
- “sin seized the opportunity...” (7:11)
- sin used what is good to bring death (7:13)

THE
COMMAMNDMENT
WAS TAKEN
CAPTIVE BEFORE
EVE WAS

But we know that the law is good if
one uses it lawfully.

1TIMOTHY 1:8, NKJV

PAUL'S DETRACTORS
IN ROME, LIKE THE
SERPENT IN EDEN,
WERE MISUSING THE
LAW

Therefore, there is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus,
because through Christ Jesus the law of
the Spirit who gives life has set you free
from the law of sin and death.

ROMANS 8:1-3, NIV

For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

ROMANS 8:1-3, NIV

GOD

DID!

Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery.

JOHN 8:1-11, NKJV

And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”

JOHN 8:1-11, NKJV

This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

JOHN 8:1-11, NKJV

So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

JOHN 8:1-11, NKJV

Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

JOHN 8:1-11, NKJV

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

JOHN 8:1-11, NKJV

She said, “No one, Lord?” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

JOHN 8:1-11, NKJV

PAUL'S USE OF EVE'S
EXPERIENCE SHIFTS
THE NARRATIVE
FROM VILLAINY TO
VICTIMHOOD

SIGVE TONSTAD, *PAUL AMONG*

In Paul's account, as in Genesis...
the 'sinner' is not only a villain. He
or she is also a victim. This
discovery redefines and expands
the redemptive task.

VILLAINS ARE GENERALLY
SEEN AS DESERVING
CONDEMNATION AND
PUNISHMENT, BUT VICTIMS
NEED COMPASSION AND
HELP

JESUS SHOWED US
THAT GOD'S POSTURE
TOWARD US IS ONE OF
COMPASSION, NOT
CONDEMNATION

NOT ONLY IS JESUS
NOT ONE OF YOUR
ACCUSERS, HE
DOESN'T EVEN HEAR
THEM AND THEIR
ACCUSATIONS

WHEN INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL VOICES SHOUT
CONDEMNATION, THE
BEST PLACE TO BE IS
ALONE WITH JESUS

JESUS SEES A
BETTER FUTURE
FOR YOU THAN
YOU SEE FOR
YOURSELF

GOD INVITES YOU TO
BELIEVE THE GOSPEL
AND TO TRUST HIS
GOOD INTENTIONS FOR
YOU AND YOUR LIFE