

# Why the World Needs Christmas (*And Why You Do Too*) – Gen 3:1-13

**Introduction** – There is no such thing as celebrating Christmas (the Incarnation) too much when one considers the darkness that the world was in prior to this Gospel Light’s arrival. Sentimentalizing Christmas as just good feelings for good people, good memories with good wishes for all, grows stale and surfacy, ignoring the sin and misery that is the human race outside of Life that was brought forth from this little baby, laid in a manger. That is why a multitude of angels, terrifying in the sight of men, would sing out, “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men*” (Luke 2:13-14). The story of the Fall of Man in Genesis 3 is the story about ourselves and the world. It is the reason the world needs Christmas. And it is the reason the world, left to itself, hates Christmas.

**The Beautiful and Glorious Origin of Creation** (Gen 1-2) – Read these chapters as though for the first time and see the “goodness” of creation, the splendor of God’s imaginative hands, and the invitation for man, created in His image, male and female, to enjoy and participate in the wonder, the adventure, the proliferation, the dominion and rule, the poetry and song, the romance and relationships, of this created universe. Here’s a garden; care for it. Here are creatures; name them, study them, rule them. Here are rivers; explore, discover, and make things. Here are stars; they’ll mark your way and time. Here’s a woman; make love and make a family and then a kingdom.

**From Whence We Came: The Origin of Sin and Misery** (Gen 3:1-5) – Our first parents ruined it, and through them we ruined it with them. God placed Adam and Eve in a place of testing, having provided them with everything they needed to succeed: His Law-Word (Gen 2:16). Satan came, that great deceiving dragon/serpent (Rev 12:9). With subtle lies formed as questions, he causes Eve to question God’s goodness (v1). Then he calls Eve’s contentment into question while calling God a liar (v4).

The devil attacks our beliefs before he attacks our actions, and so we should remember that what we believe about reality is incredibly important. Our doctrine is the fortress around the decisions we make to act in one way or another. Actions flow from belief.

**Original Sin** (Gen 3:6) - Eve saw that the tree was good (v6), but of course, God had already said so (1:31). And so she took and ate in disbelief of God’s other Words. She then gave to her husband, who should have been there protecting her wife from the serpent, and he ate. She had eaten and hadn’t died; he had let her be the experiment. And in that moment, because the head of the human race fell, we all covenantally fell into death and misery with Adam (Rom 5:12). While Adam and Eve did not die physically, yet immediately we became a race that was spiritually dead and condemned (Eph 2:1). Sin and rebellion is now our twisted nature from conception (Psalm 51:5). And this sin is a universal problem (Rom 3:11-12, 23). We are generally comfortable in our sin because of this, developing systemic sin problems in families, cultures, and societies. These are easier to see in other culture’s systemic sin problems (i.e. chattel slavery, widow burnings) than in our own (i.e. abortion, transgender mutilations). But in all of this, we remain moral agents, made in God’s image, responsible for our own actions and decisions. But we hate that and try to do just what Adam and Eve did next...

**Original Blame** (Gen 3:7-13) – Then their eyes were opened and what they saw was true but how they saw it was now through eyes of shame (v7). God came (and there are hints of the Triune God even here, see with v22 also) in the judgment of the wind/Spirit and Adam and Eve did what every shamed person does – they hid themselves. In verse 9 and following we enter a courtroom scene. These questions from God are asked not because He does not know the answer but because He is the prosecutor bringing forth the evidence. And like anyone who has shame and has hid and wants to stay hidden from any moral responsibility, Adam shifts the blame to somewhere other than himself (v12). “The woman gave me the fruit, and you gave me the woman – this is not my fault.” Similarly, Eve would blame the deception of the serpent; “the liar made it seem so right and good” (v13).

**Shame/Hide/Blame** – This is the pattern we all follow. We hate what we did. We hide what we did. We blame anyone or anything else when there is an attempt to bring it out in the light. God says that the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23) but we think differently. We think we can negotiate our way out with new definitions (free love, not fornication; social justice, not envy) or good works piled on top, like a fresh snowfall covering a dunghill. If we succeed, we continue on in our shame and the downward spiral persists. Only eternal judgment looms in the future.

**The Hint of Christmas: Original Mercy** – God said, “*in the day you eat of it, you shall surely die*” (Gen 2:16). And we know that our own personal death is coming as well. But Adam and Eve did not die that day, which was the mercy of God. Instead, there was a hint of what would be called Christmas Day, and Calvary, and the Resurrection (Gen 3:15). And in this fallen world, mercy hunts after fallen man. Think about it – the only reason any of us are here is because of God’s merciful stay of His judgment. He gave time for Adam and Eve to have kids – time for you to be born. And time to send, through that line, One who would be the new covenant head of a new covenant race – One who would take responsibility for His bride and would not listen to the lies of the serpent. The mercy of God pursues fallen men (Psalm 23:6, 136:1, Luke 1:54, 19:10, John 3:17). If you do not know the Lord Jesus, the Author of all mercy, you should sense the hounds of heaven, the voices of mercy, tracking you down. And yet, you hide in your shame – because of two killer instincts your first parents passed on to you.

**Two Killer Instincts** – How could eating a piece of fruit, such a small thing, cast the whole world into such misery? The serpent’s two instincts, born of the serpent’s cunning lies, are deep within fallen man.

First, Do Not Believe God is Good.

Second, Believe that Contentment Requires Twisting (and Then Finally) Ignoring God’s Word.

The pitched battle every day is not over doing the right thing; it is first over believing the right thing. So, when you argue that your life-circumstances are proof that God is not good, you are simply falling to the temptation that is as old as the Garden. And we still fall for it. And when it seems as though everyone else around you (including God and His Word) is wrong, stupid, and only you are right and righteous (“I know what’s right for me”), you are probably in the downward drain of shame-hide-blame, and you will live a miserable life in that sewer of lies.

Adam and Eve could not undo what they had done, and neither can you or me or anyone else. That is why we need Christmas. That is why the world needs Christmas. The fulfillment of God’s promise of everlasting mercy came that night, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and laid in a manger. Glory to God in the highest. You cannot over-celebrate this Good News.

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*Dave Hatcher – Dec 19, 2021*