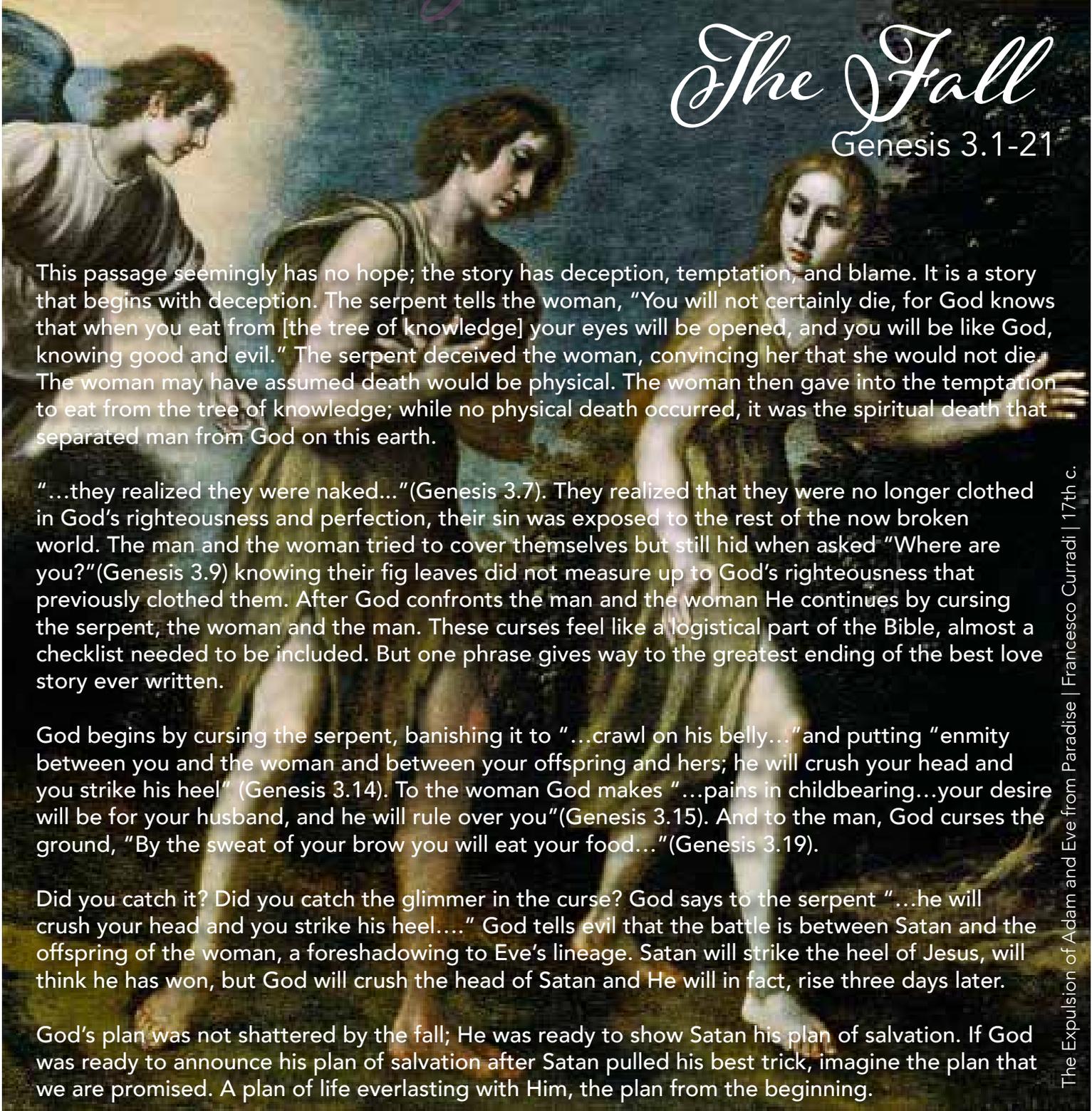


The Fall

Genesis 3.1-21



This passage seemingly has no hope; the story has deception, temptation, and blame. It is a story that begins with deception. The serpent tells the woman, "You will not certainly die, for God knows that when you eat from [the tree of knowledge] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." The serpent deceived the woman, convincing her that she would not die. The woman may have assumed death would be physical. The woman then gave into the temptation to eat from the tree of knowledge; while no physical death occurred, it was the spiritual death that separated man from God on this earth.

"...they realized they were naked..."(Genesis 3.7). They realized that they were no longer clothed in God's righteousness and perfection, their sin was exposed to the rest of the now broken world. The man and the woman tried to cover themselves but still hid when asked "Where are you?"(Genesis 3.9) knowing their fig leaves did not measure up to God's righteousness that previously clothed them. After God confronts the man and the woman He continues by cursing the serpent, the woman and the man. These curses feel like a logistical part of the Bible, almost a checklist needed to be included. But one phrase gives way to the greatest ending of the best love story ever written.

God begins by cursing the serpent, banishing it to "...crawl on his belly..." and putting "enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you strike his heel" (Genesis 3.14). To the woman God makes "...pains in childbearing...your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you"(Genesis 3.15). And to the man, God curses the ground, "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food..."(Genesis 3.19).

Did you catch it? Did you catch the glimmer in the curse? God says to the serpent "...he will crush your head and you strike his heel..." God tells evil that the battle is between Satan and the offspring of the woman, a foreshadowing to Eve's lineage. Satan will strike the heel of Jesus, will think he has won, but God will crush the head of Satan and He will in fact, rise three days later.

God's plan was not shattered by the fall; He was ready to show Satan his plan of salvation. If God was ready to announce his plan of salvation after Satan pulled his best trick, imagine the plan that we are promised. A plan of life everlasting with Him, the plan from the beginning.

Let us pray that we hold fast to the perfect plan of life everlasting with God in heaven. Let us know that God did not bring shame, lust, blame and corruption but it was evil. Let us remember in this season of life, that joy and love always win. That they have won since the beginning. Let us know that God has a plan greater and more loving than we could dream up in our mortal minds. Let us be obedient of God knowing that obedience marked life before the fall.