

Welcome and Opening Scripture

Hymn: MP 237 Holy, Holy, Holy

Bible Reading: Isaiah 61

Prayer of adoration and praise.

Children's talk

Notices Housegroup,

Nu 32:23 **But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.**"

Prayer time Read prayers

Main reading: Genesis 3:1- 24

Hymn: MP 799 All I once held dear.

Sermon 'The Catastrophe of death'

Lead in to time of silence

Remembrance day reflection.

(see end of section)

11 am Two minute silence

Hymn MP 74 Christ is risen hallelujah

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.The audio file is [21_11_14.mp3](#). MP 676, 880

Extra choruse

mp 825 Faithful one, so unchanging

Exordium

I wonder what is the worst thing that could happen to you?

- Wendy Ayoub, once the wife of Fouzi the leader of the Arabic Evangelism Centre and one who preached here at KNBC, on a number of occasions, had the shock of her house exploding around her. There is little more dramatic as the sudden collapse of everything around you.

I don't say this so you will be thinking "Have I left the gas on at home" No, it is an imperfect illustration of the fall, the catastrophe of catastrophes.

In our overview of key events in the OT we had Genesis 1:1 '**In the beginning God**', the good God making a good world - now we have what is known as the fall of man. It's an apt description because it is a fall of cataclysmic proportions - from the highest place - to the lowest place. Those who were to enjoy everlasting perfection were now destined to everlasting torment.

It is a sad saga of Deceit, Denial, Death, Disaster an unremitted catastrophe!

It is a key passage because it is impossible for you to understand the world we all live in without reading, studying and understanding Genesis 3.

Moses in his account gives us this much needed post-mortem.

We learn about God about Satan and about ourselves.

The problem with disasters - such as that totally demolished house - is that they are usually unrecoverable.

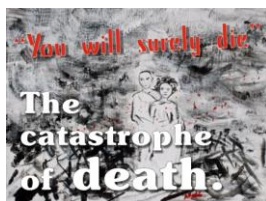
- I remember walking through my old factory that had been burned to the ground, there was nothing left but twisted metal and charred wood.

In this case God is able, He is able, to recover, rebuild, give life to the dead. May we all see this morning the dreadfulness of sin - and yet see afresh the wonder of God's rebuilding work - His grace and power in Jesus Christ.

*As we turn to the crime scene - let us note 3 attacks, - 3 weaknesses - 3 consequences.**Three attacks – (Satan's plan and tactic)*

Satan, the devil, the angel created good but now fallen - immediately set his sights on doing all he can to attack God and destroy his work. His aim is to pull people - you and I - away from God, he is actively doing this today.

He is described as the father of lies and the master of deception. He approaches Eve and does so subtly. A head on attack wouldn't work so he sows doubt in her mind over what God had said: "**Did God really say**" x2



She affirms confidently "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden,

However, she adds something.... **and you must not touch it**, which God did not say,.... **or you will die.'**" And at the same time missing out 'surely'

✚ **Beware or adding or taking away from the word of God. Satan's game.**

Satan seeing her wobble quickly comes back with a misquote 4 "**You will not surely die,**" inserting the word **surely** to make him sound authentic **as any con man would**. Here he lunges, challenging God head on "**You will not surely die**"

Before she has a chance to think straight, he seizes the moment saying: "**For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" Yes God does know, but eating of the fruit will not make you wise but turn you into the world's first and biggest fool.

You can then be like God - By **knowing good and evil** - the word **knowing** being the word used as a man knows a woman or has power over her.

Satan attacks God by trying to make us take God's place, to storm the throne and bring God down. The more ungodly our nations become the more God is brought down and trampled on. Tongues turn his great Name into a swear word. How serious that is. May all who do that realise that God is listening - and one day every careless word will have to be accounted for. It is the only commandment (No.4) where God says do this and I WILL NOT consider you guiltless. Beware.

Three weaknesses

1st - v6 **the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food**

Did she not have enough food to eat? Wasn't the garden full of good food?

Yes of course, was her tummy empty? Was she in want? Really?, in the garden of Eden? Basking in the love and provision of her perfect God and Father she was not in want at all. Beware the lust of the flesh.

The marque of the age we live in is one of dissatisfaction & discontentment.

Satan will do all he can to sow seeds of dissatisfaction, "*God is not able to provide*" but He can, if he can do it in a desert - can he not do it in a garden!

2nd - **and pleasing to the eye**, "beware little eyes what you see"

■ This is how the advertising industry works, "See and have, have, have.."

She looked she saw it was **pleasing to the eye**, it was attractive. The eye is our prominent sense, '*we look where we go*'

Other trees in the Garden were also **pleasing to the eye** 2:9 but she had to eat from this one, - this FORBIDDEN tree. Is forbidden fruit more attractive? Does something labelled 'don't touch' have more appeal – how much is there of that behind that elicit affair, that secret binge, that voyeurism of the magazines and papers, the complicity with lives of those in the soaps. The eye is so often the way in – which is why Jesus said '**If your eyes are good your whole body is good**' Beware the lust of the eye.

3rd - She saw that it was **also desirable for gaining wisdom**,

Satan is offering self-advancement. The lure of self at the centre, base pride. "*I can be someone and I can be someone without God – In fact I can be better off without God*". Isn't that behind all the antagonism and discord in our world; knocking others of the top slot, trying to be No. 1 on the podium – the king of the castle, are all crass ways of saying: "I want to be God".

The biggest stumbling block to any man or woman giving God his right place and coming to the Lord, has and always will be Pride x2.

✚ **Pride refuses believe God. The essence of sin is disbelief she refused to believe and trust what God had said.**

Eve had every fruit tree but she took the forbidden one - **she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.**

✚ **She TOOK she ATE, she PASSED ON**

Sin always wants to draw in others - to bring others down too.

Three consequences for them

1st The effect was immediate - **For when you eat of it you will surely die** 2:17

They died, the moment they sinned they died and they were to manifest that in physical death **like those cut flowers**. That oneness with God had gone, the perfect relationship broken, the golden cord severed, the lifeline detached - they were dead and dying, x2

How dreadful this is, we are surrounded by death, death is everywhere, it seems normal - but it's not normal. No more than severing a diver's air pipe

✚ **Just as death is so contrary to life so sin is so contrary to God. Sin is utterly sinful. God's holiness cannot – must not be tainted by sin, it is abhorrent, it is an affront to Him, he will not accommodate it.**

✚ Surely x2 “the soul that sins will die”

Life and death in the Bible are not about whether you are breathing or not - but whether you are connected to the source of life to Jesus Christ the life giver.

The world talks about living, and living to the max – No, real life is not found in going your own way, in ‘my way’ - No that is not life but death!

- The world wants you to be constantly entertained. Sitting next to one BapChap teenager flitting from one tik tok to another, from one picture, one post, one tit bit to another. reflecting an engrossed, ensnared heart.

- life is found only in God through Christ. - 1 John 5:12 **He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

2nd Fear

Fear of having their sin exposed by those Holy searching eyes Adam and Eve are afraid and run in fear, **they hid from the Lord God.** they hide

The Lord called out “**where are you**”, x2 he knew full well.

The separation from God brought to Adam and Eve the misery of fear shame, confusion, corruption, chaos, sickness and death. The same has come to all of us - everyone in the whole human race ever since.

Mankind has been trying to fight these consequences, trying to resolve this uncertainty “*Who am I*” x2 not knowing brings fear and the endless urge to discover my true self. Exploring and ‘re-imagining’ is a whole new industry.

- Britain has seen in the last couple of decades a huge increase in fear.

Adam and Eve lost the close love of God - the result Fear. Love and fear are opposites. Is there fear as we share here together? Then love is missing.

They try to Cover up! Sewing fig leaves to make a covering! no good v.7

✚ Many lives are a cover up, a sham – but God sees us as we really are!

- Voltaire not liking the feeling that someone was always watching him

Most sin is committed under the cover of darkness, at night, or in secret behind closed doors believing no-one can see.

3rd Blame

The shame became the blame.... So who's fault was it then?, The woman knew what God had said (v.16). The man had told her, she learned from him.

Adam who is with her is silent <ear> silence, and joins her in sin. Adam sinned in his silence – He failed in his God given responsibility.

How many squirm away from taking responsibility. (Divine order 1 Tim 2:13,14)

- 60's hangover, independence, no authority = no accountability

Soon we are hearing Cain declaring to God "**Am I my brothers keeper**"

How often men default on their place as head of his wife, family, children - and yes even in the church.

They field the blame - It wasn't me, no it never is – it's never my fault – He blames her, she blames the serpent and ultimately it is God's fault for putting them there.

Note separation from God bring separation from each other, they are at odds

The issue of suffering is no 1. Question – And the blame ends up at God's door - the answer to suffering, sickness and death is in Ch 3 on page 5 of 1250. The underlying reason is man's rebellion against a good God.

Because of man the ground was cursed and they were banished from the Garden. Sin is an affront to a Holy God who will not accommodate evil.

v23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”

No way back. x2 Mankind has been trying to get back ever since, that super holiday that move to a new place, a new relationship, the new look, a new experience, the new gadget, the new car, the music, the concert, the make-over at home - are for many base attempts to get back to the garden.

✚ **No the way is barred. Banished and barred!**

Every misery and problems in this world can all be traced back to this chapter, the darkest hour - the tragedy of all time.

Is there a remedy? – Yes – but it is not found in this world

- One evening in South Africa two theologians were stood together gazing across the haze to the city of Johannesburg. Both know the evils that lurked there. One said to the other when considering the overwhelming poverty and suffering said “ I am just amazed at the suffering I see”
- The reply came back “I am even more amazed that God should do anything about it”

✚ **Imagine the worst suffering if you dare – the cruellest grotesque torture, that heinous crime, that slow burning, that dismemberingthat which sends a shudder down my back all these are ultimately the fruit of sin.**

Now realise the horror of its cause - for sin is the cause of it. However bad the suffering - sin is worse - for it is the cause of it. The extend of suffering reflects the extend of sin. Hate suffering? – do you hate sin? God does.

Man since the fall has become depraved, not – by God’s grace - in every way all of the time, but depraved non the less. While mankind is capable of acts of amazing kindness the human story is one of continued moral failure. Animals kill to eat but man tortures his fellow man, sexual perversion, hatred, violence, idol worship are all unique to man. How far we have fallen.

We are all alike under sin - that mark is there, that long reach of Adam’s deadness like gangrene pulls us to the grave. In deviation and degradation man is handed over to sin as a ruling power.

God’s Holiness demands punishment for every violation...

Thomas Jefferson “I tremble for this country when I reflect that God is just”
So in the consequences of the curse is a taste of Judgment. The real judgment is coming. The only way for me to avoid that judgment is if someone else takes my judgment. **This God has done.**

In Genesis 3:15 God says to the serpent: **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.**” In other words its war – and someone is coming – and against him you will lose. He will crush you. Even before the creation of the world God promised to send a second Adam - the last Adam.

Isaiah says: **Your first father sinned; your spokesmen rebelled against me.** Isa 43:27. Adam our representative brought sin to all of us. *Lord I need help!*

God in his love gave Jesus Christ - the last Adam. The first Adam has led us all to death for we are all in Him - the last one will lead ‘those in him’ x2 to life. **The first Adam brought in the problem, the second the solution.**

Adam is God’s failed son, Jesus Christ is God’s perfect Son – He never failed

Jesus was tempted in the same way - He hadn't eaten for 40 days and told to turn stones in to bread for food – He didn't. NO.

Jesus was shown the kingdoms of the world with all their splendour – covet them and they will be yours NO - “*Father I will not dishonour you*”

Jesus was tempted to throw himself down from the highest point of the temple - God will save, i.e. to put him at your beck and call - NO he didn't, he wouldn't.

You and I are told that we will be tempted in the same way **everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world.** 1J 2:16

You and I are weak – But Jesus is strong somewhere along the line we all of us give in – and often all too quickly – But Jesus never did - he never did.

The **CROSS** show publically and dramatically how seriously a Holy God views sin. Christ’s terrible suffering is the result of terrible sin, sin that the Holy Son of God was now willing to bear on my behalf.

As Adam was separated from God due to his sin so Jesus willingly became separated **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** Ps 22

Jesus was the “**man of sorrows**”; acquainted with grief more than any other, He was wounded, bruised, and chastised, He wore the very *thorns* of the curse as His crown in the agony of His labour. His *sweat* as it were drops of blood, finally, God brought Him into the “dust of death”

The cross is the place where my sin of unbelief and disobedience are dealt with. Jesus we are told **bore our sins, God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.** 2 Cor 5:21

✚ **This is what the second Adam did to reverse the curse of the first.**

Adam’s rebelliousness is in every heart – you cannot shift it - but you can Repent of it. Is there someone here who has yet to repent, to turn from you own way then confess your sins and you will be declared righteous in Christ

✚ **Adam’s disobedience brought in guilt, separation and death, - Jesus the last Adam brought in forgiveness, reconciliation and everlasting life.**

The point of a post-mortem - the point of an enquiry is to find out what went wrong:

There are Air accident investigators. Britain leads to world in this area. The point is to find out what when wrong - and why, so it doesn't happen again. With Adam and Eve we have the dreadful catastrophe of death. The point of this passage is to understand what went wrong, the means of failure so that we don't fall into the same snare that the devil laid for Eve.

Let us do the opposite: Believe the word of God - Obey the word of God

Trust in Jesus my powerful champion who dealt Satan his death blow, purchased my freedom and rose from the grave to give me eternal hope. Be amazed at Jesus, be amazed at his grace. Make sure your life shows that you have trusted in Jesus as your Lord - and your wonderful Saviour. END