

THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE – CORRUPTION

Introduction – God placed the first representative couple in their own sacred space and told them to care for it and guard it from corrupting influences that produce chaos.

A. Truth and Consequences (Genesis 3)

1. They failed to protect the garden from invasion by the sea serpent from the chaotic depths of the ocean.
2. They believed the lie that their Creator was withholding the best fruit from them and that their rebellion would make them like God.
3. The consequences of this voluntary rebellion was alienation from God into a fear/power society.
4. Instead the couple, destined for a royal priestly life, is caught up in an internal conflict over who would be in control.
5. Now even their work becomes a struggle with the creation for survival.

B. Sibling Rivalry Leads to Slavery to Sin (Genesis 4)

1. Abel offered his best to God, while Cain gave the least.
2. Cain became angry with God because his sacrifice was not acceptable.
3. God counsels Cain.

Genesis 4:6-7

4. Human freewill is corrupted by the choice to kill a brother.
5. Cain's descendants became increasingly corrupt.

C. Fallen Angels Cooperate with Rebellious Humans to Create a Violent, Corrupt World

Genesis 6:5-12

Conclusion – Spiritual corruption spread rapidly, fueled by violence. God released the watery forces of chaos to destroy this world. God preserved one family and some creatures for a new beginning.

Romans 5:12, 14-15

Romans 6:16-18

Romans 7:15-20