



What Does the Bible Teach About the Fallen World?

October 29, 2020 Thursday Indepth
Bible Class of the Trilacoochee
church of Christ

What Is Meant By “Fallen”?

- The word “fallen” is used in the Bible to describe someone or something spiritually and morally degraded.
- Israel is described as fallen
 - Amos 5:2 - “The virgin of Israel has fallen; She will rise no more. She lies forsaken on her land; There is no one to raise her up.”
- The king of Babylon has fallen
 - Isa. 14:12 - “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!”
- The glory of humankind will fall
 - 1Peter 1:24 - “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away”

What Is Meant By “Fallen”?

- The scriptures warn against falling from a saved condition into a sinful state, describing it as falling
 - 1Cor. 10:12 - “herefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”
 - Rev. 2:5 - “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.”
- Therefore, “fallen” describes a condition where something or someone has lost a former glory and descended to a lesser, damaged state.

What Is Meant By The “World”?

- The “world” encompasses both the planet itself and the conditions of life on it bound by the rules of time, space, matter, and energy.
- Originally, the world was different than it presently is
 - Gen. 1:31 - “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.”
- The animals appear to be at peace with Adam, including predatory animals
 - Gen. 2:19-20 - “Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.”

What Is Meant By The “World”?

- Adam and Eve are vegetarians in the garden. There appears to be no death in the world until after sin
 - Gen. 2:16-17 - “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”
 - Gen. 3:19, 21 - “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return... 21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them”

What Is Meant By The “World”?

- Child-bearing will become sorrowful and painful
 - Gen. 3:16 - “To the woman He said: ‘I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.’”
- The ground falls under a curse because they sinned
 - Gen. 3:17-19 - “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it”: Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.’”

The Fallen World

- These things, given as punishment for sin, implicitly did not exist before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden.
- Therefore, this is a fallen world. As a result of Adam's sin, the world now must contend with sickness, sorrow, evil, and death. It is not the way the world was created in the beginning; because of sin, the world has fallen from a better, more glorious condition.

What Is The Worst Part Of This Fallen World?

- We are bound by the rules of time.
 - We can only move forward from the past, through the present, and into the future. The rules of time exist in this world, not in the Divine Realm.
- We are bound by the Laws of Thermodynamics, rules that govern this universe, not the Divine Realm.
 - Matter and energy cannot be created from nothing or made to go out of existence,
 - All systems tend toward disorder and decay.
- We are subject to the randomness of events in this world.
 - Ecc. 9:11 - “I returned and saw under the sun that-The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.”

What Is The Worst Part Of This Fallen World?

- However, the worst part of living in this fallen world is the spiritual circumstances of life under the sun.
- Sometimes called the “human predicament,” it is characterized by two immutable rules:
 - All men sin -- Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - All men die -- Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”
- This was not the state of life under the sun before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden.

What Is The Worst Part Of This Fallen World?

- This is now a world where sin and death exist and must be addressed.
 - Gen. 2:16-17 - “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”
 - Gen. 3:19, 22 - “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return... 22 Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever...’”

What Is The Worst Part Of This Fallen World?

- Rom. 5:12, 18-19 - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned... 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.”
- 1Cor. 15:21-22 - “For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

What Is The Worst Part Of This Fallen World?

- “Evil and suffering are real. They aren’t an illusion, nor are they simply an absence of good. We are fallen creatures living in a fallen world that has been twisted and corrupted by sin, and we all share in its brokenness. Most of all, we share in its tragic legacy of disease and death.” (Graham)

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- Friendship with God changed into estrangement and enmity with Him
- Israel had to work in order to begin to restore their relationship with God
 - Ex. 15:26 - “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.”

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- Deut. 30:15-20 - “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- A relationship with the world precludes a relationship with God
 - James 4:4 - “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
 - 1John 2:15 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- A loss of the full reflection of His likeness into a distorted image of Him
 - Gen. 6:5 - “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- Rom. 1:19-24 - “Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves”

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- Rom. 3:9-12 - “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.’”

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- Joyful obedience to God's rules is transformed into lawless rebellion and constant warfare with Him
 - James 4:1-3, 8, 10 - "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures... 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded... 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- The beauty, tranquility, and vitality of godly family life into sexual-identity confusion, domestic strife, and social aimlessness
 - Prov. 19:26 - “He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach”
 - Prov. 29:15 - “The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother”

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- Changing dominion as trustees of God's world into a selfish exploitation of the land and the resulting environmental ruin
 - Ecc. 5:9 - "Moreover the profit of the land is for all; even the king is served from the field."
 - Haggai 1:6 - "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes"

What Is Lost In This Fallen World?

- Surrendering knowledge of God's enlightening truth to the darkness of ignorance and the confusion of religiously reprobate minds
 - Rom. 1:28 - "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting"
 - John 3:19-21 - "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

The World Suffers From The Sins Committed In It

- We now live in a fallen world, and all of creation “groans” under the consequences of our sin
 - Jer. 12:4 - “How long will the land mourn, And the herbs of every field wither? The beasts and birds are consumed, For the wickedness of those who dwell there...”
 - Rom. 8:19-22 - “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

The World Suffers From The Sins Committed In It

- Isa. 24:4-7 - “The earth mourns and fades away,
The world languishes and fades away; The haughty
people of the earth languish. 5 The earth is also
defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have
transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance,
Broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore the
curse has devoured the earth, And those who
dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants
of the earth are burned, And few men are left. 7
The new wine fails, the vine languishes...”

The World Suffers From The Sins Committed In It

- This fallen world is reflected in unfairness and inequities that create despair
 - Ecc. 3:16 - “Moreover I saw under the sun: In the place of judgment, Wickedness was there; And in the place of righteousness, Iniquity was there.”
 - Ecc. 4:1-3 - “Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter-On the side of their oppressors there is power, But they have no comforter. 2 Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the living who are still alive. 3 Yet, better than both is he who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.”

The World Suffers From The Sins Committed In It

- The fallen world presses the righteous to long for a better world
 - 2Cor. 5:2, 4 - “For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven... 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.”
 - 2Peter 3:13 - “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Relief In This Fallen World

- God addressed the problems of His damaged creation
- Restored friendship with us in Jesus Christ
 - John 10:10 - “...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”
 - John 15:15 - “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you”

Relief In This Fallen World

- Restored the reflection of God's likeness in us through Jesus Christ
 - 1Cor. 6:11 - "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God"
 - 2Cor. 3:18 - "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord"

Relief In This Fallen World

- Restoring to humankind His original intentions for a relationship with them
 - Eph. 1:3-7 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

Relief In This Fallen World

- 1John 3:1-2 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Relief In This Fallen World

- Restored His design for the family
 - Luke 1:17 - “He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
 - Col. 3:18-21 - “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

Relief In This Fallen World

- Jesus Christ will return and set everything right forever
 - 1Thes. 4:16-17 - “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Relief In This Fallen World

- Rev. 21:1-5 - “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’”

Relief In This Fallen World

- We live in a fallen world, but we have a RISEN Savior!
- God put beauty in this fallen world to help sustain us.
- “If this cursed and fallen world holds such beauty as what I see, Imagine the beauty of paradise that's gladly waiting for me.” (*Joyce Rachelle*)



The Sermon Preached by the Snow