

THE STORYCHANGER

GENESIS 3

THE VILLAIN



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Darth Vader, the Joker, the Sheriff of Nottingham, Gollum, Voldemort, Kylo Ren. What do all these names have in common? They are all villains in stories and movies. Every story has a villain of some kind.

The story of the world is no different. The villain in the world's story is the Devil. We're going to look at how this villain ruined the world's story. But remember, this is not just a past event. Although God has already limited the Devil and has also promised to ultimately defeat him, he's still able to ruin your story, and he wants to.

So when we look at how the Devil ruined the world's story, we'll uncover how he's also trying to ruin ours, and discover some protective strategies. If we know what he's like and how he operates, we have vital intelligence to wield in the battle.

CONTEXT

Last week we looked at the first story, full of beauty and bounty, harmony and unity, happiness and holiness. The previous week, we looked at our present messy and meaningless stories. Which raises the question: What happened in between? Something terrible happened, but what was that? That's what Genesis 3 is all about.



How does the villain operate?



1. THE VILLAIN TELLS YOU A FALSE STORY

The Devil was originally a good and great angel. But, despite his high position, he wanted the highest position, God's. For this rebellion, he and many rebel angels with him were cast out of heaven (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19; Rev. 12:9). Having failed to unseat God, he went on to attack God's image on earth, using one of God's creatures, the serpent (Gen. 3:1). He attacked God's story with a false story.

The Devil Doubts God's Story

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" (1). Did God really say that? Are you sure he said that? This question changed the entire course of human history. With this question, Satan smuggled in the idea that God's Word is subject to human judgment and opinion.

The Devil Distorts God's Story

God forbade eating from one tree but Satan made it seem that he forbade all trees (1). In doing so, he portrayed God as miserly and stingy. "God is keeping good things back from you." Eve replied that God had only forbidden one tree, but by distorting God's prohibition, he distorted Eve's thinking about God.

The Devil Denies God's Story

Having sown a doubt about God's Word and character, the Devil then outrightly contradicted God's threat. **The serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"** (4-5). The Devil blatantly denied God's story and then substituted it with his own. "God said you will die. But I say you will live as never before."

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Hate the Devil. See him as your greatest enemy who is out to destroy you with false stories. He's still doubting, distorting, and denying God's story. He's still replacing God's story with his own. And his great aim is to ruin your story. 'Satan' means 'hater,' so let's hate him with as much hatred as he hates us.

Defeat the Devil. Follow Christ's example in Luke 4:1-13, where Jesus defeated the Devil's doubts, distortions, and denials with God's Story. God's true Story is more powerful and persuasive than the Devil's false story. So, know it and use it in both defense and attack.

IF YOU GIVE THE DEVIL YOUR PEN
HE'LL WRITE YOU A HORROR STORY.



What will happen if we believe the Devil's story?



2. THE VILLAIN RUINS YOUR STORY

Our first parents chose to believe the Devil's false story instead of God's true story. They believed lies rather than truth. They **listened** to the Devil's story, they **lusted** for forbidden pleasure, and they **longed** for independence from God (6). The result was a ruined humanity and a ruined world (7-19).

Humanity was ruined (7-13)

They were ashamed: Adam and Eve immediately lost their innocence. **The eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths** (7).

They were afraid: When God came to walk with them in the garden, they **hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden** (8). When he found them and asked why they were hiding, Adam replied **"I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself"** (9). God was now a terrible judge rather than a loving father. His voice was no longer music to their ears, but a terror. They ran from him, not to him.

They were alienated. They were alienated from God and alienated from one another. Their perfect marriage was now a perfect mess as each began finger-pointing and blame-shifting (11-13). But sin ruined more than their relationships.

The world was ruined (14-19)

God placed a curse upon the animals (14), having and raising children (16), work and the environment (17-19), and on life in general. Instead of life, bounty, and beauty, there was now death, decay, and disorder. Wherever they looked there was ruin.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Weep over a ruined humanity: Sin has brought so much shame, fear, and discord into our relationships with ourselves, others, and God. Every time we add sin to our story, we generate pages of shame, fear, and discord. This is something to confess, weep over, and beg for help to avoid.

Weep over a ruined world: Every dead animal; every miscarriage, still-birth, disabled or disobedient child; every lost job, boring job, unrewarding job; every hospital bed, every surgery, every disease, and every death is the result of the villain's hatred for everything and everyone.

YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE YOUR STORY
UNTIL YOU WEEP OVER YOUR STORY



Is there any hope of overcoming the ruin?



3. GOD REWRITES YOUR STORY

In the midst of the ruin, God gave us a promise that he can reverse, redeem, and re-write our stories. Verses 14-15 represent a chink of bright light that kept God's people hoping throughout the Old Testament darkness. It contained the first Gospel promise.

The Devil will be Disgraced.

Because the devil used the snake to ruin our stories, God put an extra curse on the snake to picture his curse on the Devil. In the supremely cursed snake, he gave us a picture of his plan to destroy the Devil (14). Although the snake was previously a highly regarded animal, it would now be thrown down on the ground and eat dust all its days, a biblical picture of defeat (14).

The Devil will be Detested.

God made snakes hate humanity and humanity hate snakes, to picture the hatred he wants between humanity and the devil. Sin brought humanity into a 'friendly' relationship with Satan; but God broke this newly formed alliance by turning humanity's friendship with Satan into enmity. **"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring"** (15). In doing so, he restored Adam and Eve humanity to friendship with himself.

The Devil will be Defeated

Though the snake can inflict the odd bite and even fatality upon humanity, in general, humanity has the upper hand. This fact also signifies the defeat of the Devil by God's grace and power. God promises a future Seed, someone descended from Eve who will suffer Devil-inflicted wounds, but will ultimately crush the him. He told the Devil of this coming Savior, **He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel** (15). Whatever temporary pain the devil would inflict on the Deliverer, the Deliverer will ultimately triumph over him.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Hope for humanity: God promises you a different ending to your story if you hand your story over to him for re-writing. All the stories God writes will end in total and complete victory. How will yours end? Here is the beginning of a better story and a far better ending.

Hope for the world: Although God places a curse on the world and everything in it, we also have God's promise that, through the Savior's victory over Satan, a new world will be created, full of beauty, bounty, and unity (Rev. 21). God, not the villain will have the final victory (Rev. 22)

THE SERPENT BRUISES THE SERVANT,
BUT THE SERVANT BATTERS THE SERPENT



What 's the next chapter in your story?
Hear God's story > Change your story > Tell the story



CONCLUSION



PRAYER: StoryChanger, this villain is really scary. Defend me, defeat him, and re-write my story so that I share in your final and complete victory over him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What other villains can you think of? What can you learn from their characters, words, actions, and ends?
2. How can you hate the Devil more?
3. How has the Devil doubted, distorted, and denied God's Word in your life?
4. What spiritual lessons can you learn from snakes?
5. What other passages of Scripture give you hope for a restored humanity and world?
6. How can you use this story to change your story? How will you use this story to change others' stories?

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THE STORYCHANGER (3)

GENESIS 3

THE VILLAIN

THIS IS MY STORY
THIS IS MY SONG
PRAISING MY SAVIOR
ALL THE DAY LONG



Unless we know who the villain is and how he operates, we will not defend ourselves or defeat him

Biblical answer?



Know who the villain is and how he operates to defend yourself and defeat him with God's story



The villain tells you a false story

- He doubts God's Story
- He distorts God's Story
- He denies God's Story

IF YOU GIVE THE DEVIL YOUR PEN HE'LL WRITE YOU A HORROR STORY.

Believe Devil's story?



The villain ruins your story

- Humanity was ruined
- World was ruined

YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE YOUR STORY UNTIL YOU WEEP OVER YOUR STORY

Any hope?



God re-writes your story

- The Devil disgraced
- The Devil detested
- The Devil defeated

THE SERPENT
BRUISES THE SERVANT,
BUT THE SERVANT
BATTERS THE SERPENT.

Hear > Change > Tell

