

# Week One: Promise Needed

It is difficult to celebrate the coming of salvation without first thinking about what we need to be saved from. We cannot know how great our Savior (and salvation) is until we understand how great our sin is that He saved us from. Over the next week, we will look at what the bible says about the extent of our sin and the terrible mess that we were in.

Each of the passages for the next week focuses on our sin. We will see that our condition is hopeless. Because of Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden, we are all utterly and entirely sinful. Nothing we do, say, think, feel, or want is free of sin's influence. No matter what we try or how good we think we are, we can never reach God by our own efforts. If we are to be reunited to God, it must be by His action and initiative not our own.

The glorious truth is that even in these passages that are so focused on the depths of our sin, we find a hint of hope that is to come. In the midst of the worst acts of rebellion and treason against God, He has chosen to make a way to bring us back to Him!

## **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

## Genesis 3

*Pastor Josh Greene*

We need help! For as long as anyone can remember, we have been a needy people. We need God's help. We sin. We mess up. We make mistakes. We fail. We make wrong decisions. We go after things we shouldn't. We need help. Even more, we need God's promise. In Genesis 3, we see the genesis of the world's need for God's help.

This is the story of Adam and Eve and their disobeying of God and subsequent fall into sin. It is a true and historic story, and it is also the story of how sin entered the world. It is the beginning of what is wrong with our world and what is wrong with us. Let's look into Genesis 3 and notice all the ways that Adam and Eve went wrong.

- They tried to reason with the devil (3:1-5)
- They questioned & doubted what God clearly said (3:2-4)
- They determined that they knew better than God (3:6)
- They specifically did what God said NOT to do (3:6)
- They hid themselves from God (3:8)
- They made excuses for their sin (3:12-13)

This story when considered carefully brings so much weight and disappointment. We are left asking 'How?' and 'Why?' - 'How could they have done that?' 'Why would they have done all of that?'

And yet we also can see that we are very much like those two, our ancient parents. We too go wrong with our lives. We also sin. And therefore we also need help. In fact, we need all the help we can get. We precisely need God's help - God's promise!

- Instead of reasoning with the devil, we should "resist the devil." (James 4:7)
- Instead of doubting God, we should be trusting God. (Proverbs 3:5)
- Instead of thinking we know better than God, we should "submit to God." (James 4:7)
- Instead of disobeying God, we should obey God. (John 15:14)
- Instead of hiding from God, we should confess our sins to Him. (1 John 1:9)
- Instead of making excuses for sin, we should repent of sin. (Matthew 4:17)

This look into Genesis 3 is helpful for us. And we can learn what is the better, God-honoring way! But that alone is not enough to help us. For we are not merely in need of instructional help. Our need is much deeper than that. We need God and His promise to save.

Later in Genesis 3, verse 15, we get that much-needed promise from God. A savior is coming. Our Savior has come! When we needed help, God gave us a promise.

This Christmas season, let us admit we are needy. Let us admit our need for God's help. And let us recognize that God has promised to help us in our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!