

T. Shane Martin
Green Run Baptist Church
May 13, 2007
Mother's Day, 2007

WOMEN'S ROLE IN REDEMPTION GENESIS 3:1-16

INTRODUCTION

This is the day in which our nation recognizes and honors mothers. Scripture does not command us to observe national holidays; neither does it prohibit us from doing so if these days prove helpful in calling our attention to how God has acted in His world. For instance, it is consistent with Scripture that we honor our fathers and mothers. Therefore, national holidays such as Father's Day and Mother's Day do nothing to undermine what God has done in the world; in fact, they assist us in highlighting the God-ordained roles of fathers and mothers. In past Mother's Day sermons, we have focused on the blessing of parenthood and on the specific role of mothers within the home. Today, I would like to do something a little different and that is to focus on the role of women in God's plan of redemption. By redemption I mean God's plan of delivering the world from the rule of Satan and the curse of sin. A key introductory passage on this topic is Genesis 3:1-16. Here we find Eve, deceived by Satan, in the first act of disobedience. We also find Adam, not deceived, yet willing to follow his wife in her rebellion. The result of this is two-fold: (1) God cursed everything He created and now creation stands in need of deliverance (2) God promised deliverance and He introduces His plan to Satan, Eve and Adam.

1. GOD SPEAKS TO SATAN (3:14-15)

God first addressed Satan because he orchestrated the rebellion. The serpent, representative of Satan, was cursed above all other creatures. As a prophetic and lasting sign of his impending doom, he was made to crawl through the dust of the earth (v14). God intended that each time we see a snake, we are reminded of a dangerous, yet defeated enemy. Now the curse extended beyond the serpent to Satan himself. In verse 15, God declared war on Satan. Because man is now a sinner one would expect that he and Satan would get along quite well, but God declared that this would not be the case. God promised to cause an ongoing conflict between Satan and the woman. O. Palmer Robinson writes, *God shall intervene sovereignly to assure conflict between Satan and mankind. These verses guarantee that God himself shall impose a continuing opposition between mankind and Satan.*

In verse 15, the woman is placed directly in opposition to Satan, demonstrating that God's plan did not reject women because of Eve's failure, but instead redemption will not be accomplished apart from women. When God speaks of the woman, He most likely means not only Eve, but godly women who would descend from her as well. Furthermore, because Eve and many of her descendants are at enmity with Satan, their offspring will be at odds with his offspring. The hostility then is between Eve's offspring that God chooses to save and Eve's offspring that God chooses to pass over as demonstrated by Abel and Cain. The enmity prophesied in Genesis 3:15 will find progressive fulfillment throughout history. For example: Noah and the people of his generation, Joseph and his brothers, Moses and Pharaoh and, Saul and David.

Genesis 3:15 goes on to refer to one singular *seed* who will directly confront Satan and will bruise Satan on the head while being bruised on his heel. Ultimately, its fulfillment will come when the enemies of Christ crucify Him. Again, O. Palmer Robinson writes, *A single representative hero shall descend from the woman to join the conflict*. The cross was the decisive point where Christ, the seed of woman, crushed the head of Satan on behalf of all the godly *seed* (See John 12:31-32).

2. GOD SPEAKS TO EVE (3:16)

The role of woman in redemption involves both pain and joy. The blessing of motherhood is uniquely offered to women and this blessing extends far beyond the delights of a home filled with children. Bearing children directly fuels this spiritual battle which God imposed on the world. Godly mothers value children not simply because of the personal joys they bring, but because those children advance the victory of Christ in the world. God promised to rule the world through godly families reproducing godly children. This reminds us that the victory of Christ was not only over Satan, but his offspring. This victory is real and is meant to be played out in the real world as Christians take dominion over creation. God's command that mankind take dominion, "*Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth*", has never been repealed.

But now because of sin, both childrearing and family life will be accompanied by pain (v16). Regarding family life, *your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you*. Just as sin desired to rule Cain (Genesis 4:7), so the woman will continually be tempted to dominate her husband. But try as she may, she will never finally dominate her male counterpart, *And he will rule over you*. This rule is an inescapable reality in creation and it is helpful to study to understand how God has instituted and redeemed male headship for the good of women and children.

3. GOD SPEAKS TO ADAM (3:17-19)

Now God turns to Adam with both blessing and cursing. Notice that the curse came because he refused to acknowledge the headship which God had given to him. God blessed man with an ability to live from the results of his labor, *You will eat bread*. God promised to sustain Adam and his descendants until redemption was completed. But man's labor is now cursed with hardship. Work is not the curse, but now work becomes difficult and the results of man's work will be meager when compared to the effort required to produce those results. Finally, at the end of his laborious days, man will die. This was the promised consequence of sin and God always makes good on His promises.

CONCLUSION

(1) God works through families, therefore having children must be a strong consideration in marriage.

(2) Children of believing parents must be taught to live distinctly Christian lives because Christian dominion is playing out in the physical world as well as the spiritual world.

(3) Even though God has designed a universe where men rule, for good or bad, we must never forget the prominent role of women in God's plan of redemption.