

The Fall of Man

For Adam, it would involve toil, thorns, and death.

Genesis 3:18 *“Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.”*

But for Eve, it would involve the pain of childbirth.

Genesis 3:16a *“To the woman, He said: I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children.”*

The consequences of the fall were different for Adam and Eve, yet both point to the struggle of life in a fallen world.

Adam’s toil, the thorns, and eventual death reflect the hardship of providing and sustaining life, while Eve’s pain in childbirth symbolizes the suffering involved in bringing forth new life. Both curses demonstrate how sin introduced suffering, yet even in this, God’s redemptive plan was at work.

What’s amazing is how these very symbols of the fall - thorns and childbirth - are also transformed through Christ. Jesus wore a crown of thorns, taking on the curse of toil and suffering (Matthew 27:29).

And just as a woman endures labor pains before bringing forth life, Jesus endured the agony of the cross to birth new life in us.

John 16:21–22 *“A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”*

Even in judgment, God’s mercy is woven in.

The curse did not stop life from coming, life would come, but it would now come through suffering; so suffering is not the end, but it is the process through which God’s purposes are birthed.

God’s purposes would still be fulfilled, but through the pains of labor, so it is important to remember that the pain we experience is not in vain; it is part of the transition into

something greater, something eternal, something that it going to birth God's blessings in our lives.

In fact, the scriptures declare that all creation is undergoing the pain of childbirth.

That means that the creation is fallen, and even in its fallenness, it will still bring forth God's purpose and life, but now with birth pangs.

Romans 8:22–23 *“For we know that the whole creation, groans and labors with birthpangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves grown within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”*

Through the darkness and brokenness of the creation, God's children will be born and developed.

Labor pains turn into joy when new life is born. It's a reminder that no suffering in Christ is wasted; it is producing something amazing in us, something eternal. And as Romans 8:18 says, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

We have this great hope in us!

So often, what we perceive as loss, suffering, or disappointment is actually the painful process of something new being birthed in our lives.

Just as labor pains precede the joy of new life, our trials and struggles refine us, and draw us deeper into His Word.

Even Jesus endured suffering to bring forth salvation. Hebrews 12:2 says, *“For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

The cross was agony, but on the other side there was resurrection and eternal victory.

Once life is born, there is great joy, and the pain of childbirth is gone as the joy of new life comes.

To walk in *“the kingdom of God,”* is to walk in the place of *“righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”* Romans 14:17

This is how it is with us; whatever pains and tears we have to go through, should be looked at as necessary birth pangs that keeps us in a fresh, dependent, and new place in Christ.

Philippians 4:4 *“Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!”*

Romans 8:17 *“And if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

The tears of this world are forgotten in the joy and miracle of life.

1 Peter 2:9 *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

God is good!!!