



Crash & Burn

Skip Heitzig

We've all had to learn a few lessons the hard way, but it's far better to learn from someone else's mistakes. The Bible is full of stories we can glean from—positive and negative—about what to do and what not to do. Satan was filled with pride. Lot became complacent. And Achan let greed steal his blessing. Join us for Crash & Burn as we learn to fly by looking at the lives of those who fell.

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SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	The Cosmic Crash; The Eternal Burn
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Isaiah 14:12-17
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4114

MESSAGE SUMMARY

One of the starkest truths we find in the Bible is its brutal honesty—it never flatters its heroes, and it never glosses over its villains. It presents the flaws, foibles, and failures of people in every generation. Just as Hebrews 11 is the *Hall of Fame*, showing the people of faith from the Old Testament, this series will look more at the *Hall of Shame* of those in the same time period. Why? So we can learn from their failures and not repeat them. In this new series, Crash & Burn, we will learn how to fly by looking at those who fell. But the first "fall" was the worst, making way for every fall thereafter. Today we consider how Lucifer became Satan.

STUDY GUIDE

Connect Recap Notes: October 2, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: ""The Cosmic Crash; The Eternal Burn""

Text: Isaiah 14:12-17

Path

One of the starkest truths we find in the Bible is its brutal honesty---it never flatters its heroes, and it never glosses over its villains. Just as Hebrews 11 is the *Hall of Fame*, showing the people of faith from the Old Testament, this new teaching series will look at the *Hall of Shame*. Why? So we can learn from their failures and not repeat them. In this new series, Crash & Burn, we will learn how to fly by looking at those who fell. The first "fall" was the worst, making way for every fall thereafter. In this teaching, Pastor Skip considers how Lucifer became Satan. His path through the text is as follows:

- I. His Dwelling Was in Heaven (v. 12)
- II. His Domain Is on Earth (v. 12b)
- III. His Destiny Will Be Hell (v. 15)
- IV. His Downfall Was His Pride (vv. 13-14)

Points

His Dwelling Was in Heaven

- Isaiah 14:12-17 refers to a past and future instance. First, it addresses the earthly ruler of Babylon. Second, it addresses someone who will die and go to hell: Lucifer.
- *Lucifer* means *light-bearer* or *shining one*. It's similar to the word for *serpent* (*nachash*), also meaning shining one.

- The word for hell is *sheol*, which is equivalent to the Greek word *hades* ("abode of the dead").
- There are two errors people make when dealing with the Devil:
 - Denial: they deny that this powerful Enemy exists.
 - Overreaction: they develop an obsession, an unhealthy fascination, with the Devil.

His Domain Is on Earth

- Concerning Lucifer's fall, Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18).
- Where did Lucifer fall to? The earth.
- Lucifer fell from heaven, and his domain is the earth, but he still has access to heaven (see Job 1).
- Only three angels in the Bible have known names: Gabriel, Michael, and Lucifer. Lucifer may have been the chief angel over all the other angels.
- After his fall, Lucifer took control over the world's systems.
- No matter how close you are to God, it's no guarantee you won't make bad choices.
- Lucifer has four principle targets: Jesus, the angels, the nation of Israel, and Christians.

His Destiny Will Be Hell

- Satan is not currently in hell; he's been cast out of heaven and his domain is on earth (see Ephesians 6:11-18).
- One day, however, Satan will go to hell. In hell, his position will not be chief victimizer, but chief victim. He won't be the chief tormenter, but the chief target.
- When God's people see Satan, we'll be amazed at how beautiful and limited he is.
- Ezekiel 28 tells us that Lucifer is "perfect in beauty" (v. 12). Many people have a misconception that Satan is ugly. Beauty makes more sense, because sin is pleasurable and appears beautiful for a moment.

His Downfall Was His Pride

- What made Lucifer become Satan? Where did his sin begin? In his heart; it began by a creature setting itself against its Creator.
- Pride was the root of Lucifer's sin. It caused him to go from the *shining one* to the Prince of Darkness. Pride is the oldest sin in the universe and shows no signs of growing weaker with age.
- Lucifer is Jesus' counterfeit. Satan exalted himself; Jesus lowered Himself.
- The way to deal with sin is humility. The way down is up; the way up is down.
- How do we cultivate humility?
 - Prayer: it shows our dependence on God.
 - Worship: we proclaim God's exalted nature.
 - Encouragement: we focus on others.
 - Service: when we are others-centered, our attention is off ourselves.
- D.L. Moody put it this way: "Be humble, or you'll stumble."

Practice

Connect Up: Compare and contrast God's characteristics---sovereignty, love, omnipotence (all

powerful), omnipresence (everywhere present), etc.---to Satan's limitations. Take a moment to worship the Lord for His power over Satan and sin.

Connect In: Discuss the importance of the four ways we can cultivate humility (prayer, worship, encouragement, and service). How should we practice these things individually and as a church?

Connect Out: The Bible paints a realistic portrait of Satan---one out to kill and destroy. How does this reality help or hurt us in our outreach and evangelism? What are some of Satan's devices that Christians should be mindful of when we serve on behalf of Christ? How can we overcome the wiles of the Devil (see Ephesians 6:11-18)?

OUTLINE

- I. His Dwelling Was in Heaven (v. 12)
- II. His Domain Is on Earth (v. 12b)
- III. His Destiny Will Be Hell (v. 15)
- IV. His Downfall Was His Pride (vv. 13-14)



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	Falling Hard; Recovering Strong
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 3
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4116

MESSAGE SUMMARY

After Satan's own crash and burn, he took his evil scheme from heaven to the earth to which he fell and began to ensnare the first people God made (miser loves company). From this familiar story that most of us know so well comes five lessons that are eminently practical as we deal with life in a fallen world. In this series, we want to learn to fly by looking at those who fell. Adam and Eve went from flying to falling. What does that mean for us?

STUDY GUIDE

Connect Recap Notes: October 9, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: "Falling Hard; Recovering Strong"

Text: Genesis 3

Path

After Satan's own crash and burn, he took his evil scheme from heaven to earth, seeking to ensnare the first people God made. In this series, we want to learn to fly by looking at those who fell. Adam and Eve went from flying to falling—and their choices affect us all. Pastor Skip gave us five practical principles from this familiar story:

- I. Choices Will Be Challenged (vv. 1-5)
- II. Allurement Doesn't Mean Entitlement (v. 6)
- III. Disobedience Is Worse Than Deception (v. 7)
- IV. A Hard Heart Brings a Hard Life (vv. 14-20)
- V. A Covering Is Better Than a Cover-Up (vv. 7-13, 21)

Points

Choices Will Be Challenged

- We must not be ignorant of Satan's methods (see 1 Corinthians 2:11). Even at the conception of deception, we see his motives.
- Satan challenges God's love. When he asked Eve, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" (v. 1), he invited her to question God's love.
 - Satan was really asking, "Would a God who truly loved you keep you from any good thing?"

- He tried the same trick with Jesus, telling Him to turn stones into bread (see Matthew 4:3). It didn't work because Jesus was aware of his methods.
- Satan challenges God's Word. When Eve said she was obeying God's command not to eat from that tree, Satan replied, "You will not surely die" (v. 4).
 - A direct attack on God's Word often causes us to question the Bible's reliability and God's blueprint for our life.
- Satan changes God's truth. When Satan said, "You will be like God, knowing good and evil" (v. 5), he was suggesting, based on his own experience, that God doesn't like competition. God has no competition; He just doesn't like pride.
 - Satan is the Father of Lies, and he lies about two principle things: God's character and His Word.
 - Once we start changing God's Word, we leave the door open to anything—trusting anything that feels true in the moment—and that is dangerous territory.
- **Probe: Read Psalm 31:20, Psalm 46:1, and Proverbs 18:10. When we put a stake in the ground for God, we will be challenged. Failing to prepare for that is preparing to fail, so we must put on the whole armor of God (see Ephesians 6:10-18). Discuss what that means in your life.**

Allurement Doesn't Mean Entitlement

- Just because something looks good doesn't mean it is good.
- Eve was attracted to the fruit physically, nutritionally, and educationally. Once Satan had her questioning God's love, Word, and truth, she was susceptible to "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16).
 - Her cravings blurred her convictions and offset God's law in her heart.
- There are a lot of pretty things in the world that will hurt us. We are entitled to nothing but what God has approved for us.
- **Probe: God's grace is sufficient for you in all situations (see 2 Corinthians 12:9). What pretty things tempt you away from relying on His grace? How can you combat the tendency toward self-reliance?**

Disobedience Is Worse Than Deception

- Eve was deceived, but Adam knew what he was doing (see 1 Timothy 2:14).
- Disobedience is deliberate rebellion against God; it's worse than being tricked because you know the truth and still act falsely.
- Adam chose to fall with Eve; it was foolish at best and idolatry at worst—putting a created thing (even his beloved wife) ahead of God.
- **Probe: What people or things in your life challenge God for top status? What does Adam's choice to rebel tell you about the cost of putting anything ahead of God?**

A Hard Heart Brings a Hard Life

- Life gets harder when we decide to do what's not right. Adam and Eve had it made in Eden, but when they crossed that line between obedience and disobedience, life got much harder.
- This was where all the trouble began. Adam acted on behalf of all mankind. His choice permitted the contaminant of sin to enter the human bloodstream, affecting every person ever born—and all of creation, too.

- Do not be deceived—whatever price you think you'll pay for sin, the actual price will be far worse.
- Satan teases us with the pleasure of the immediate, but he hides the ultimate cost.
- **Probe: Read Galatians 6:7-9. What is the law of sowing and reaping? How can you sow to the Spirit?**

A Covering Is Better Than a Cover-Up

- Hiding is an instinctive reaction to guilt. Sin makes sneakiness automatic—it made Adam and Eve self-conscious for the first time, aware of their physical and spiritual nakedness before each other and God.
- Any attempt to cover up sin is like clothes made of fig leaves—itchy and impermanent.
- When God sought Adam and Eve in the garden, they thought they were dead because of their disobedience. Instead, an innocent animal died in their place, so God could clothe Adam and Eve with animal skins.
 - It was the first human sin, and God previewed His mercy by accepting a substitute for sin's wages.
 - This preview of Christ's sacrifice was also an act of mercy: God kicked them out of the garden to keep them from eating the fruit of the Tree of Life, so they wouldn't live forever in their fallen state.
- **Probe: God in His grace has provided a covering for our sins: the blood of Christ. Read John 13:10. Once we've been bathed by Jesus' blood, we only need to wash our feet—to confess and forsake our daily sins. Is there anything you need to wash off today?**

OUTLINE

- I. Choices Will Be Challenged (vv. 1-5)
- II. Allurement Doesn't Mean Entitlement (v. 6)
- III. Disobedience Is Worse Than Deception (v. 7)
- IV. A Hard Heart Brings a Hard Life (vv. 14-20)
- V. A Covering Is Better Than a Cover-Up (vv. 7-13, 21)



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	A Murder after Church
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 4:1-16
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4118

MESSAGE SUMMARY

If you think that just attending a worship service is enough to make you a good person, then consider this: *the first crime was committed by a mad farmer right after church!* The story of Cain killing his brother Abel highlights how dysfunctional the first family was and how sin immediately affected humanity—and still does. Today, we look at the biography of a murderer who went from adoring God to assassinating his brother.

STUDY GUIDE

Connect Recap Notes: October 16, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: "A Murder after Church"

Text: Genesis 4:1-16

Path

If you think that just attending a worship service is enough to make you a good person, then consider this: *the first crime was committed by an angry farmer right after church!* The story of Cain killing his brother Abel highlights how dysfunctional the first family was and how sin immediately affected humanity---and still does. In this teaching, Pastor Skip unpacked the biography of a murderer who went from adoring God to assassinating his brother.

- I. Worker (vv. 1-2)
- II. Worshiper (vv. 3-5)
- III. Waverer (vv. 6-7)
- IV. Wrongdoer (vv. 8-10)
- V. Wanderer (vv. 11-16)

Points

Worker

- Genesis 4 is a biographical sketch of the first murder. In Genesis 3, we saw the root of sin. In Genesis 4, we saw the fruit of sin.
- The chapter opens optimistically: the first pregnancy led to the first birth. Cain was born and followed in his dad's footsteps, becoming a farmer. His younger brother Abel became a rancher.
- God put man in the garden to work, tying work to worship. Man's occupation is the basis for his adoration.

Worshiper

- As part of their work, they worshiped, bringing an offering to the Lord.
- The offering Cain and Abel brought may have been part of an agricultural service.
- Offerings were important aspects of worship, denoting giving something of substance to God.
- Abel's offering was accepted, and Cain's was not. Why?
 - The quality of the offering: Abel gave his best; Cain did not.
 - The character of the offerer: Abel gave from a contrite heart; Cain gave out of a corrupted soul, having no real faith.
 - God does not see worship apart from the worshiper.
- Worship is not just motion but locomotion---moving forward in obedience, putting feet to one's faith.

Waverer

- The real character of Cain's heart was demonstrated in his response to the situation: he was mad at God.
- Cain was a murderer in his heart long before he was a murderer with his hands.
- God showed His compassion as He reached out to reason with Cain, characterizing sin as a beast crouching at a door ready to pounce (see v. 7).
- But Cain succumbed to sin, wavering in his worship and obedience to the Lord.
- If you do not become a victor over your sin, you'll be a victim of your sin.

Wrongdoer

- We are not told how Cain murdered his brother. But the *how* is not as important as the *why*: Cain crashed and burned because of sin, a consequence of the fall.
- The fall is called *Original Sin* in theology. The apostle Paul put it this way: "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). Paul's point was that death spread and reigned.
- Genesis 4 highlights the spread of sin in Cain's heart and how his response---refusing to confess and repent---led to him becoming a wrongdoer.

Wanderer

- Cain deserved death, but God punished him with banishment, lifelong exile.
- Though Cain deserved death, God showed grace:
 - When Cain got angry, God didn't abandon him, but engaged with him.
 - When Cain struggled, God encouraged him.
 - When Cain murdered his brother, God preserved Cain's life and left him with a mark as a memorial of his crime, protecting him from vengeance.
- How can we be cured of sinful anger?
 - Our basic problem is a worship problem, so we must give God the best of ourselves and worship Him in spirit and truth.
 - We must not let the root of sin produce the fruit of sin. There will be a wrestling match between flesh and spirit, but we must recognize that the problem begins in our heart.

- Sin always brings separation. Remember that sin has significant effects, but it also an ends in Christ.

Practice

Connect Up: Pastor Skip taught that God's grace is still evident even in the midst of sin. *Grace* is defined as *unmerited favor*. God showed grace to Cain. How does He show grace to you? What does the reality of grace tell us about God's character and compassion toward the vilest of sinners?

Connect In: Like Adam and Eve's family, the family of God is full of people who are on different paths in their walk with Christ. What can we learn from the story of Cain and Abel as it relates to people within the church? How does our past shape our future? How can the church show grace and love to people who are struggling with abuse, addiction, theft, murder, etc.?

Connect Out: Knowing that God spared Cain, how can we craft a message that presents the gospel to the vilest of sinners? Take time to pray for people you know that need Jesus. Ask for God to open a door to share the good news of Christ.

OUTLINE

- I. Worker (vv. 1-2)
- II. Worshiper (vv. 3-5)
- III. Waverer (vv. 6-7)
- IV. Wrongdoer (vv. 8-10)
- V. Wanderer (vv. 11-16)



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	Lot's Linger Legacy
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 11-19
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4120

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Some names summon noble thoughts. Other names evoke cautionary feelings. Lot is in the second category. Though he had everything he needed for spiritual success, his priorities were clearly fixed in the temporary pleasures of this life. Though the New Testament calls him righteous (see 2 Peter 2:7) because of his simple faith, his life could have been so much more. As it stands, Lot's best years were squandered and fruitless.

STUDY GUIDE

Connect Recap Notes: October 23, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: "Lot's Linger Legacy"

Text: Genesis 11-19

Path

Some names summon noble thoughts. Other names evoke cautionary feelings. Lot is in the second category. Though he had everything he needed for spiritual success, his priorities were clearly fixed in the temporary pleasures of this life. Though the New Testament calls him righteous because of his simple faith (see 2 Peter 2:7), his life could have been so much more. Instead, Lot squandered his best years, leaving a fruitless legacy. Pastor Skip unpacked Lot's legacy in three phases:

- I. He Followed a Champion (Genesis 11:27-31; 12:5)
- II. He Faced Challenges (Genesis 13:1-9)
- III. He Formed Choices
 - A. By Looking (Genesis 13:10-11)
 - B. By Leaving (Genesis 13:12-13)
 - C. By Living (Genesis 14:12)
 - D. By Leading (Genesis 19:1)
 - E. By Linger (Genesis 19:12-16)

Points

He Followed a Champion

- Lot crashed and burned in phases. He began following Abraham on an adventure with God, but slowly drifted toward disobedience.

- God called Abraham out of Ur, a prominent and polytheistic culture (modern-day Iraq). God is not satisfied to be one among other gods.
- The death of Abraham's brother (Lot's father, Haran) affected the family. Abraham and Sarah took Lot in and brought him up.
- After his brother's death, Abraham was up for adventure: he wanted to get away. He traveled along the Euphrates River to Canaan, then Egypt, and back to Canaan.
- Lot was always with Abraham. He followed a champion of faith—the “father of all who believe” (Roman 4:16, NLT)—through all the ups and downs of his faith.
- Learning by watching someone's life beats reading a book or hearing a sermon. A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.
- **Probe: Discuss the importance of having a mentor—a positive figure—in your life. Do you have one? If not, who could be one for you? A mentor should be someone with faith, wisdom, and experience.**

He Faced Challenges

- There were no conflicts between Abraham and the neighboring tribes (the Canaanites and Perizzites). Instead, conflict arose between Abraham and Lot.
- Family members from both biological and spiritual families disagree. Don't be surprised when there is friction in God's family.
- Any time you live in proximity to others, there will be conflict. What matters is how you handle it.
- Abraham and Lot's herdsmen argued in public over land and possessions. The neighboring tribes watched to see how these men of faith would handle conflict.
- **Probe: Discuss how we should resolve conflict with fellow believers (see Matthew 18). Share relevant examples from your own experiences.**

He Formed Choices

- Lot's life journey was characterized by the choices he made:
 - By Looking: like Eve, Lot was driven by his senses. The eyes long for what the heart loves. Lot based his choice on what looked best materially, not what was best spiritually.
 - By Leaving: When Lot left Abraham, he left a place of strength. He was on a tragic trajectory, making choices in the flesh for the flesh. He relocated near Sodom, the city of worldly desires.
 - By Living: Lot originally looked with longing toward Sodom, but he eventually took steps to live there. This confirmed his move away from God and toward sin.
 - By Leading: Not only did Lot live in Sodom, but he gained a level of prominence there, becoming a city leader. He followed the opposite path of God's counsel in Psalm 1:1 by walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the path of sinners, and sitting in the seat of the scornful.
 - By Linger: Lot lingered too long in Sodom. When the city was about to be destroyed, the angels had to lug him out. He had become deadened to the urgency of evil and deaf to the message of exit.
- **Probe: Discuss the power and consequences of choices—good or bad. Why do many people stay in sin for so long?**

Practice

Connect Up: Discuss how your life, actions, and choices reflect Christ. Is your life a living witness or is it lacking witness? How can you correct bad choices? Where does God come in?

Connect In: Like Lot and Abraham, members in the body of Christ will face conflict. When conflict comes, pray about it, seek reconciliation, and learn from it. Discuss times you've been in conflict with other Christians. How did you resolve the issue?

Connect Out: Lot's senses habitually took precedence over his spiritual decisions, and though he lost much of what was important in his life, his soul was saved. How can we use the story of Lot to discuss the gospel with unbelievers?

OUTLINE

- I. He Followed a Champion (Genesis 11:27-31; 12:5)
- II. He Faced Challenges (Genesis 13:1-9)
- III. He Formed Choices
 - A. By Looking (Genesis 13:10-11)
 - B. By Leaving (Genesis 13:12-13)
 - C. By Living (Genesis 14:12)
 - D. By Leading (Genesis 19:1)
 - E. By Linger (Genesis 19:12-16)



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	Here Comes Trouble
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Joshua 7
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4122

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Meet a guy whose name actually means *trouble*. Achan was an Israeli soldier whose personal action brought a national reaction. When he crashed and burned, he took others down with him—his fellow soldiers, his family, and his country. How can one person do so much damage? And what should be done when we find ourselves in the fallout of failure (our own or others')? Moreover, can there ever be a bright future for those experiencing such dim circumstances?

STUDY GUIDE

Connect Recap Notes: October 30, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: "Here Comes Trouble"

Text: Joshua 7

Path

In this message, Pastor Skip introduced us to a guy whose name actually means *trouble*. Achan was an Israeli soldier whose personal action brought a national reaction. When he crashed and burned, he took others down with him—his fellow soldiers, his family, and his country. Can there ever be a bright future for those experiencing such dim circumstances? Skip laid out some principles from the text, showing us what we should do when we find ourselves in the fallout of failure (our own or others'):

- I. Every Disobedience Is Detrimental (vv. 1-5)
- II. Every Sin Comes in Stages (vv. 19-21)
- III. Every Prayer Isn't Pure (vv. 6-13)
- IV. Every Failure Isn't Forever (v. 26; Hosea 2:15)

Points

Every Disobedience Is Detrimental

- Achan took "accursed things" (v. 1). He kept the spoils of war for himself. The treasury was to be used for God's praise, not one man's profit. His actions caused the death of thirty-six men, affecting families, children, and communities.
- God related Achan's act to all of Israel (see v. 11). Every believer's actions matter. Everything we do, good or bad, affects the whole church.
- Warren Wiersbe said, "Never underestimate the amount of damage one person can do outside the will of God."

- Though at times we needle one another, as members of the body of Christ, we need one another. We suffer and rejoice as a community (see I Corinthians 12).
- **Probe: Why do every believer's actions matter?**

Every Sin Comes in Stages

- As we looked at Achan's confession, it became clear there were stages to his sin (v. 21-22):
 - "I saw"—Achan saw something that delighted him.
 - "I coveted"—his heart was moved toward those things.
 - "I took"—he acquired the things for his own purposes.
- If Achan had just waited on the Lord, he would have had all those things and more. God intended to give the spoils of Ai to the people (see Joshua 8:2).
- Jim Elliott said, "God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him."
- **Probe: James 1:13-15 describes stages of temptation: desire, deception, decision, and death. Is temptation itself sin? How do you deal with temptation? Using John White's illustration of a piano, Skip advised us to shut the lid on temptation.¹**

Every Prayer Isn't Pure

- Joshua was a man of prayer, whose good habits had helped him and Israel. But in this case, he prayed too late. Prayer is important and it works, but he should have prayed before the battle, not after.
- If you pray before times of victory, you won't have to plead in times of defeat.
- Joshua's prayer had a tone of blame toward God because He did not help them win the battle. The Lord replied, "Get up!... Israel has sinned" (vv. 10-11). God takes sin seriously.
- There's a time to pray and a time to act. God wanted them to put feet to their faith—to correct and commence, not just contemplate.
- Action without prayer is atheism; prayer without action is presumption.
- The purpose of prayer is not to inform God, but to invite God into your life.
- **Probe: Christians are called to pray for God's will to be done (see Matthew 6:10). Discuss some prayers that are not pure—prayers that exhibit how we sometimes pray for our will to be done over God's will.**

Every Failure Isn't Forever

- The failure of Achan was trouble for the community, yet God "turned from the fierceness of His anger" (v. 26).
- The valley where they buried Achan was named as a pun on his name: the Valley of Achor, or the Place of Trouble.
- Later, God made a promise concerning this valley: "I will give [Israel] vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope" (Hosea 2:15).
- The place once associated with defeat and downfall will be a place of delight in the kingdom age. God can take trouble and turn it into triumph.
- Don't let defeat define you. Through the transformative work of Jesus on the cross, *here comes trouble* can become *here comes triumph*.
- **Probe: Share with your group a time when God didn't let defeat define you and His mercy made you new.**

Practice

Connect Up: Like Achan, our actions can either help or hamper our walk with God. Consider times when your actions have drawn you away or closer to Christ.

Connect In: Given that we are to love one another in the church (see John 13:34-35), all of your actions can either build up or tear down the body of Christ. How do our actions—good or bad—affect the entire church?

Connect Out: Knowing that every failure isn't forever, how can we share the gospel with those who have fallen and feel like they are unworthy of God's grace? In other words, how does grace work? Is it earned or freely given? Why does that matter when it comes to falling short of God's standards?

¹White, John, *The Fight: A Practical Handbook for Christian Living*, Downers Grove, Illinois, InterVarsity Press, 1976, p. 79-80.

OUTLINE

- I. Every Disobedience Is Detrimental (vv. 1-5)
- II. Every Sin Comes in Stages (vv. 19-21)
- III. Every Prayer Isn't Pure (vv. 6-13)
- IV. Every Failure Isn't Forever (v. 26; Hosea 2:15)



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	A Superhero Loses His Cape
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Judges 14
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4124

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Some people make us scratch our head in wonder and wipe our eyes in sorrow. Samson was such a man. He had everything he needed to be outstanding, yet he ended his life as a blinded slave in the enemy's camp. Most everyone knows of his exploits as the superhero of the Old Testament. And even though God used him, Samson could have been so much more. Let's trace some of the downhill steps Samson took to lose his superhero cape.

STUDY GUIDE

Connect Recap Notes: November 6, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: "A Superhero Loses His Cape"

Text: Judges 14

Path

Some people make us scratch our head in wonder and wipe our eyes in sorrow. Samson was such a man. He had everything he needed to be outstanding, yet he ended his life as a blinded slave in the enemy's camp. Most everyone knows of his exploits as the superhero of the Old Testament. And even though God used him, Samson could have been so much more. Pastor Skip traced some of the downhill steps Samson took to lose his superhero cape.

- I. He Disrespected His Parents (vv. 1-4)
- II. He Disregarded His God (vv. 5-9)
- III. He Distanced His Friends (vv. 10-11)
- IV. He Downplayed His Failures (vv. 12-18)
- V. He Decimated His Enemy (vv. 19-20)

Points

He Disrespected His Parents

- Though Samson was empowered by the Spirit, he was emptied of power by his pursuit of the flesh. He was mentioned in Hebrews 11:32 as an example of faith, but he was not a faithful man. God wanted to use Samson as a prime deliverer, but he turned out to be a poor example.
- In the midst of his pursuit of a Philistine woman, Samson disregarded his parents' advice; they wanted him to marry a Jewish woman, based on God's command not to intermarry with pagan tribes (see Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:3-4).

- The first downward step a person takes is disrespect for their parents. Parents model God's authority. When we don't let God rule over us, He will overrule us. God will accomplish His purposes in spite of us.
- **Probe: Read Exodus 20:12. What does it mean to honor your parents?**

He Disregarded His God

- As a Nazarite, Samson took a vow of consecration to stay away from wine, keep his hair uncut, and not touch dead things. He disobeyed in all three areas.
- Samson went through a vineyard, breaking the vow concerning wine, and later touched a lion's carcass.
- Samson's problem was first and foremost with God. He chose doting on himself over devotion to the Lord.
- **Probe: Read Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 and Matthew 5:37. Why is it important to keep your promises to God and others?**

He Distanced His Friends

- Samson hosted a wedding feast with wine, once again breaking the Nazarite vow.
- His father was there, along with thirty other men he presumably didn't know.
- According to Jewish tradition, the friends of the bridegroom would have been at Samson's wedding. Where were his friends?
- Maybe Samson didn't have friends. If he did, he didn't invite them to his wedding.
- Either way, this shows that Samson was a loner; he raged against the wise judgment of others (see Proverbs 18:1).
- Friends provide the support and standards of godly advice. Samson's distance from his friends is another mark of his downward spiral.
- **Probe: Discuss the positive and negative role friends have in influencing your behavior and decisions. Share some examples.**

He Downplayed His Failure

- Weddings lasted a week in Samson's day—his didn't have a good start: his bride deceived him, his groomsmen betrayed him, and he referred to his bride as a cow.
- At the wedding, Samson told a riddle. The substance of the riddle was based on his sin, making fun of the seriousness of his situation.
- Some people have a tendency to deal with sin using unhealthy mechanisms—such as unwarranted humor—as a means to detract from their depravity.
- **Probe: Read 1 John 1:9. What is the proper way a believer should deal with sin?**

He Decimated His Enemy

- Samson had a cold heart and a hot head. He killed thirty men to pay off a debt. He further defiled his vow by touching the dead.
- Samson didn't go home to his wife, but went back to his parents, and his wife married another man. One mistake led to another—one rebellion against God fuels others, creating a downward spiral.

- Those who fly off in a rage never make a good landing.
- Compare Samson's anger to what the apostle Paul taught about anger in Ephesians 4:26.

Lessons from a Fallen Hero

- Take your God seriously. There is no record of Samson praying until the end of his life, after he had been betrayed, captured, and blinded.
- Choose your friends wisely. You will eventually become like the people you hang out with the most.
- Make your choices cautiously. Don't make impulsive decisions (see Proverbs 8:5).
- Having superpowers doesn't make you a superhero. What really makes a superhero is when a person is empowered by the Holy Spirit in daily life to reach the potential God has for them.

Practice

Connect Up: Though the Lord is full of grace, discuss why you think God allows people like Samson to disobey Him. Is there ever a point of no return with the Lord? Use Hebrews 6:4-6 as a point of discussion.

Connect In: How do individual actions (even poor ones like Samson's) affect the body of Christ? Using the body analogy Paul used in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, discuss the importance of unity and cooperation within the church.

Connect Out: Jesus said concerning people, "You will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). First, discuss what good fruit looks like (see Galatians 5:22-23). Second, discuss how the fruit we produce influences and affects the nonbelievers we are trying to reach with the gospel?

OUTLINE

- I. He Disrespected His Parents (vv. 1-4)

- II. He Disregarded His God (vv. 5-9)

- III. He Distanced His Friends (vv. 10-11)

- IV. He Downplayed His Failure (vv. 12-18)

V. He Decimated His Enemies (vv. 19-20)



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	Playing the Fool
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Samuel 26:21
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4125

MESSAGE SUMMARY

It's dangerous business to call the ruler of a country a *fool*. It would cost one's life in ancient times. But here's a case where the king himself admits his own folly. In a single autobiographical statement, King Saul admits his error. Yes, even leaders can crash and burn. Let's look more closely at the career of a king who ended very differently than he began and see what went wrong. Moreover, let's try to discover what things he could've done differently.

STUDY GUIDE

Recap Notes: November 13, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: "Playing the Fool"

Text: I Samuel 26:21

Path

It's dangerous business to call the ruler of a country a *fool*. It would cost you your life in ancient times. But here's a case where the king himself acknowledges his own folly. In a single autobiographical statement, King Saul admitted his error. Even leaders can crash and burn. Pastor Skip looked closely at the career of a king who ended very differently than he began, identifying what went wrong.

- How He Began
- What Went Wrong
- What Should've Changed

Points

How He Began

- With natural advantages (see I Samuel 9):
 - Jesus warned against calling a person a *fool* (see Matthew 5:22), but it's different when a person admits they are a fool. Saul said, "I have sinned.... I have played the fool and erred exceedingly" (I Samuel 26:21).
 - Saul's comment may be an *excited utterance* (a legal term for an instance when someone admits a true feeling under pressure).
 - Saul had everything he needed to succeed: a notable family (from the tribe of Benjamin), physique (he was tall and handsome), and focus (he was able to concentrate on the task at hand).

- With supernatural advantages (see I Samuel 10):
 - Saul had God's *power*---a promise from God for strength.
 - Saul had God's *presence*--- "God is with you" (I Samuel 10:7).
 - Saul had God's *people*---he commanded the nation of Israel and "valiant men...whose hearts God had touched" (I Samuel 10:26).
- **Probe: Take a moment to discuss your gifts (both natural and supernatural) with your Connect Group. How are you using them for Christ?**

What Went Wrong

- He played the fool by arrogance (see I Samuel 13:3):
 - Saul blew his own horn, saying, "Look what I did!" The greater he grew outwardly, the more he declined inwardly. Later, he acted as a priest---a function reserved for Levites, and he was chastised by Samuel. He even built a monument to himself.
 - Arrogance is a disease that makes everyone sick except the person who has it.
- He played the fool by indifference (see I Samuel 14:24-30):
 - Saul made an irrational decision on the battlefield, forbidding his soldiers to eat and showing indifference to their needs in the heat of battle. Later, Saul made a rash decision to kill his son Jonathan, but the people prevented him.
 - Saul could have inspired his people, but he intimidated them instead. He was oblivious to the needs of those around him.
- He played the fool by disobedience (see I Samuel 15:13-16):
 - Disobedience is the fruit of pride. Saul disobeyed God, using spiritual talk to get what he wanted. But Samuel silenced Saul, telling him that God would relieve him of the kingdom.
- He played the fool by preeminence (see I Samuel 18:5-9):
 - In chapter 17, David defeated Goliath, which launched his reputation. Celebrating the battle, the women sang a song that Saul was sure was for him. But they praised Saul for killing thousands and David for killing ten thousands. Saul wanted the preeminence---to be first---and he became envious of David. He pursued David and tried to kill him. Jealously ripens into irrational behavior.
- **Probe: Discuss how you have been tripped up by any of these characteristics in the past: arrogance, indifference, disobedience, or preeminence. How did you overcome the problem by God's power?**

What Should've Changed

- Saul should have lived his life before God. He talked the talk, but didn't walk the walk. God didn't truly rule his life. Saul didn't practice the conscious awareness of the presence of God---the fear of the Lord.
- Saul should have learned from his past. On two different occasions, he said, "I have sinned," but he didn't do anything to change his thoughts or behavior.
- Saul should have leaned on his friends. He had Samuel, David, and others to lean on, but he didn't. J. Oswald Sanders said, "You can tell the stature of a leader by the quality of his friends."
- Saul should have looked after his character. He was concerned with his outward reputation but not his inward person. The biggest fool is someone who lives only for this life without preparing for the next.

- Probe: Take a moment to discuss these four words: *live*, *learn*, *lean*, and *look*. How can you apply them to your life in relationship to God and others? What area do you struggle with the most?

Practice

Connect Up: Discuss the importance of using your talents for God. Jesus taught a parable about a man who hid his talents (in those days, a *talent* was also a measure of money) in the ground (see Matthew 25:14-30). Are you hiding your talents? Or do you use them for the growth of God's kingdom?

Connect In: Saul didn't have genuine friendships. Do you lean on fellow Christians in times of need? Or do you try to work out things in your own power? What advantage is there to working together as the body of Christ?

Connect Out: If you exude Saul's characteristics (arrogance, indifference, disobedience, and preeminence), how will it affect your witness in the world? How does what you do and say help or hinder your outreach to nonbelievers? One theologian said, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."

OUTLINE

I. How He Began

A. With Natural Advantages (1 Samuel 9: *selected*)

B. With Supernatural Advantages (1 Samuel 10: *selected*)

II. What Went Wrong

A. He Played the Fool by Arrogance (1 Samuel 13:3)

B. He Played the Fool by Indifference (1 Samuel 14:24-30)

C. He Played the Fool by Disobedience (1 Samuel 15:13-16)

D. He Played the Fool by Preeminence (I Samuel 18:5-9)

III. What Should've Changed



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	The Four Seasons of Failure
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Samuel 11
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4130

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Our year comes to us in seasons—winter, spring, summer, and fall—as the earth makes its journey around the sun. Our spiritual life can sometimes be the same, especially when we allow sin to intrude. The warm, alluring breezes of temptation can sneak up suddenly and, if acted upon, can bring the cool chill of broken fellowship with God. None of us are immune from enticement but all of us should be informed. Today we see King David’s *crash and burn* in his battle with lust.

STUDY GUIDE

Recap Notes: December 4, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Text: 2 Samuel 11

Teaching: "The Four Seasons of Failure"

Path

Our year comes to us in seasons---winter, spring, summer, and fall---as the earth makes its journey around the sun. Our spiritual life can sometimes be the same, especially when we allow sin to intrude. The warm, alluring breezes of temptation can sneak up suddenly and, if acted upon, can bring the cool chill of broken fellowship with God. None of us are immune from enticement but all of us should be informed concerning its effects. In his message, Pastor Skip taught how David *crashed and burned* in his battle with lust.

- Springtime in David's City (v. 1)
- Summertime in David's Sight (v. 2)
- "Fall Time" in David's Sanctity (vv. 3-4)
- Wintertime in David's Soul (v. 5; vv. 24-27)

Points

Springtime in David's City

- In 1982, *ABC Evening News* highlighted a piece of art that featured a shotgun affixed to a chair. The shotgun was placed on a timer, set to go off at a random time. One person interacted with the art by sitting in front of the gun for one minute. At the art gallery opening, a long line of people waited to sit in front of the gun. People love the edge of danger.

- 2 Samuel 11 chronicles David's one minute in the chair, and the gun went off, costing him his credibility with his army, family, and kingdom.
- In his springtime, David was a king, a leader, a musician, and a warrior, but he had a great fall. Fighting battles was David's forte, but he lost the battle of temptation with Bathsheba.
- Because of his sexual sin, David the king fell out of fellowship with God the King. If David had gone into battle with his men, he wouldn't have been in bed with Bathsheba.
- **Probe: How do idleness and boredom make it harder to fight temptation?**

Summertime in David's Sight

- David looked out a window and saw Bathsheba bathing.
- Notice two words in verse 2: *saw* and *behold*.
 - *Saw* suggests a glance, a quick look.
 - *Behold* suggests a gaze, a lingering look; lust entered David's heart through his sight.
- Notice the progression of David's sin: he looked, he lingered, and he lusted.
- The battle is won or lost between the first and second looks. To deal with it, you must either close your eyes or run away---as Joseph did from Potiphar's wife (see Genesis 39).
- Women must be part of the solution by dressing modestly.
- **Probe: Discuss the progression of sexual offense: look, linger, and lust. How does this progression lead to sin? How can you resist the temptation?**

"Fall Time" in David's Sanctity

- David called for Bathsheba, and they lay together. There was no love---just lust---in their relationship, and she became pregnant.
- Local custom indicated that a king could have any woman he wanted. But this was King David---a man after God's heart, the keeper of God's oracles. Sadly, David had a problem with women---evidenced by his seven wives and ten concubines. Sin saturated this area of his life.
- The more you have, the more you want. David did not collapse in a weak moment; he cultivated several weak moments into a massive mistake. For him, this was just another conquest.
- **Probe: One way to stay away from sin is to remember the person's place. Someone reminded David that Bathsheba was someone's daughter and wife. How can remembering family relations (including in God's family) help keep temptation and sin at bay?**

Wintertime in David's Soul

- David prepared a cover-up: he called for Uriah---one of his thirty valiant men---to come home and sleep with his wife, Bathsheba. But Uriah refused to be comfortable at home while his fellow soldiers were out in the field. He showed more integrity than his king.
- Since his plan did not work, David sent Uriah to the frontlines and showed little remorse when his loyal soldier met his death.
- Lust blurred the line of David's vision of the Lord. He forgot God and took Bathsheba as his wife.
- "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" (v. 27). Ultimately, the Lord brought judgment on David.

- An unrepentant year went by before God sent Nathan to call David out, and he used a parable to make his point (see 2 Samuel 12:1-14).
- David repented, but his reputation was ruined. His lack of integrity cost him his intimacy with God and trust with his men and family.
- **Probe: Discuss the effects of sin. Even with repentance, how can repercussions have a long-term effect?**

Practice

Connect Up: How does sin affect your relationship with God? Why do you think God allows His people to sin? What does God desire for those caught in sin?

Connect In: F.B. Meyer said, "No man suddenly becomes base." Sexual sin rarely sneaks up on people. Rather, it is a gradual growth. To help offset sin's influence, Skip reminded us to mentally rehearse the consequences first. How will anticipating the fallout help keep sin at bay? How does unrepentant sin affect your community, the body of Christ?

Connect Out: Sexual sin brings unique shame. How can we reach out to those who struggle with sexual sin? How do we help people get out of the chair with the shotgun and find new life in Christ?

OUTLINE

- I. Springtime in David's City (v. 1)
- II. Summertime in David's Sight (v. 2)
- III. "Fall Time" in David's Sanctity (vv. 3-4)
- IV. Wintertime in David's Soul (v. 5; vv. 24-27)



SERIES:	Crash & Burn
MESSAGE:	Taking Down a Nation
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Kings 12:25-33
URL:	http://CalvaryABQ.org/4132

MESSAGE SUMMARY

It's bad enough when one person has their own crash and burn. It's infinitely worse when one person takes everyone down with them. Jeroboam was a spiritual suicide bomber—plunging the nation of Israel into division, idolatry, and eventual judgment. Today we follow the steps he took and the reasons that led to his destructive path in hopes of strengthening our own resolve.

STUDY GUIDE

Recap Notes: December 11, 2016

Speaker: Skip Heitzig

Teaching: "Taking Down a Nation"

Text: I Kings 12:25-33

Path

It's bad enough when one person has his or her own crash and burn. It's infinitely worse when they take everyone else down with them. Jeroboam was a spiritual suicide bomber---plunging the nation of Israel into division, idolatry, and eventual judgment. In this teaching, Pastor Skip unpacked the steps Jeroboam took and the reasons that led to his destructive path, showing how we can strengthen our own resolve.

- He Feared Losing Power (vv. 26-27)
- He Failed Trusting God (v. 25)
- He Followed His Own Heart (vv. 26, 28, 33)
- He Forsook God's Word

Points

He Feared Losing Power

- Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, was from the town of Manasseh and a member of the tribe of Ephraim. He worked for King Solomon. He began by working on reform, but it turned into rebellion.
- King Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel, and he caused the people under his domain to sin, doing more evil than all those before him. He led the ten northern tribes of Israel in a revolt against King Rehoboam, putting an end to the united monarchy.

- For the next 200 years, northern Israel went on a rollercoaster ride of rank idolatry, and it didn't go well for them. God takes idolatry very seriously (see Exodus 20).
- Jeroboam feared losing power. When you're afraid of losing power, you forget that it originally came from God (see Romans 13:1).
- Power and control are connected. Jeroboam feared losing both.
- **Probe: We can't control the length of our life, but we can control its depth. We can't control the outcome, but we can control our outlook. How are you letting God control the outcome of your life? How are you controlling your outlook?**

He Failed Trusting God

- God promised Jeroboam that He would give him ten tribes (see 1 Kings 11:35-38). But Jeroboam defaulted on the promise; he didn't cash the check God promised, even though the money was in the bank.
- Maturity is shown by how we treat the promises of God.
- **Probe: How do we cash God's checks---the promises He has given?**

He Followed His Own Heart

- Notice the phrase "Jeroboam said in his heart" (v. 26). Jeroboam acted on what he thought was best, rather than what God told him.
- The problem is that the heart is "desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). The human heart needs to be steered by divine will; your heart needs God's head.
- **Probe: How are you allowing God to steer your life? Discuss a time when you thought you didn't need God's head over your heart. What was the outcome?**

He Forsook God's Word

- By changing the object of worship (see v. 28)
 - Jeroboam brought idolatry to Israel; he made two calves of gold. In doing so, he forsook God's Word. Every image created by man obscures the fullness of God's glory.
- By changing the place of worship (see vv. 29-30)
 - He set up places of worship in Bethel and Dan, in opposition to God's Word. He didn't ask God if it was right, but instead did what was easy---choosing pragmatism over God's prescription.
- By changing the means of worship (see v. 31)
 - He made shrines on the high places, making priests of every class and tribe. This was against God's decree that only the tribe of Levi would provide priests.
 - He lowered God's standards and unqualified people came pouring in.
- By changing the time of worship (see vv. 32-33)
 - Jeroboam changed the time of the feast from the seventh to the eighth month to compete with the Feast of Tabernacles. In essence, Jeroboam was trying to compete with God's Word and command.
 - The only worship God accepts is the worship that God directs---according to spirit and truth (see John 4:24).
- **Probe: *It is written* shows up over eighty times in the Bible. It means that as Christians, we are to take our cue from the Bible. How are you taking your cues from the biblical witness? What**

happens when we don't let the Bible lead in our community or culture? Discuss some of the effects.

Practice

Connect Up: Idolatry is still prevalent today. It can be anything: a desire or wish, a person or thing. Do you have any idols in your life? What are you doing to clean them out of your closet, reestablishing God's priority?

Connect In: What do you think about in quiet moments? How does your heart affect your home--- both physically (your personal life) and spiritually (the body of Christ)?

Connect Out: There are many idols in the world (sex, drugs, fame, etc.). How can Christians lovingly identify the idols in the world, but also help proclaim the solution through the gospel? How can you help the restless find rest in Christ? Briefly discuss how you share the gospel in your community.

OUTLINE

- I. He Feared Losing Power (vv. 26-27)
- II. He Failed Trusting God (v. 25)
- III. He Followed His Own Heart (vv. 26, 28, 33)
- IV. He Forsook God's Word
 - A. By Changing the Object of Worship (v. 28)
 - B. By Changing the Place of Worship (vv. 29-30)
 - C. By Changing the Means of Worship (v. 31)

D. By Changing the Time of Worship (vv. 32-33)