

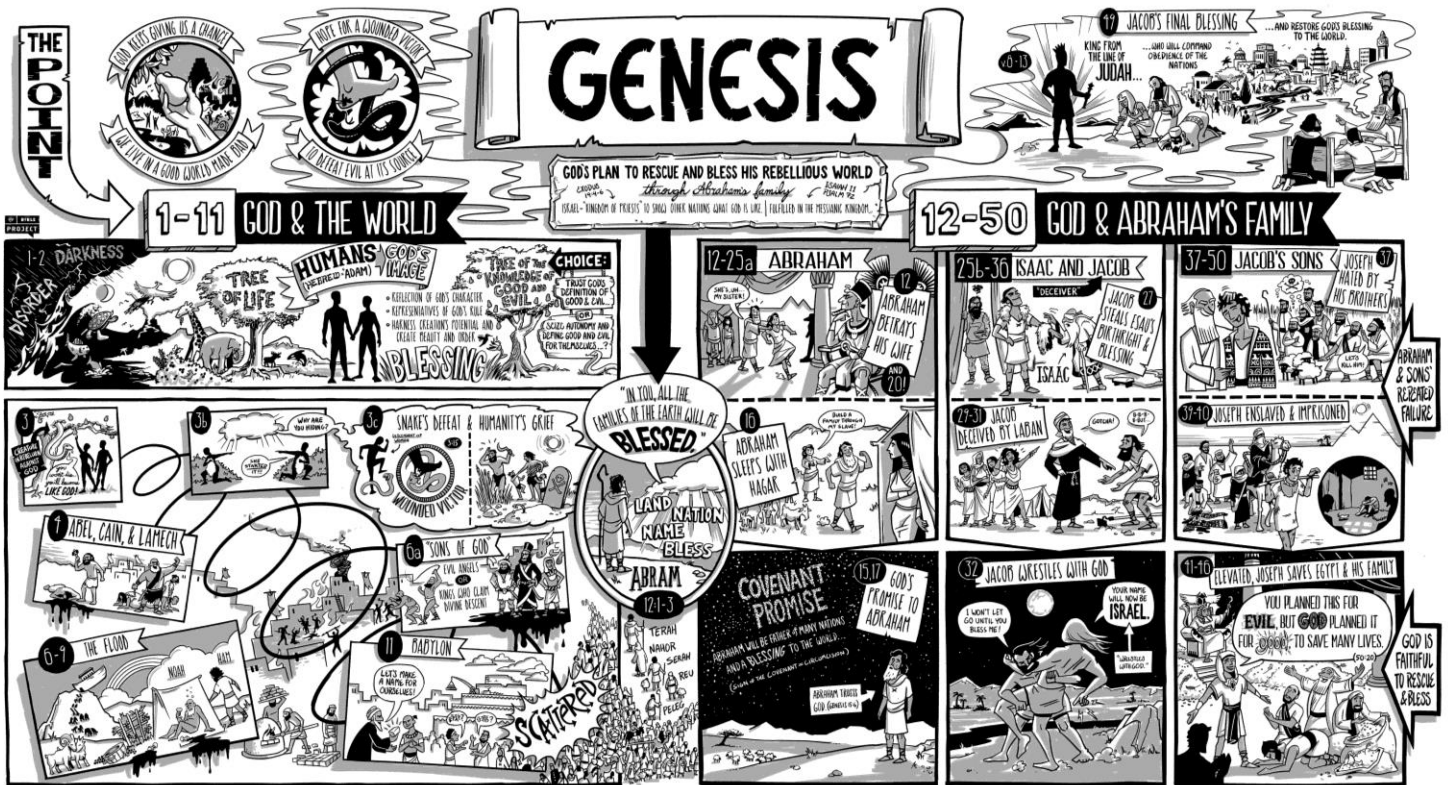
# THE FALL: FINDING MY STORY IN CREATION

Creation 2023 #3, Genesis 3

February 5, 2023

*Then the man and wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

Genesis 3:8



## בְּיֵאמֹר אֱלֹהִים הַרְּאֵה

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

Genesis 3:1 (Tim Keller's message on this text is very good)

1. This text tells our story, not the serpent's story
2. This "sneer" is the first attack on belief in God
3. This "lie" is the first attack on the character of God

## Rebellion against God and its consequences

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3

<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5

1. The first result of the fall is alienation, from each other and then from God
2. Romans 5 explains the “algebra” of federal headship

## The curse

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,  
“Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!  
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,  
“I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Genesis 3

1. For the serpent, the curse is a reminder that Satan is a subject, not king, and that a child of the woman would be the agent of Satan’s ultimate defeat (see Romans 16:20; Revelation 12:9)
2. For the woman, the blessing of family will be a reminder of the curse
3. For the man, the curse corrupted every relationship, even with the ground

## Living under the curse (with a lot of grace!)

<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.

Genesis 3:20-4:1

- 1) The grace begins with God's provision (and the first pictures of substitution)

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1 (see how Paul applies this in Romans 5:8 and Romans 8:31-32)

- 2) The man and the woman are already reflecting the line of promise

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

Genesis 4:1

- 3) God's creation story reveals the priority of grace over power

But if life is shaped ultimately not by conflict but rather by a transcendent Creator, then we have a singular driving concern: that we, through faith and repentance, act in harmony with God's will . . . . The Bible's conflict-free story of creation stands worlds apart from the conflict-saturated myths of our pagan ancestors. It also nourishes our confidence to hold fast to God's Word no matter the odds, leaving the consequences to Him. In the end, as at the very beginning, it is not chaos and conflict that shape the ultimate outcome of our lives, but the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who made heaven and earth.

Matthew Miller's "The Bible's Conflict Free Creation Story"

- 4) The cherubim are there to point the way back to God!

<sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns,  
let the nations tremble;  
he sits enthroned between the cherubim,  
let the earth shake.

Psalm 99 (see also Psalm 80:1; Isaiah 37:16; and the cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant)

## Resources for the Genesis

Be sure to check the [Bible Project's poster](#) on Genesis.

[Bible.org](#) has some wonderful sermons on Genesis, especially those by Deffinbaugh (see <https://bible.org/seriespage/fall-man-god%E2%80%99s-perfect-plan> ) and Stedman.

Maclaren has a helpful commentary at on many of these passages at [https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible\\_book/genesis\\_maclaren.html](https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible_book/genesis_maclaren.html)

Many of Spurgeon's sermons on Genesis are collected at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/scripture-index/genesis/> Spurgeon's wonderful gospel sermon on Genesis 3:15 is at <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols22-24/chs1326.pdf> . Spurgeon also has a more general sermon on sin from 2 Kings 7 at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-sin-of-unbelief/#flipbook/> . Spurgeon also has a "God's First Words to the First Sinner" sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols7-9/chs412.pdf>

There are several more good Monergism resources on Genesis 3-4 at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/genesis/chapter-genesis/chapters-03-05-fall>

Carl Trueman is Doug's best analyst of the modern condition. See his shorter "Myth of the Modern Self" at <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2022/07/the-myth-of-the-modern-self> or his much longer *Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* (Crossway, 2020). His *Strange New World* (Crossway, 2022) is a little easier read.

To dig more into Doug's "would Jesus still have come even if Adam and Eve hadn't sinned?" question compare Michael Horton who answers "no" (see <https://www.monergism.com/fall-humanity>) with John Murray who hints "yes" in his <https://www.monergism.com/fall-man>

For more details on the connection between the creation story and other traditions see <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/the-bibles-conflict-free-creation-story/>

Very Poythress has some very interesting thoughts on reading Genesis at [www.frame-poythress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013ChristianInterpretationsOfGenesis1.pdf](http://www.frame-poythress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013ChristianInterpretationsOfGenesis1.pdf) and <http://faculty.wts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/PoythressVernCorrelationsWithProvidenceInGenesis2.pdf>

This "framework" article comes from a theistic evolution perspective, but I appreciate the background work on Genesis 1, at <https://biologos.org/series/science-and-the-bible/articles/the-framework-view-history-and-beliefs>

Doug's starting points for further studies of the three major Christian positions on creation:

YEC: start with Answers in Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-science/>, and Institute for Creation Research at <https://www.icr.org/>

Intelligent Design: begin with Strobel's *The Case for a Creator* (Zondervan, 2004) and the Discovery Institute at <https://www.discovery.org/>

OEC, or Progressive Creation: anything by Hugh Ross, Canadian astrophysicist, and especially Howard Van Till's *The Fourth Day* (Eerdmans, 1986)

Theistic Evolution: start with *Biologos* at <https://biologos.org/> and anything by Deb Haarsma, Calvin University astrophysicist who wrote *Origins: Christian Perspectives on Creation, Evolution and Intelligent Design* (Faith Alive, 2011)

Tim Keller has a wonderful series of sermons on the fall at *Monergism.com* at <https://www.monergism.com/paradise-crisis-%E2%80%93-genesis-31-9> and <https://www.monergism.com/paradise-lost-%E2%80%93-genesis-38-24> and for Genesis 4 at <https://www.monergism.com/%E2%80%9C-history-world-nutshell%E2%80%9D-%E2%80%93-genesis-41-10>