

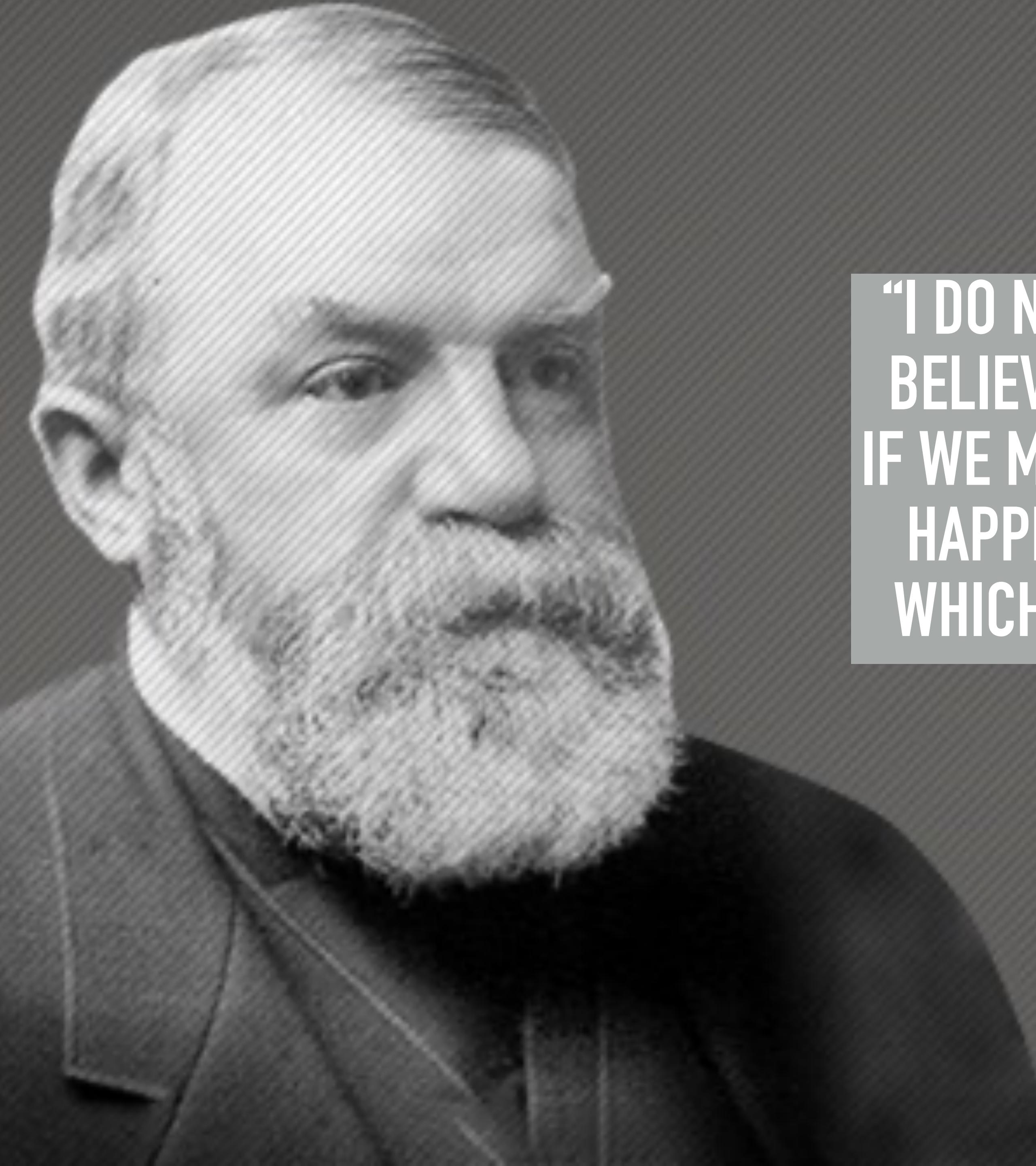
GENESIS 1-3 & THE ROOTS OF THEOLOGY

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

#ROOTED

‘TAKEAWAYS’ FROM PART 1?...

- Deep roots and solid foundations really matter.
- Our theology ('study of God') is dynamic and personal.
- Jesus is The Cornerstone and every sure foundation is embedded against Him.
- Man's theological pursuit always starts with God's self-revelation.
- Genesis 1-3 provides start-points for all major doctrines.
- God created (formed and filled) with order, distinction, reproductive seed...
- Mankind is God's image-bearer, made to fill the earth.



“I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING MORE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAN THE FIRST VERSE OF THE BIBLE. IF WE MASTER THIS VERSE, ANYTHING ELSE THAT HAPPENED IN THE HEAVENS OR IN THE EARTH WHICH GOD CREATED WILL NOT STUMBLE US.”

D.L. MOODY
NOTES FROM MY BIBLE, 8

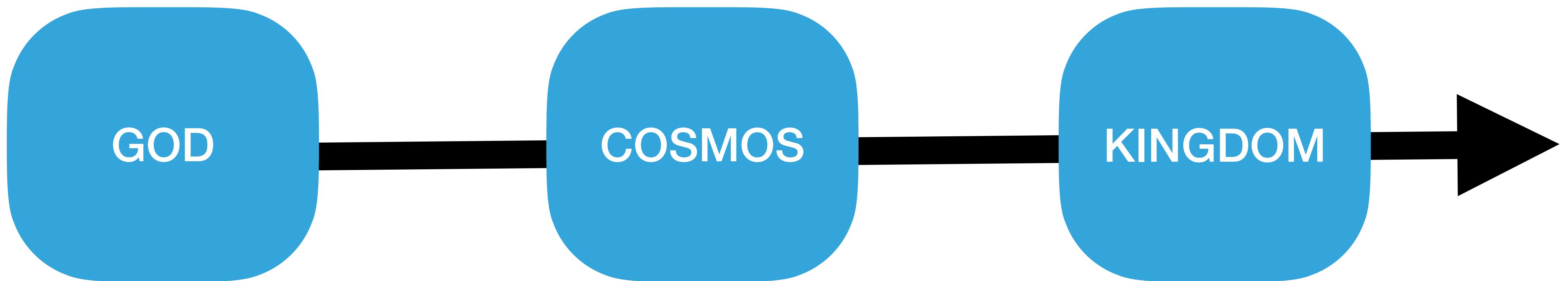
DL Moody (1837-1899) was an American revivalist, who worked alongside Ira D Sankey and RA Torrey. He preached to huge crowds around the world, and frequently visited the UK where was connected with the Keswick conferences.



BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED BY GOD'S COMMAND,
SO THAT WHAT IS SEEN HAS BEEN MADE FROM THINGS THAT ARE NOT VISIBLE. HEB 11:3

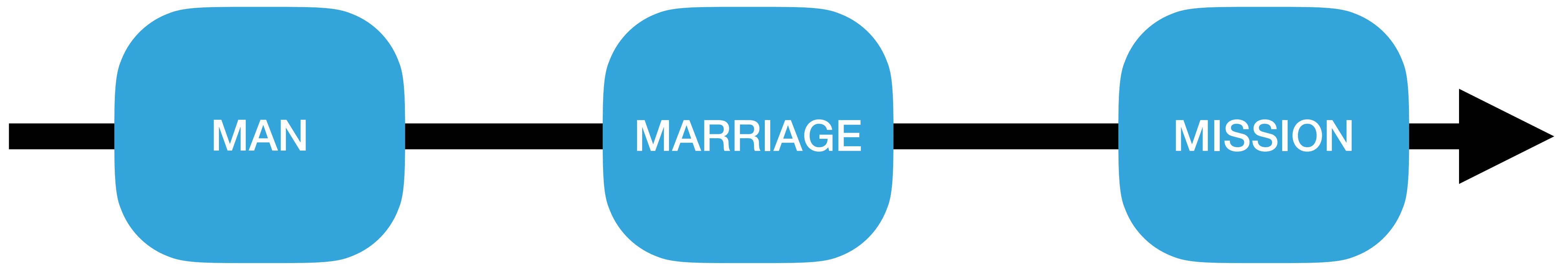
BEGINNINGS...

1/4



- Pre-existent (**1:1**, Ps 90:2, Jn 17:5)
- Creator of all (**1:1**, Heb 1:10, 11:1)
- Trinity (**1:2, 26**, Jn 1:1-3, Col 1:16)
- Only good (**1:31**)
- Heavens and Earth (**1:1**)
- Earth-centric (**1:15-17**)
- Man-centric (**1:26-27**, Ps 8:3ff)
- Mission-centric (**1:28**)
- Government in creation (**1:16-18**)
- Seed for orderly growth (**1:11-12, 22**)
- Man to rule and steward (**1:28**)
- Complete (**2:1**)...yet growing! (Isa 9:7)

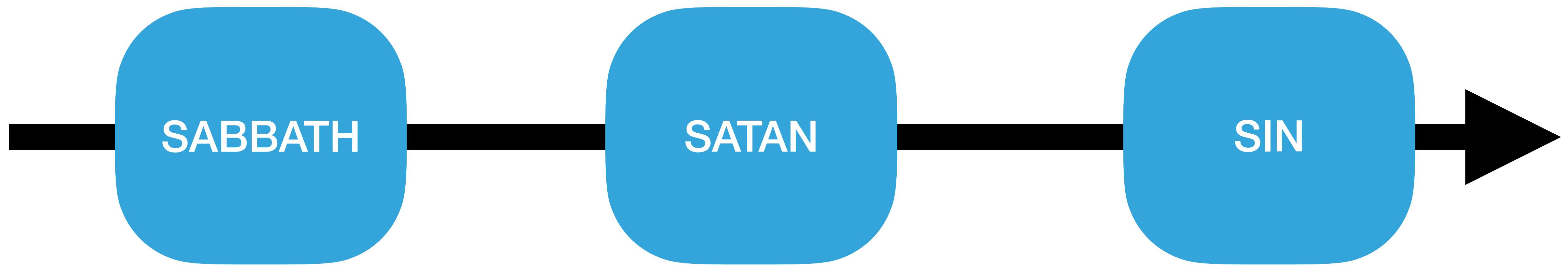
"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH." (GENESIS 1:1)



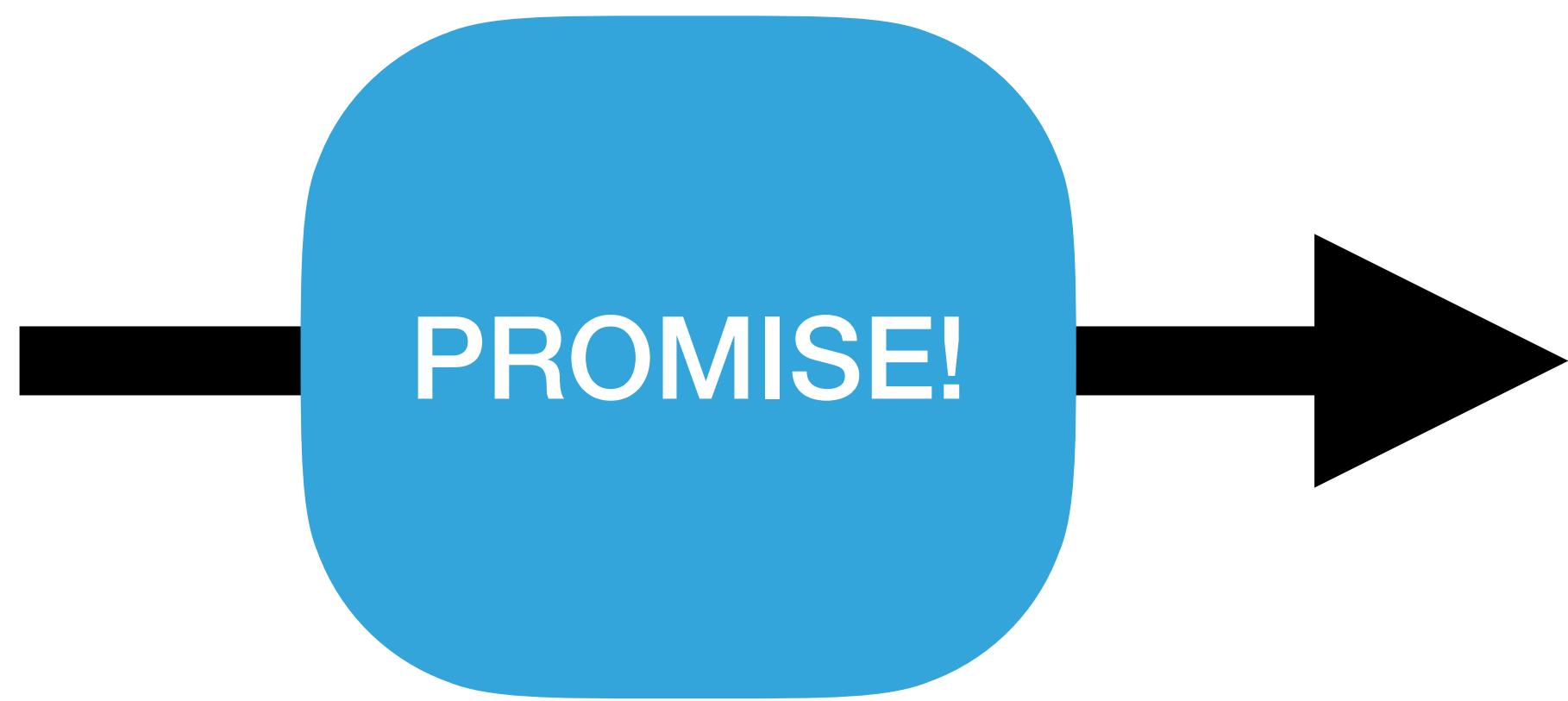
- Image-bearers (**1:26, 5:1**);
- Male and Female (**1:27, 5:2**)
- Formed and Filled (**2:7**)
- Headship (**2:22, 3:20**, 1Co 11:8)

- Created and defined (**2:24**)
- One Man and One Woman (**2:24**)
- For THIS reason (Mt 19:4-5)
- Christ and His Bride (Eph 5:32)

- Made for Mission (**1:28**)
- Fill the Earth (**1:28**, Mt 28:19-20)
- Work and Watch-over (**2:15**)
- Day and Night (**1:15-16**)



- Blessed and Holy (**2:3**, Ex 20:11)
- God's gift to us (Ex 16:29)
- Commanded (Ex 20:8-11)
- Vital stewardship (Lev 25:4, 26:34)
- A created being, in Garden (**3:1**)
- Tempter (**3:1ff**, Mt 6:13)
- Liar, Thief (**3:4**, Jn 8:44, 10:10)
- Judged by God (**3:15**)
- Appealing to the flesh (**3:6**)
- Rebellion against God (**3:11**)
- Brings certain death (**2:17**, Ro 6:23)
- Now corrupts everything (**4:7, 6:11**)

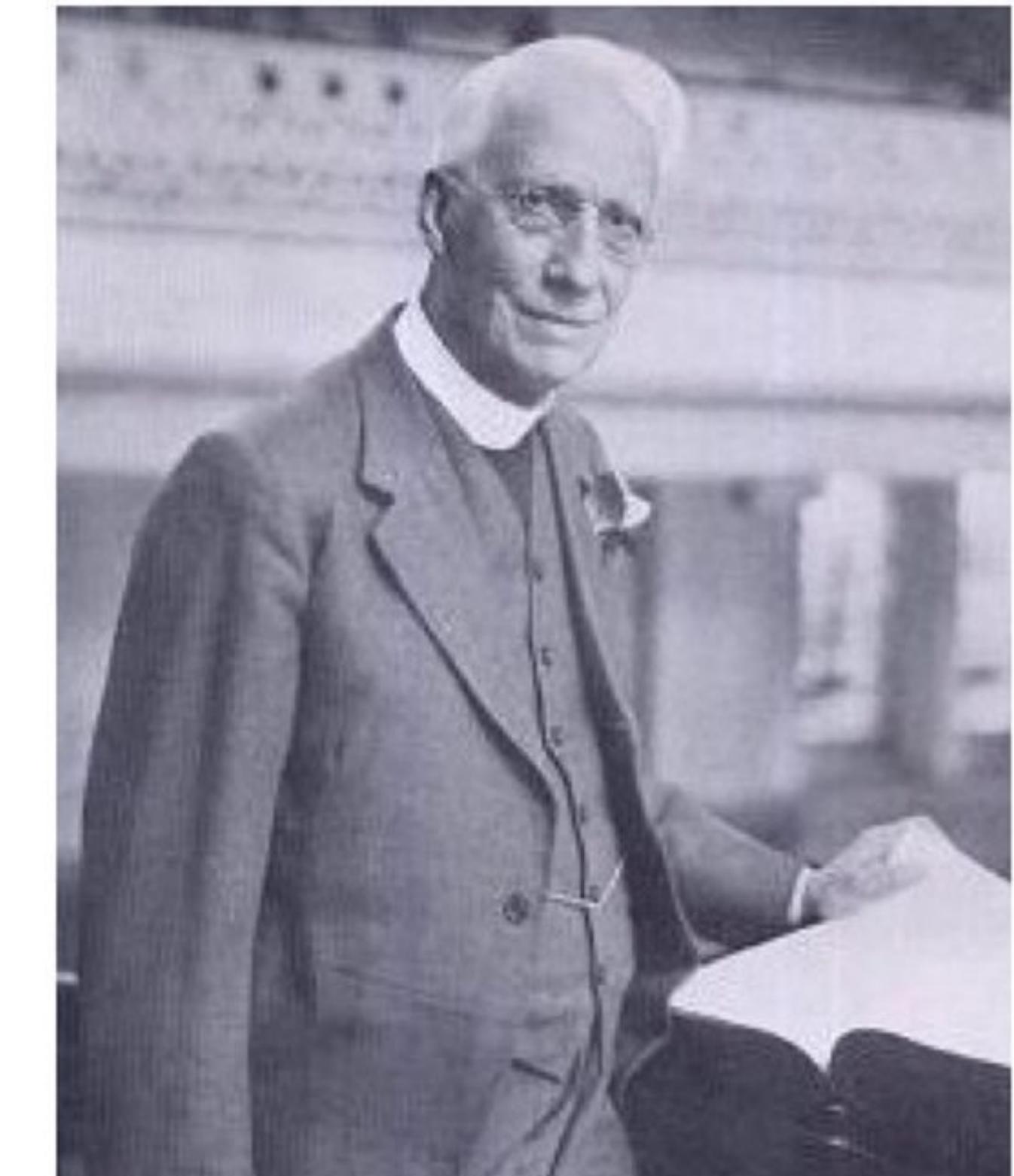


- God initiates restoration (**3:9**)
- Jesus crushes Satan (**3:15**)
- God provides for fallen man (**3:21**)
- Eternal death is avoidable (**3:22-24**)

- In Genesis all our beginnings are recorded. And “the beginning” contains all the seeds of the end; for “I AM” (Ex 3:14), the “First and Last” (Isa 41:4) “declare[s] the end from the beginning” (Isa 46:10)...
- Genesis is not the final word on anything (all that we’re introduced to is developed and filled-out elsewhere). **But it is the first word on everything!**

“[GENESIS CH. 1] IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE WHOLE OF THE BIBLICAL LITERATURE. AS THAT LITERATURE IS READ, WHETHER IT BE HISTORY, PROPHECY, OR POETRY, NO STATEMENT IN THIS CHAPTER IS EVER CHALLENGED, OR CALLED IN QUESTION. ITS STATEMENTS ARE ALWAYS ASSUMED AS ACCURATE... TAKING IT IN ITS ENTIRETY, IT INTRODUCES GOD, IT EXPLAINS THE EARTH IN WHICH WE LIVE, AND IT INTERPRETS MAN.”

G. CAMPBELL MORGAN
‘GREAT CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE’, P14.



G Campbell Morgan (1863-1945) was a British Bible teacher. He was pastor of Westminster Chapel 1904-1919 and again 1933-1943, before handing over to Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones.



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BREAKOUT GROUPS

—
HOW DO THESE 'ROOTS'
HELP US THINK ABOUT
CURRENT ISSUES?

ETERNAL PURPOSE

God has an “eternal purpose” (Eph 3:11) -

literally: “the purpose of the ages”. Hence: a “plan... destined from eternal ages” (TPT), “that timeless purpose” (JB Phillips).

God’s *eternal* purpose is therefore more than saving men from sin.

It is seen in creation, in Genesis 1-2 (before sin) and its fulfilment is seen in Revelation 21-22 (after sin).

NB: dealing with the derailment (Ge 3) does define or re-define the destination (Ge 1-2).



God’s eternal purpose is centred on His Son and His Bride.

It involves His image-bearers filling the earth and establishing His Kingdom.

God will “bring *everything* together under the authority of Christ” (Eph 1:10, Col 1:20).

ASIDE: THE FIRST 2 VERSES...

How could what God created (v.1) be “formless and empty” (v.2)? Does v.2 describe the *first condition* of the earth after its creation? Or something else? And how are vv. 3ff. linked with v.1? Two common alternatives views:

Either: v.1 is an opening *summary*, and v.2 then describes the condition of the earth as God began to create things (cf. “In the beginning when God began to create, the earth was formless...”, NRSV) and then vv.3ff describe *in more/daily detail* the original creation (expanding on the summary of v.1). In other words, v.2 describes the shape of the earth *when/as* God began His work of creation.

Or: v.1 describes the original creation in its entirety. There was then a cataclysmic event (the fall of angels?) that left the earth “formless and void” (v.2), and vv.3ff are an account of a ‘reconstruction’ of earth to make it suitable for man’s habitation. In other words, v.2 describes something that came to be *after* God created an originally perfect universe. This **‘Gap Theory’** proposes an indeterminate period of time between v.1 and v.2.

- The Gap Theory allows events not described in the Bible (dinosaurs, ice ages, fossils, geological formations, etc) to be incorporated *somewhere* in the ‘gap’...
- **However**, Ge 2:1 and Ex 20:11 both declare that God created “the heavens and the earth” *in their entirety*, in six days - do we need a theory?!

THE FALL OF ANGELS

The Serpent (“the Devil” or “Satan”, Rev 12:9, 20:2) appeared in the Garden, a created being (Ge 3:1). So, what were his origins?...

- **Isa 14:12-17** and **Ez 28:12-19**, describing the downfalls of ‘The King of Babylon’ and ‘King of Tyre’, are pictures of “Lucifer” (Isa 14:12 KJV), a created being (Ez 28:15) who was “in Eden, the garden of God” (Ez 28:13) where he was “an anointed guardian cherub” (Ez 28:14).
- Lucifer longed to elevate himself above God and usurp His authority (“I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God...I will make myself like the Most High” (Isa 14:13-14, cf. Ez 28:12-19).
- Because of this pride and rebellion against the God-created order, he was “thrown down to earth” (Ez 28:17); he has “fallen from the heavens” (Isa 14:12) together with (a third of?) the angels (cf. Jude 1:6, 2Pe 2:4, Rev 12:7-9, 4) - the origins of demons?
- When he later masqueraded as a Serpent and asked “*Did God really say...*” (Ge 3:1), it was another assault on God’s authority, motivated by his envy of mankind...



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FURTHER STUDY

—
RE-READ GENESIS 1-3 AND
EXPRESS IN YOUR OWN WORDS
GOD'S PLAN FOR MANKIND