

# GENESIS 1-3 & THE ROOTS OF THEOLOGY

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

#ROOTED

# THE MAN & WOMAN

- “Let us make man in our image” (Ge 1:26) - the Triune God (Father, Son, Spirit) made mankind in a way that *tells us something about Himself*. What we find in mankind reflects and represents God...
- God exists as three Persons; the same in essence but different/distinct in *expression*, and *perfectly united* together.
- Man and woman are made *in this image*: the same essence (kind), but different *expressions* - two distinct genders/persons; the same but different. Complementary. And to be united in a way that reflects/represents the union within the Godhead.
- The Creator intends a *clear distinction* between genders/sexes (cf. 1Co 11:14-15, Dt 22:5); Satan always tries to blur such distinctions.

# THE COVENANT

God's relationship with Adam was the first expression of "covenant" (Hos 6:7); made *before* the Fall, and declaring God's *purpose in creation*:

- Man made in God's image (Ge 1:26-27)
- Man blessed (1:28)
- Man to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth (1:28)
- Man given authority to subdue and rule over creation (1:28)
- God to provide for man (1:29)
- Man to work (2:5,15)
- Man free, but prohibited from Tree of Knowledge (2:17)
- Curse of death for disobedience (2:17)

After man's Fall, God initiates a series of *redemptive covenants* - with Adam (Ge 3), Noah (Ge 6), Abraham (Ge 15), Moses (Ex 24), David (2Sa 7) - all pointing towards the New Covenant in Christ...



BREAKOUT GROUPS

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WHAT DOES GENESIS 3  
TELL US ABOUT  
TEMPTATION AND SIN?

#ROOTED

# THE FALL OF MAN

- The Covenant put Adam on ‘probation’ to test his faith and obedience (‘covenant-keeping’, cf. Ex 20:20); God permitted the Serpent to tempt man.
- Satan’s motive was envy of *Adam’s identity* (a man in God’s image); he aimed to break the covenantal relationship between God and man, rob man of covenant blessings and put him under the covenant-breaking consequence of death.
- Satan’s strategy was to deceive Eve by attacking the terms (words) of the covenant - questioning: “*Did God really say...*” (**3:1**); lying: “*You will not surely die*” (**3:4**); and misinterpreting: “*You will be like God*” (**3:5**).
- In yielding to temptation, Adam & Eve “exchanged the truth of God for a lie” (Ro 1:25), placed Satan’s word above God’s word and broke the covenant (Hos 6:7, Ro 1:31 KJV)...

# SATAN'S METHOD

## 3-FOLD TEMPTATION OF MAN (Ge 3)

1 “Did God really say, ‘you can’t eat from any tree in the garden’? (v1)

2 “No, you will not die” (v4)

3 “God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (v5)

## 3-FOLD TEMPTATION OF CHRIST (Mt 4)

First, a question/suggestion: raising a doubt about the goodness of God; suggesting God’s **restriction is unkind** and He’s withholding good things from us because He doesn’t love us...

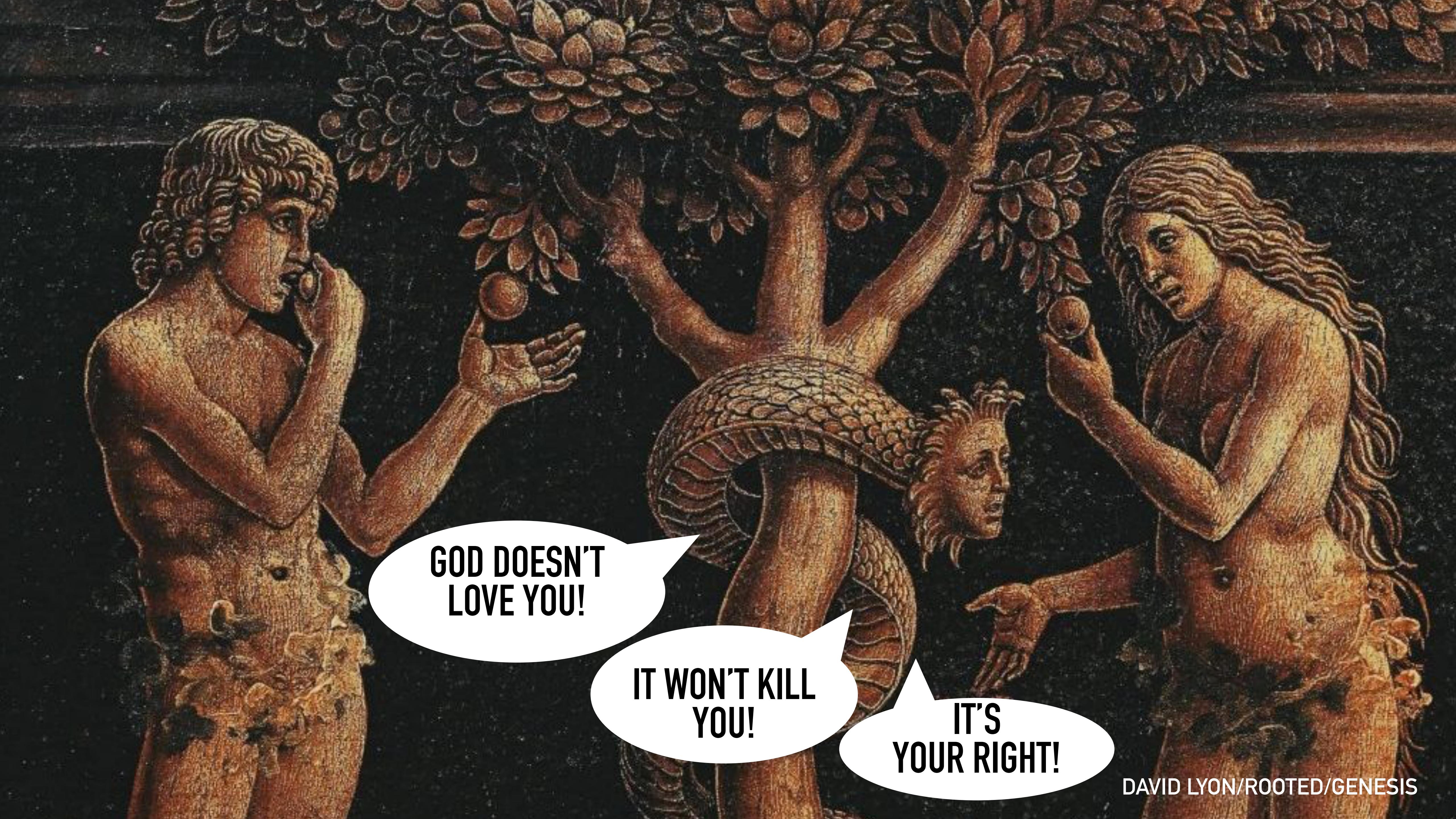
Next, a lie: proclaiming what God has said isn’t true; He doesn’t mean what He said; the **restriction is unreal...**

Then, a blasphemy: the idea that the **restriction is unjust**; that God wants to keep us from our rightful inheritance...

“Tell this stone to become bread” (v3)

“Throw yourself down and God will send angels to save you” (v6)

“I will give you splendour and authority if you worship me” (v9)



**GOD DOESN'T  
LOVE YOU!**

**IT WON'T KILL  
YOU!**

**IT'S  
YOUR RIGHT!**

# I THE WORLD OF SIN

## **Genesis 3:6**

“The woman saw that the tree was

**good for food**

**delightful to look at**

**desirable for  
obtaining wisdom.**

So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate it.”

## **1 John 2:15-17**

“Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For everything that belongs to the world

**the lust of the flesh**

**the lust of the eyes**

**and the pride in  
one's lifestyle**

is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does God's will remains forever.”

# MATTERS OF IDENTITY

- Satan has always wanted to be “like God” (Isa 14:14). Adam and Eve were made “in the image (likeness) of God.” (Ge 1:26). Satan’s envy fuels his war on mankind; his desire is to “steal, kill and destroy” Adam’s descendants (Jn 10:10)...
- He convinced Adam and Eve they’d be “just like God” (literally: “as gods you shall be”) if they acquired knowledge by eating forbidden fruit (Ge 3:5). [NB: He also challenged Jesus “If you are the Son of God...” (Mt 4:3.6).]
- But Adam was *already* like God! He sinned in order to try and gain something he already had, and ended up becoming rebellious *like Satan*. Sin causes us to surrender what we have, in order to try and gain what we think we need.
- From the Fall onwards, **issues of identity** (‘Who am I?’, ‘What am I really like?’, ‘What was I born to be?’, ‘Who am I meant to be?’...) **have been at the heart of the human condition...**

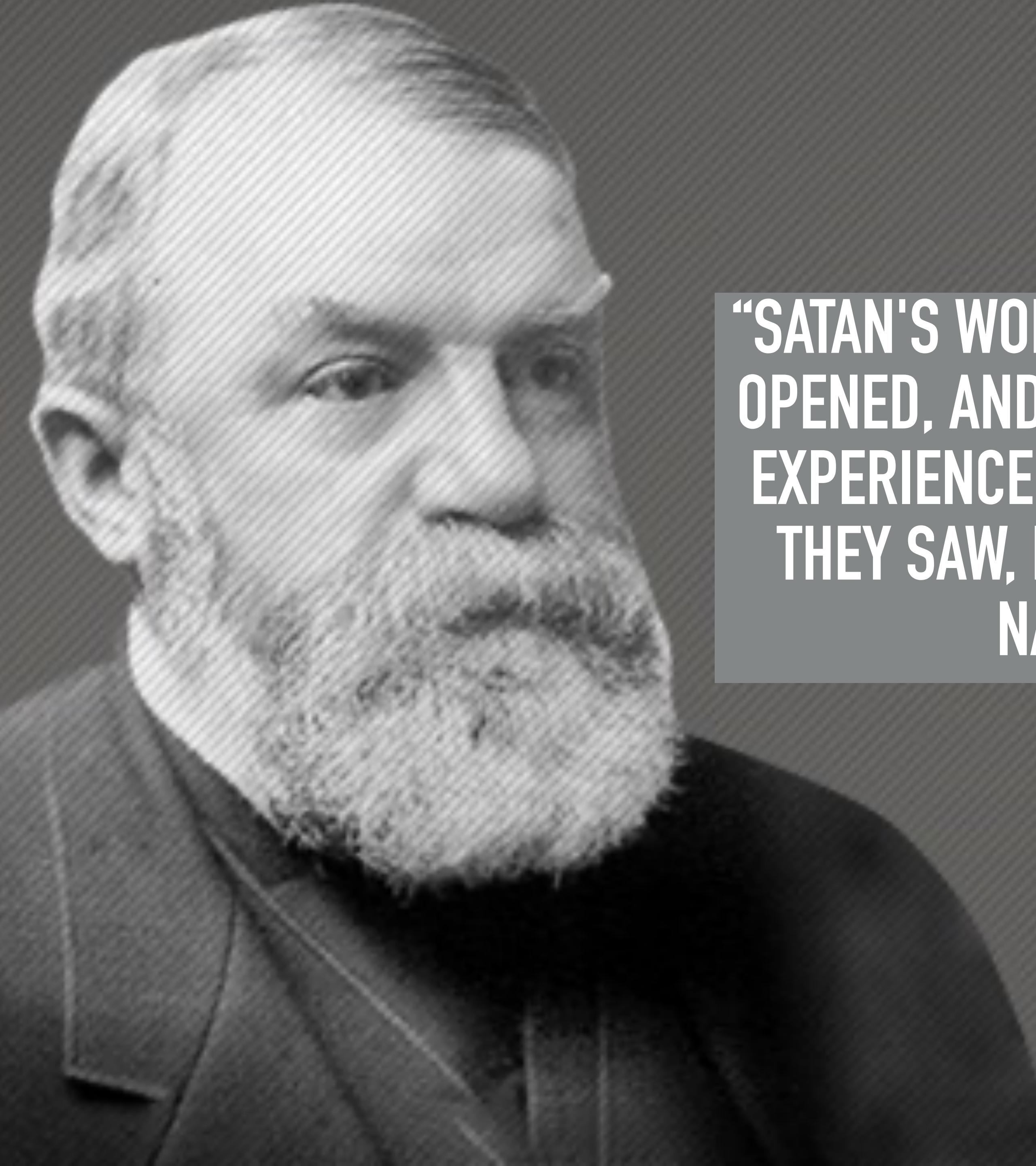
“THE ORDER OF TEMPTATION IS  
ALWAYS THE SAME: THE  
TEMPTER WITHOUT, AND WITHIN  
THE STRONG DESIRE FOR  
SENSUAL GRATIFICATION, WITH  
THE SECRET HOPE THAT  
SOMEHOW THE CONSEQUENCES  
MAY BE AVOIDED.

THE EYE INFLAMES PASSION;  
PASSION MASTERS THE  
RESISTANCE OF THE WILL; THE  
BODY OBEYS ITS IMPULSE; THE  
ACT OF GRATIFICATION IS  
FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY  
REMORSE AND GUILT. THEN WE  
NEED THE SECOND ADAM!”

**F.B. MEYER**  
**BIBLE COMMENTARY, P16.**

F.B. Meyer (1847-1929) was a British pastor-teacher and prolific author, and regular speaker at the Keswick Convention. He was a close friend of DL Moody. He was founder-pastor of Melbourne Hall church in Leicester 1878-1888.

DAVID LYON/ROOTED/GENESIS



“SATAN'S WORDS ARE AMBIGUOUS. EVE'S EYES WERE OPENED, AND SHE DID KNOW GOOD AND EVIL; BUT THE EXPERIENCE WAS MORE BITTER THAN SHE EXPECTED. THEY SAW, NOT VISIONS OF GLORY, BUT THEIR OWN NAKEDNESS AND SINFULNESS.”

D.L. MOODY  
NOTES FROM MY BIBLE, 10

# THE FALL (1): PARADISE LOST

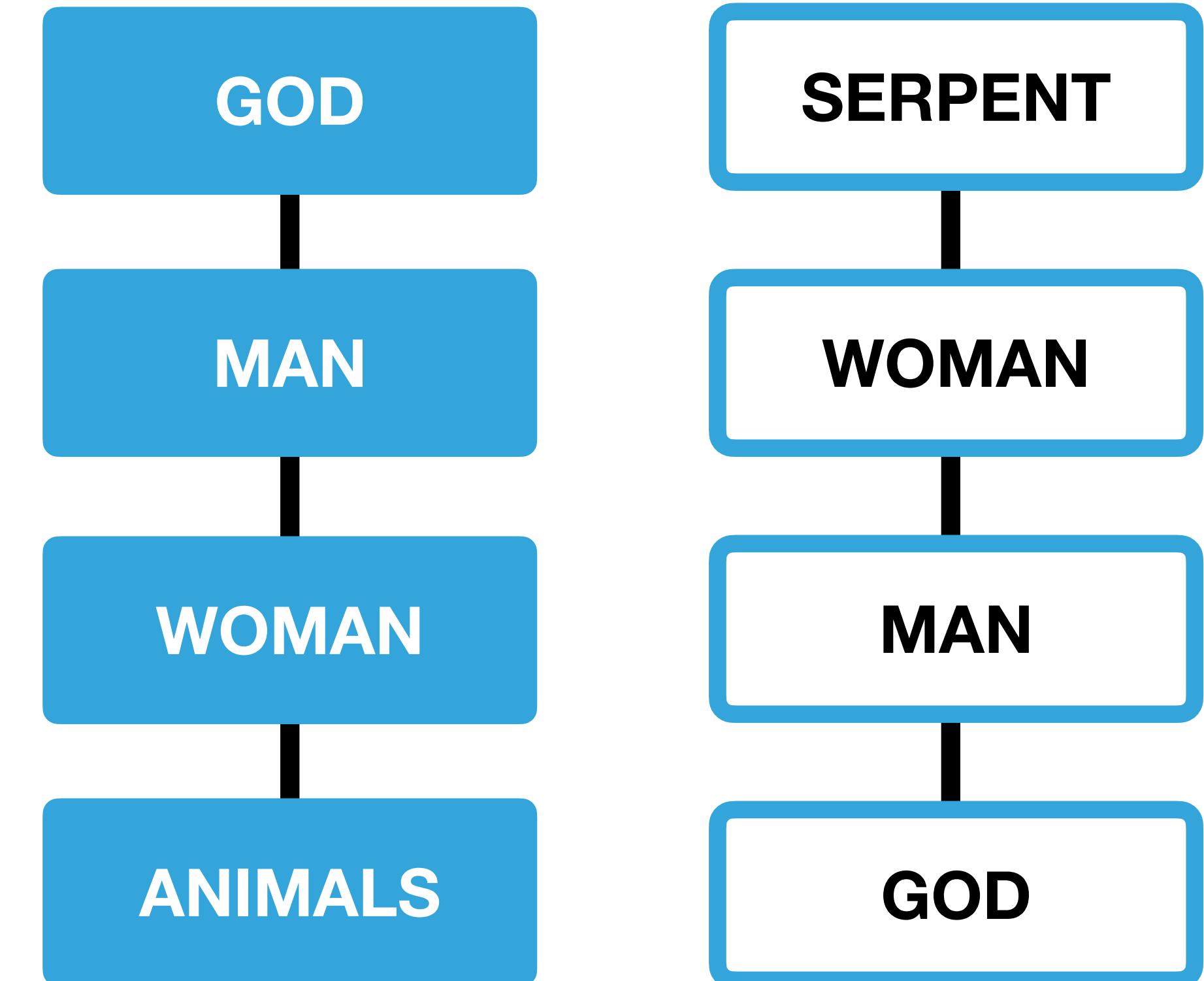
- Genesis 3 is *not* a celebration of Adam's autonomy or independence! It does not support the idea that human fulfilment comes from being liberated from subordination to God's Word or to His permissions and denials.
- Adam is shut out of Paradise and barred from “reaching out” and eating from the Tree of Life (Ge 3:22)
- Freedom is not something Adam gains; it's something he forfeits. The Fall results not in liberty but in bondage.
- Mankind was always and remains ‘free to choose’, but our choices should be made within the range of God's permissions and directives.

# THE FALL (2) : HEADSHIP NEGLECTED

- The command and its consequences were given to Adam *before Eve was created* (Ge 2:17-18). Therefore, Adam was responsible for ensuring Eve was aware of God's will and word to them.
- When confronted by the Serpent, Eve mis-stated God's word (referring to "*the tree in the middle of the garden*" and that they were not to "*eat it or touch it*", Ge 3:3) – was she confused? or misinformed?...
- Eve was deceived (2Co 11:3, 1Ti 2:14) but Adam was *with her at the time* (Ge 3:6) and stayed silent, failing to correct either Eve's mis-statement or the devil's response. Adam remained responsible for their actions (Ge 3:9).
- Adam *sinned first*: neglecting his headship, misrepresenting God, and leaving Eve uncovered (cf Ge 9:22ff) and unprotected.

# THE FALL (3): ORDER UPTURNED

- There's a God-created 'order' of headship/submission (Ge 1-2, 1Co 11:3,8; 1Ti 2:13) which is God's perfect 'arrangement' for mankind - loving, selfless leadership and cherished, willing response.
- In the Fall this order was *turned upside-down*...and the consequences were catastrophic.
- Angels who witnessed first-hand the 'first fall' (of Satan) are intensely concerned to see the restored church now honouring the God-created order (hence: the head un/covering instructions in 1Co 11:4ff.)



# THE FALL (4): CATASTROPHIC IMPACT

- Adam's Fall was catastrophic *for the whole of creation* (Ge 6:11-12, Ro 8:18-22), introducing the destructive impact of sin into every good thing, especially the human condition...
- Man's relationship with God was fractured (Ge 3:8-9, Hos 6:7, cf Ro 1:31 KJV) and man's character was corrupted (Ro 5:12) - the Fall opened way to all manner of abuses and misuses of authority - murder, war, violence, oppression quickly followed (Ge 4:1ff, cf. Ro 1)...
- Man's authority was surrendered (Ge 3:17) and corrupted. Adam and Eve were to "have dominion" together (*radah*, Ge 1:28). Now (Ge 3:16) Eve's "desire" is for Adam (*teshuqah*, stretching out after, longing), and he will "rule over" her (*mashal*, to gain control or obtain dominion); striving and domination (not just dominion). [Cf. *teshuqah* and *mashal* in Ge 4:7]. "Here, in embryo, are the mistrusts and passions that will ravage society"...
- The result is death (Ge 3:19b, Ro 5:12-14) - *Spiritual* (Eph 2:1), *Physical* (Ge 3:22) and *Eternal* (Ro 6:23)...



## BREAKOUT GROUPS

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HOW DOES OUR  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE FALL  
HELP US TO NOT FALL?!

#ROOTED



# GOD CALLS OUT

**Adam fell, but...God came** in power and mercy to fulfil His eternal purpose, by:

- Pursuing the man (Ge 3:9)
- Punishing the Liar (Ge 3:14)
- Promising a Saviour (Ge 3:15)
- Providing for Adam's new need (Ge 3:21)
- Pronouncing physical death (Ge 3:19)
- Putting the Tree out of reach...and thus
- Preventing eternal 'death-life' (Ge 3:22-24)

# I CURSES & CLOTHING

- As a consequence of the Fall, God CURSED the serpent (**Ge 3:14**) and the land (**3:17**, 5:29, 8:21). But He *did not curse* the man and woman; the curse is on man's realm not man himself.
- Despite the devastating consequences of their rebellion - labour pains (**3:16**), painful labour (**3:17**), estrangement from God (**3:8-9**) and death (**2:17**) - they *weren't cursed*. Why? They'd already been BLESSED! (**1:28**).
- Instead, Adam and Eve were CLOTHED and COVERED (**3:21**) - provided for, so they *weren't left* in their naked state - by a God who CARED for them.
- And in a further act of DIVINE MERCY, God expelled them from the Garden to ensure they couldn't eat from the Tree of Life (**3:22ff**) and live forever *in their fallen state...*

# THE TREE OF LIFE!



- The Tree of Life was put out of reach (**3:22-24**) - a sign/symbol of Adam's unfulfilled potential...
- The Tree still lives, offering life and healing to the nations (Rev 22:2, cf. Ez 47:12).
- **JESUS is the life-giving vine/tree (Jn 10:10, 15:5ff) - the fulfilment of the imagery.**
- Eating from the Tree of Life is now the fulfillable new covenant 'right' of all who guard their first love and live the life of faith and victory (Rev 2:7, 22:14).



## FURTHER STUDY

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HOW DOES THE GEN 1-3 CONTEXT  
HELP YOUR APPRECIATION OF  
ROM 5:12-21 &  
1COR 15:21-22, 45-49

#ROOTED