



ROOTED

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

DAVID LYON



THEOLOGY
HOPE
CHURCH
LEADERSHIP
MISSION
STEWARDSHIP

DAVID LYON/ROOTED/INTRO

WHY ‘ROOTED’?

- Our **roots** (foundations, starting-points, boundaries, non-negotiables) **determine everything! (Mt 7:24-27)**. Everything we’re building will ultimately be *defined* and *evaluated* according to its foundations (**1Co 3:10-15**).
- Churches, ministries and *lives* badly-founded, cutting corners or ignoring God-defined boundaries will always ultimately be exposed (1Co 3:13). When foundations collapse and boundaries are shifted, we’re thrown into crisis (Ps 11:3). But *when we build well* we enjoy SECURITY, GROWTH, PEACE, BLESSING, JOY...
- In our postmodern, ‘post-Christian’ culture, we must be able to correct heresy (1Ti 4:1, 2Ti 4:3, Jude 1:4) and “contend for the faith” (Phil 1:27, Jude 1:3) - eg re: Hell, Marriage, Gender, Sexuality, Prosperity, Grace, Word... The antidote is always “sound doctrine” (1Ti 1:10, Tit 1:9, 2:1) - with *solid roots* and *certain boundaries*!

THEN THE LORD ANSWERED JOB:... “WHERE
WERE YOU WHEN I ESTABLISHED THE
EARTH?...WHO FIXED ITS DIMENSIONS?... WHO
STRETCHED A MEASURING LINE ACROSS IT?
WHAT SUPPORTS ITS FOUNDATIONS? OR
WHO LAID ITS CORNERSTONE WHILE THE
MORNING STARS SANG TOGETHER AND ALL
THE SONS OF GOD SHOUTED FOR JOY? WHO
ENCLOSED THE SEA BEHIND DOORS WHEN IT
BURST FROM THE WOMB, WHEN I MADE THE
CLOUDS ITS GARMENT AND THICK DARKNESS
ITS BLANKET, WHEN I DETERMINED ITS
BOUNDARIES AND PUT ITS BARS AND DOORS
IN PLACE, WHEN I DECLARED: “YOU MAY
COME THIS FAR, BUT NO FARTHER; YOUR
PROUD WAVES STOP HERE”? JOB 38:1, 4-11



ROOTS MATTER

The roots/foundations are the starting-point of everything we build:

- Taking time to lay them carefully - and always on the Rock - will always bring rewards...and may even save lives (**Mt 7:24-27**).
- Good foundations express the goodness of God, and bring great joy to God's people (Ezra 3:10-11).
- We cannot come to maturity if the foundations of our lives and faith are not properly laid (Heb 6:1).
- We never move away from the foundations (never stop needing them); we only ever build upon them...

FOUNDATION: AUTHORITY,
BASE, BEDROCK,
GROUNDWORK,
INFRASTRUCTURE,
SUPPORT, ABC'S, BASICS,
FOOTING, GROUND, **HEART**,
JUSTIFICATION, NITTY-
GRITTY, NUB, REASON,
ROOT, SUBSTRATUM,
BOTTOM LINE, NUTS &
BOLTS, UNDERPINNING

BOUNDARIES MATTER

God has established boundaries:

- In *creation* (Ps 74:16-17, Pr 8:27-29, Jer 5:22) - an ordered world that works within its boundaries.
- To *our freedoms* (Ge 2:16-17) - we may love *but not lust*, have sex *with our spouse*, drink *but not get drunk*, eat *but not be gluttons*, etc. And every restriction/limitation is only for our good!
- To *our inheritance* (Ac 17:25-27) - God-imposed limitations on our lives, gifts and talents...so we can work together!
- In *revelation* (Dt 29:29) - things we may know and things we may not.

We must recognise the limits God has set and not “displace boundary markers” (Job 24:2) or “move ancient boundary stones” (**Pr 22:28**).

BOUNDARY:

BARRIER, **BORDER**,

BORDERLINE,

BOUNDS,

CONFINES, **EDGE**,

FRONTIER,

HORIZON, **LINE**,

PERIMETER,

EXTENT, **FRAME**,

LIMITS

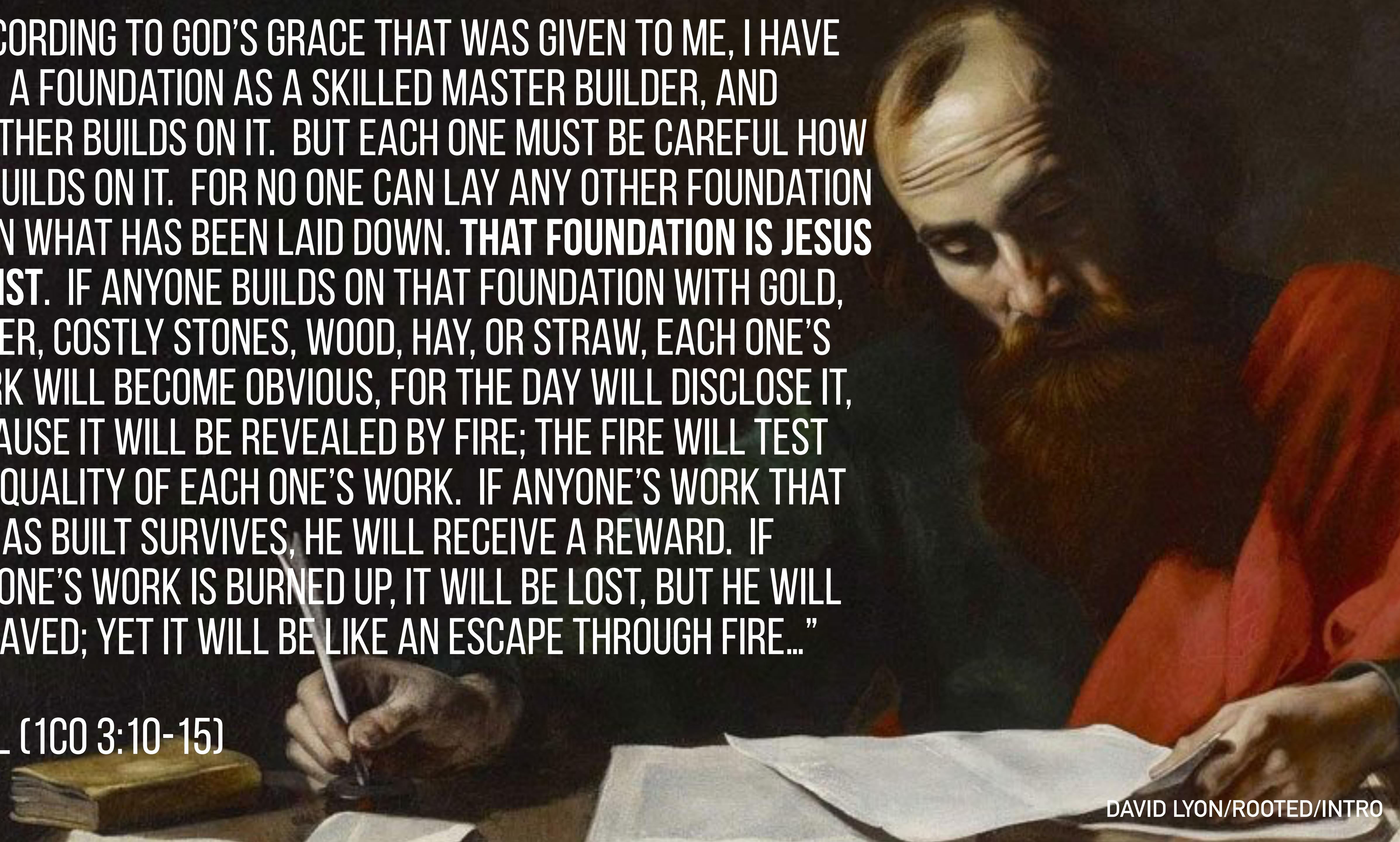
THE CORNERSTONE MATTERS MOST!

- The foundations must be joined to the Cornerstone; the Stone that determines proper order, strength and stability to everything built upon it and from it...
- **JESUS CHRIST is “the Cornerstone”** (Mt 21:42, Mk 12:10, Lk 20:17, Ac 4:11, 1Pe 2:6-7); He determines everything. Everything is “fitted together in Him and is growing...” (**Eph 2:20-22**).
- Our lives, and all our theology, doctrinal positions, churches and ministries must *point to Him* (Lk 24:27, Heb 6:1). Beware anything or anyone that draws your attention anywhere else!



"ACCORDING TO GOD'S GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME, I HAVE LAID A FOUNDATION AS A SKILLED MASTER BUILDER, AND ANOTHER BUILDS ON IT. BUT EACH ONE MUST BE CAREFUL HOW HE BUILDS ON IT. FOR NO ONE CAN LAY ANY OTHER FOUNDATION THAN WHAT HAS BEEN LAID DOWN. THAT FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST. IF ANYONE BUILDS ON THAT FOUNDATION WITH GOLD, SILVER, COSTLY STONES, WOOD, HAY, OR STRAW, EACH ONE'S WORK WILL BECOME OBVIOUS, FOR THE DAY WILL DISCLOSE IT, BECAUSE IT WILL BE REVEALED BY FIRE; THE FIRE WILL TEST THE QUALITY OF EACH ONE'S WORK. IF ANYONE'S WORK THAT HE HAS BUILT SURVIVES, HE WILL RECEIVE A REWARD. IF ANYONE'S WORK IS BURNED UP, IT WILL BE LOST, BUT HE WILL BE SAVED; YET IT WILL BE LIKE AN ESCAPE THROUGH FIRE..."

PAUL (1CO 3:10-15)



ROOTS & FRUITS

- The Word insists that fruitfulness comes from ‘rootfulness’ or ‘rootedness’ - eg Pr 12:12; Isa 27:6, 37:31; Jer 17:8.
- A tree is *known by its fruit* (Mt 7:17-19, 12:33, Lk 6:43-44, cf. Ge 1:11-12), and its fruit *depends upon its root*. What will you be known for? Investing time in our ROOTS and FOUNDATIONS will yield more than we can imagine!
- Jesus said: “I will show you what someone is like who comes to Me, hears My words, and acts on them: He is like a man building a house, who **dug deep** and laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house and couldn’t shake it, because it was well built.” **Lk 6:47-48**
- The words are *skaptó* (to dig, excavate) and *bathunó* (to deepen, excavate) - with a sense of going deep enough to lay foundations and clearing away everything that’s unhelpful in order to build strongly and cleanly...



GENESIS 1-3 & THE ROOTS OF THEOLOGY

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

DAVID LYON

I THEOLOGY BEGINS WITH GOD

- Theology is ‘the study of God’ and for Christians it is *dynamic* and *personal*. We can know God, because He makes Himself known (Mt 11:27, Jn 14:7-9)!
- Revelation is a *divine initiative*, not a human investigation; it always begins with God. We should seek Him (Isa 55:6, Jer 29:13-14), but He *will be found* because he has chosen to *reveal Himself to us!*..
- Our theology *starts with* God; we must derive our positions *from above* (what God reveals and declares) not below (what culture or circumstance dictate). A different starting-point will always yield different conclusions.
- Revelation begins in **Genesis**, and especially *in the Garden (chs 1-3)*, where we find source *texts* (foundations, ‘first mentions’) of every major theme...

IN THE
BEGINNING
GOD CREATED
THE HEAVENS
AND THE
EARTH...

GENESIS 1:1



DAVID LYON/ROOTED/GENESIS

“[GENESIS] IS THE STATELY PORTAL TO THE SUPERB STRUCTURE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE. THE OPENING SENTENCE IS A GRAND SPECIMEN OF BEAUTY AND TRUTH, HERE COMPACTED INTO THE BRIEDEST COMPASS. IT EXCLUDES ATHEISM, PANTHEISM, POLYTHEISM, MATERIALISM; DENIES THE ETERNITY OF MATTER, AND TEACHES THE ETERNITY, SELF-EXISTENCE, INDEPENDENCE, OMNIPOTENCE, AND WISDOM OF THE CREATOR”

A.T. PIERSON

‘KEYS TO THE WORD: THE BIBLE BOOK BY BOOK’, P18.

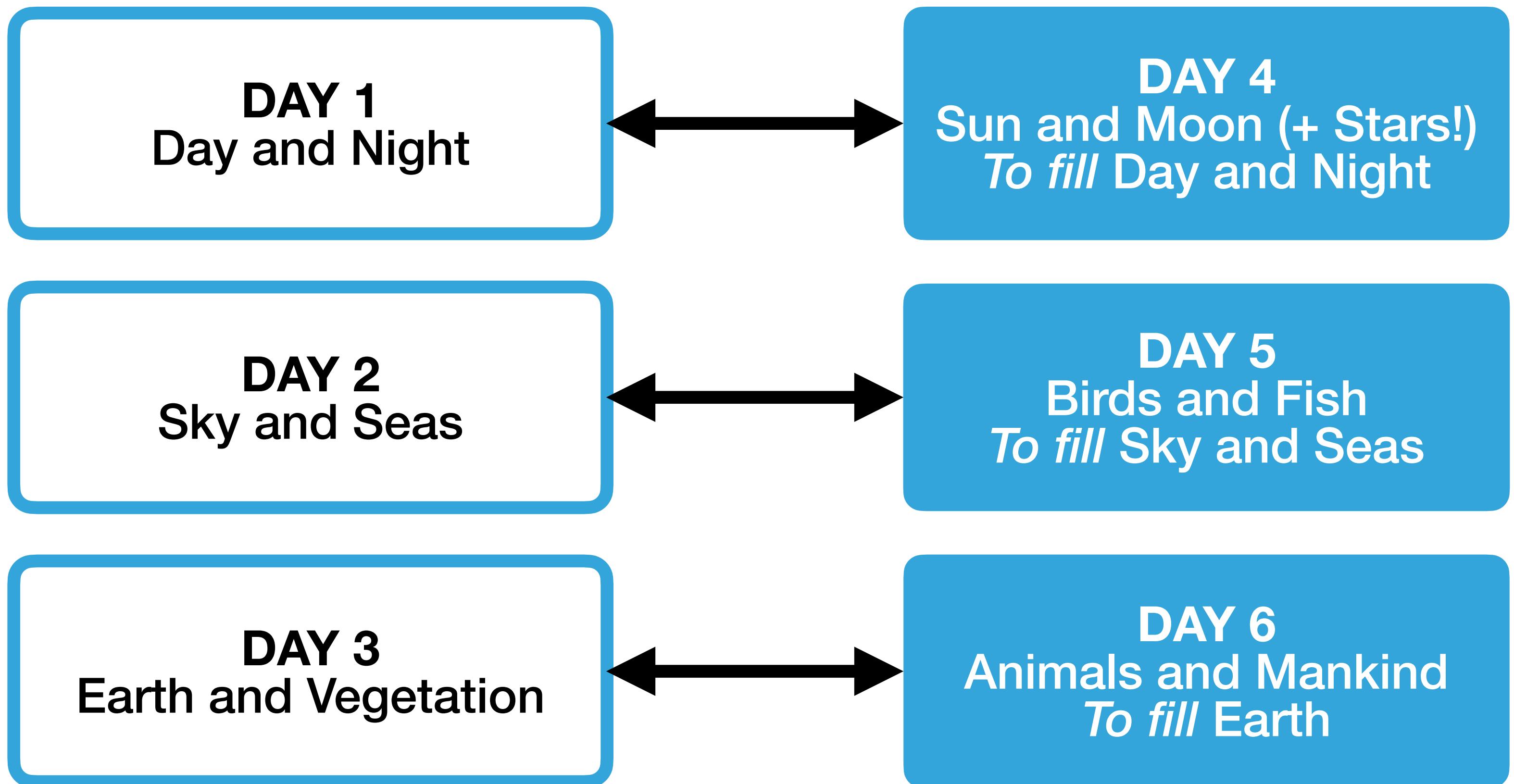


AT Pierson (1837-1911) was an American pastor-teacher with a transatlantic ministry. He wrote numerous books and succeeded Spurgeon as pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London 1891-1893.

SIX DAYS...

GOD IS THE CREATOR OF
THE HEAVENS.
HE FORMED THE EARTH
AND MADE IT; HE
ESTABLISHED IT; HE DID
NOT CREATE IT TO BE
EMPTY, BUT FORMED IT
TO BE INHABITED.

ISAIAH 45:18



ORDER, BEAUTY, GROWTH!

- Creation through God's spoken word (cf. Pr 18:21)
- Creation "according to kind" - not evolution
- Only mankind in the image of God; the 'image-bearer' - made to fill the earth.
- Order and beauty expressed through distinction and separation (day/night, heaven/earth, land/sea, man/woman...)
- Everything created is reproductive; designed to grow!
- The cosmos is complete (Ge 2:1, Heb 4:3-4) - everything we see now and all that is yet to be seen *was in seed-form then!*
- ...And it was all "good"

“HE STRETCHES THE NORTHERN SKIES OVER
EMPTY SPACE; HE HANGS THE EARTH ON
NOTHING. HE WRAPS UP THE WATERS IN
HIS CLOUDS, YET THE CLOUDS DO NOT
BURST BENEATH THEIR WEIGHT. HE
OBSCURES THE VIEW OF HIS THRONE,
SPREADING HIS CLOUD OVER IT. HE LAID OUT
THE HORIZON ON THE SURFACE OF THE
WATERS AT THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN LIGHT
AND DARKNESS....BY HIS BREATH THE
HEAVENS GAINED THEIR BEAUTY;
HIS HAND PIERCED THE FLEEING SERPENT.
THESE ARE BUT THE FRINGES OF HIS WAY...

JOB 26:7-14

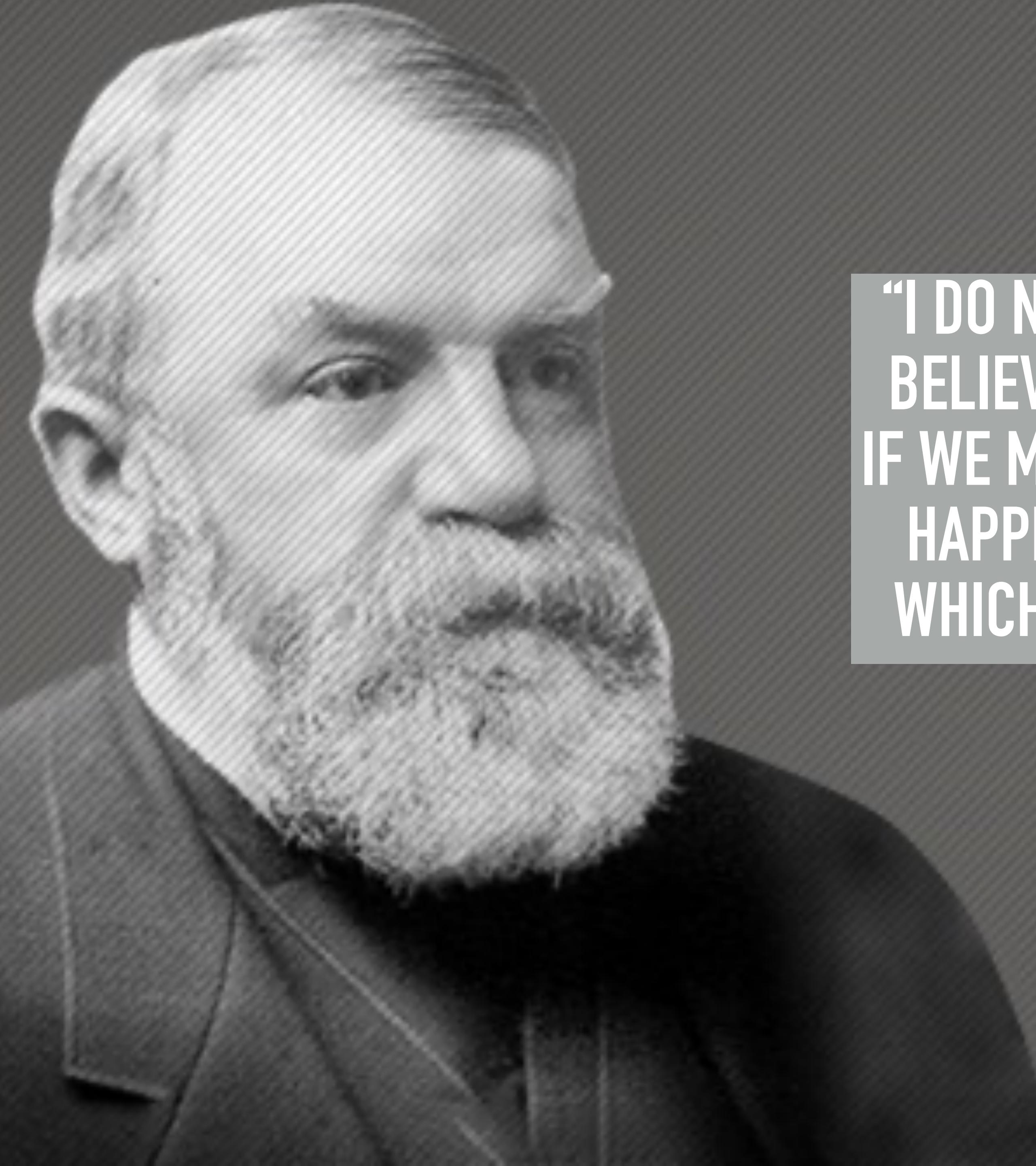


DAVID LYON/ROOTED/GENESIS



DISCUSS

WHAT DOES THE CREATION
ACCOUNT TELL US ABOUT
GOD?



“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

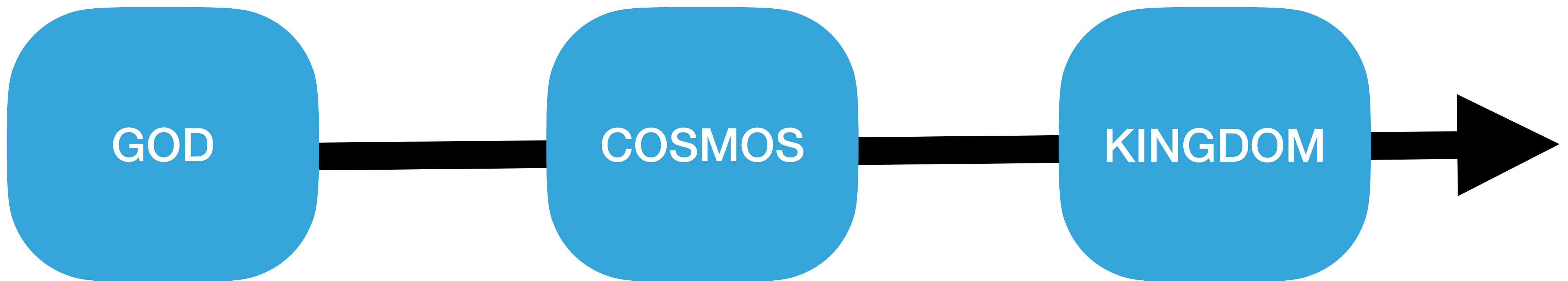
DL Moody (1837-1899) was an American revivalist, who worked alongside Ira D Sankey and RA Torrey. He preached to huge crowds around the world, and frequently visited the UK where was connected with the Keswick conferences.



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

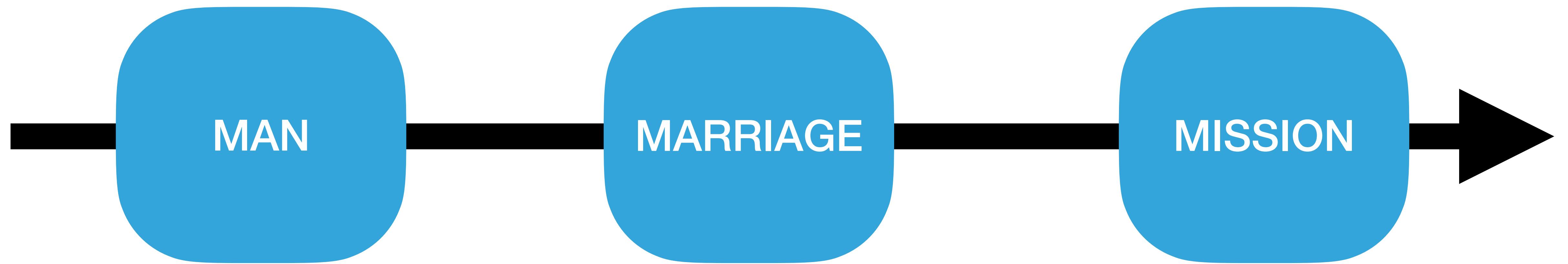
BEGINNINGS...

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)

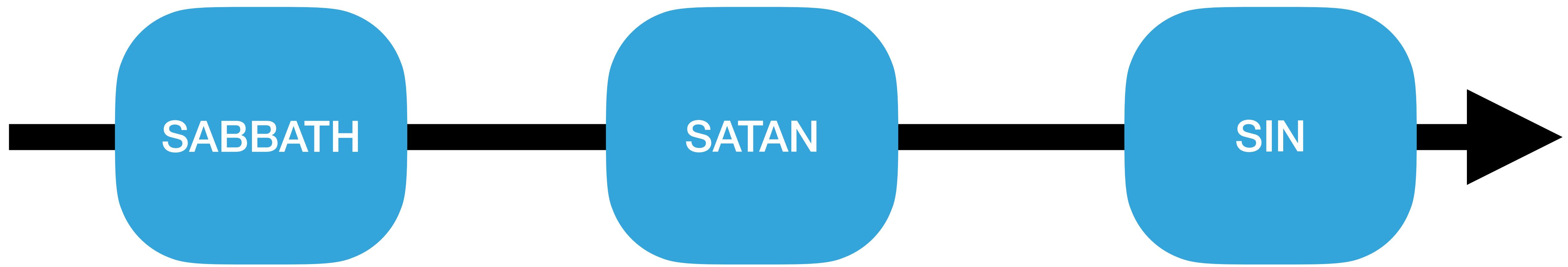
"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH." (GENESIS 1:1)



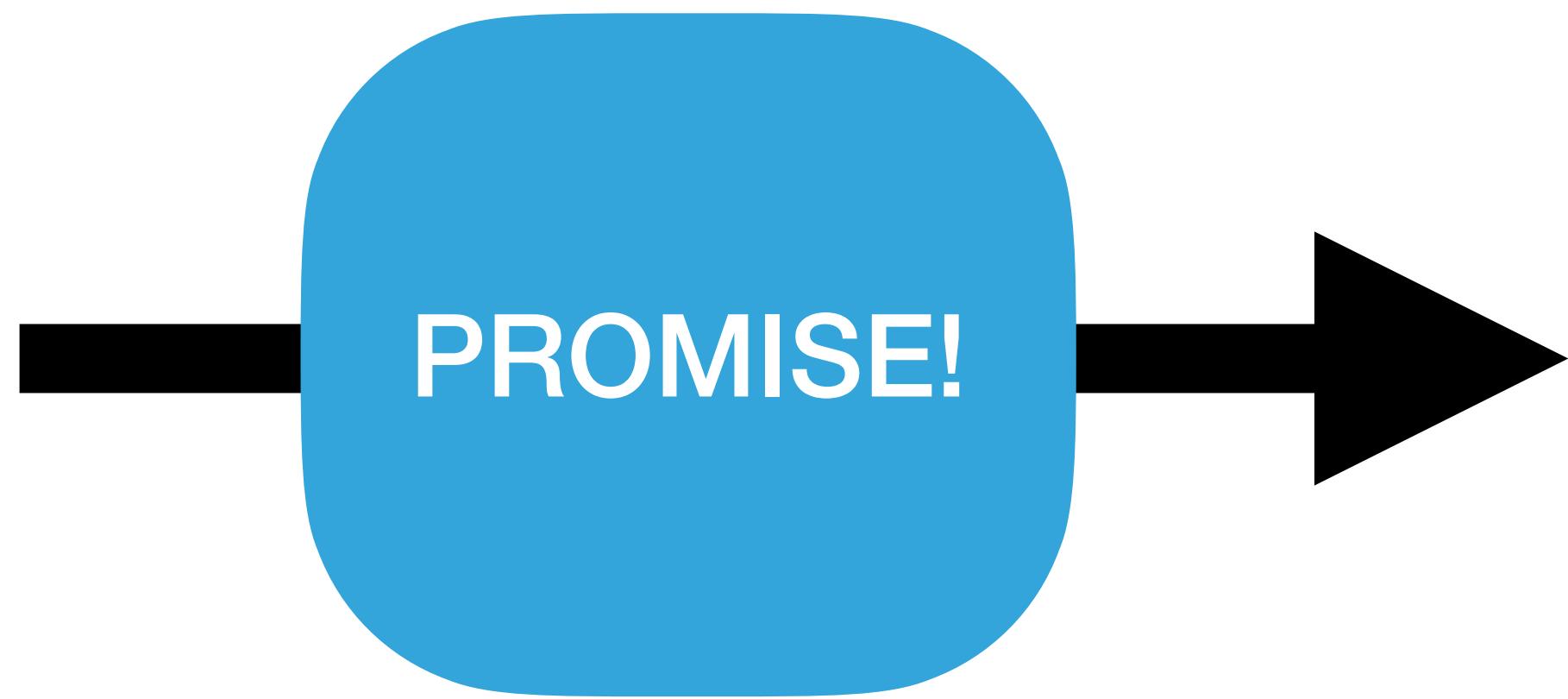
- Image-bearers (**1:26, 5:1**);
- Male and Female (**1:27, 5:2**)
- Formed and Filled (**2:7**)
- Headship (**2:22, 3:20**, 1Co 11:8)

- 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**)

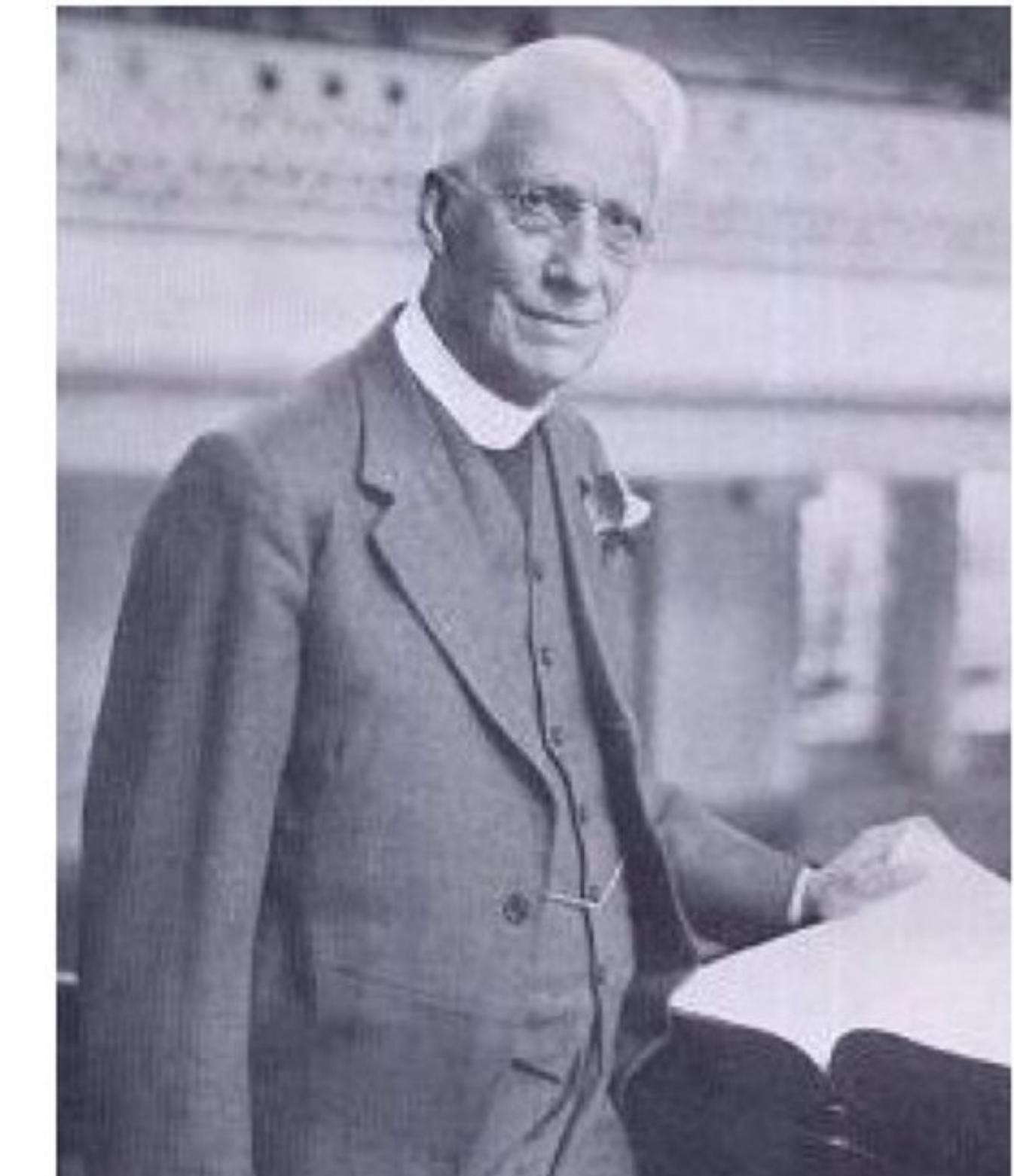


- God initiates restoration (**3:9**)
- Jesus crushes Satan (**3:15**)
- God provides for fallen man (**3:21**)
- Eternal death is avoidable (**3:22-24**)

- 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.



DISCUSS

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).

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...

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...



DISCUSS

WHAT DOES GENESIS 3
TELL US ABOUT
TEMPTATION AND SIN?

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)*

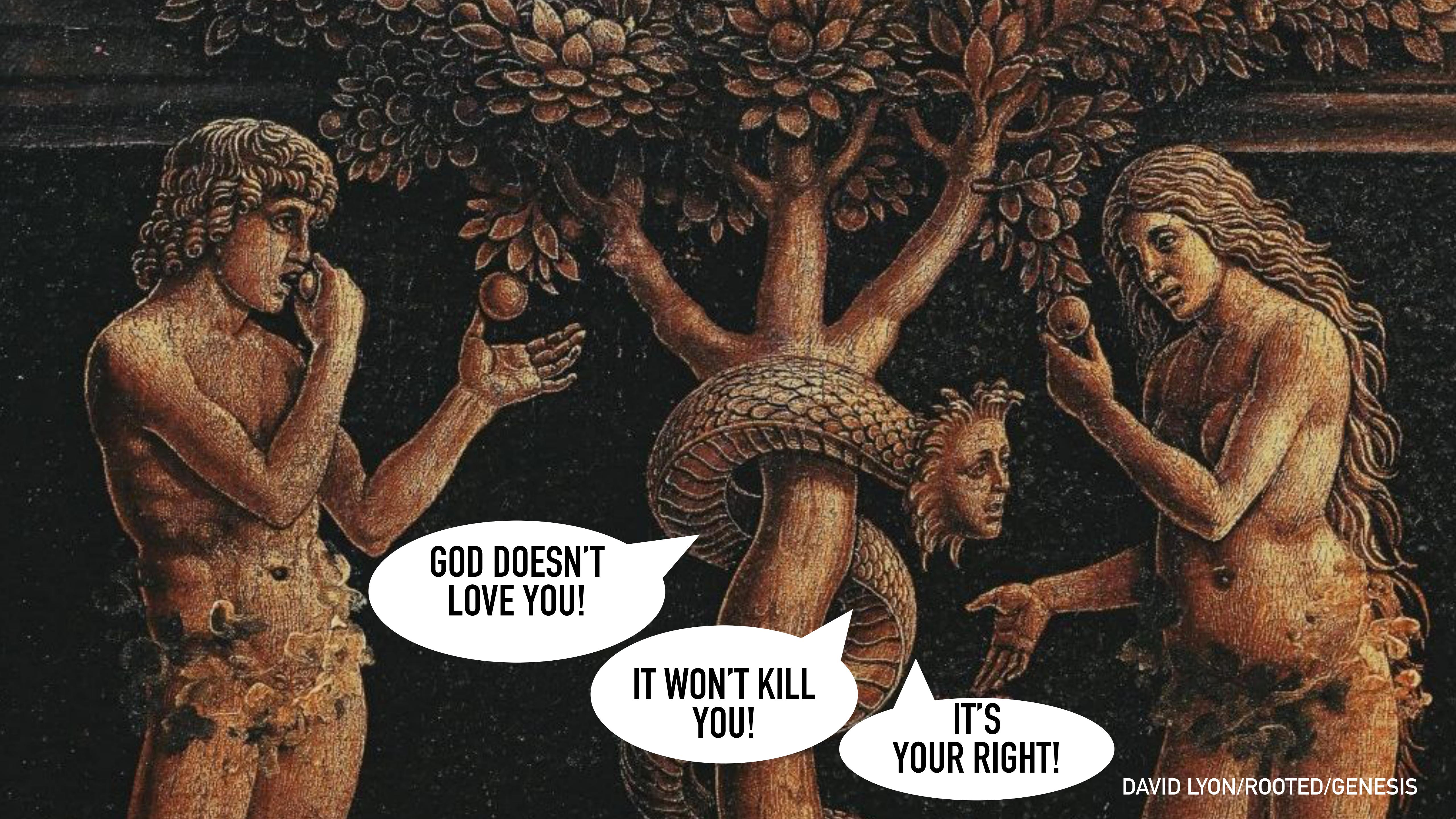
*First, a question/suggestion: raising a doubt about the goodness of God; suggesting God's **restriction is unkind** and He's withholding good things from us because He doesn't love us...*

*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...*

3-FOLD TEMPTATION OF CHRIST (Mt 4)

- "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...**

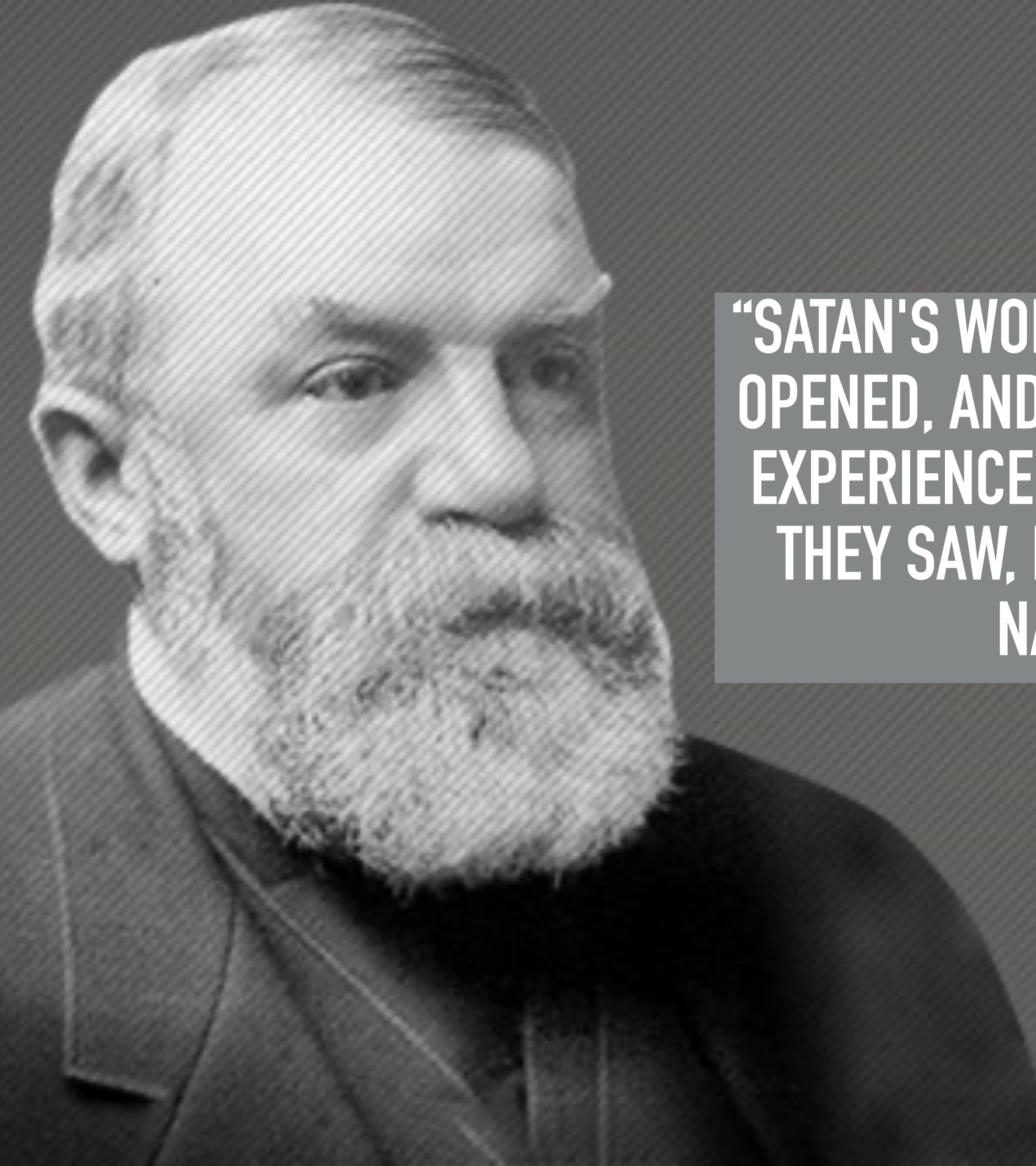
“THE ORDER OF TEMPTATION IS
ALWAYS THE SAME: THE
TEMPTER WITHOUT, AND WITHIN
THE STRONG DESIRE FOR
SENSUAL GRATIFICATION, WITH
THE SECRET HOPE THAT
SOMEHOW THE CONSEQUENCES
MAY BE AVOIDED.

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

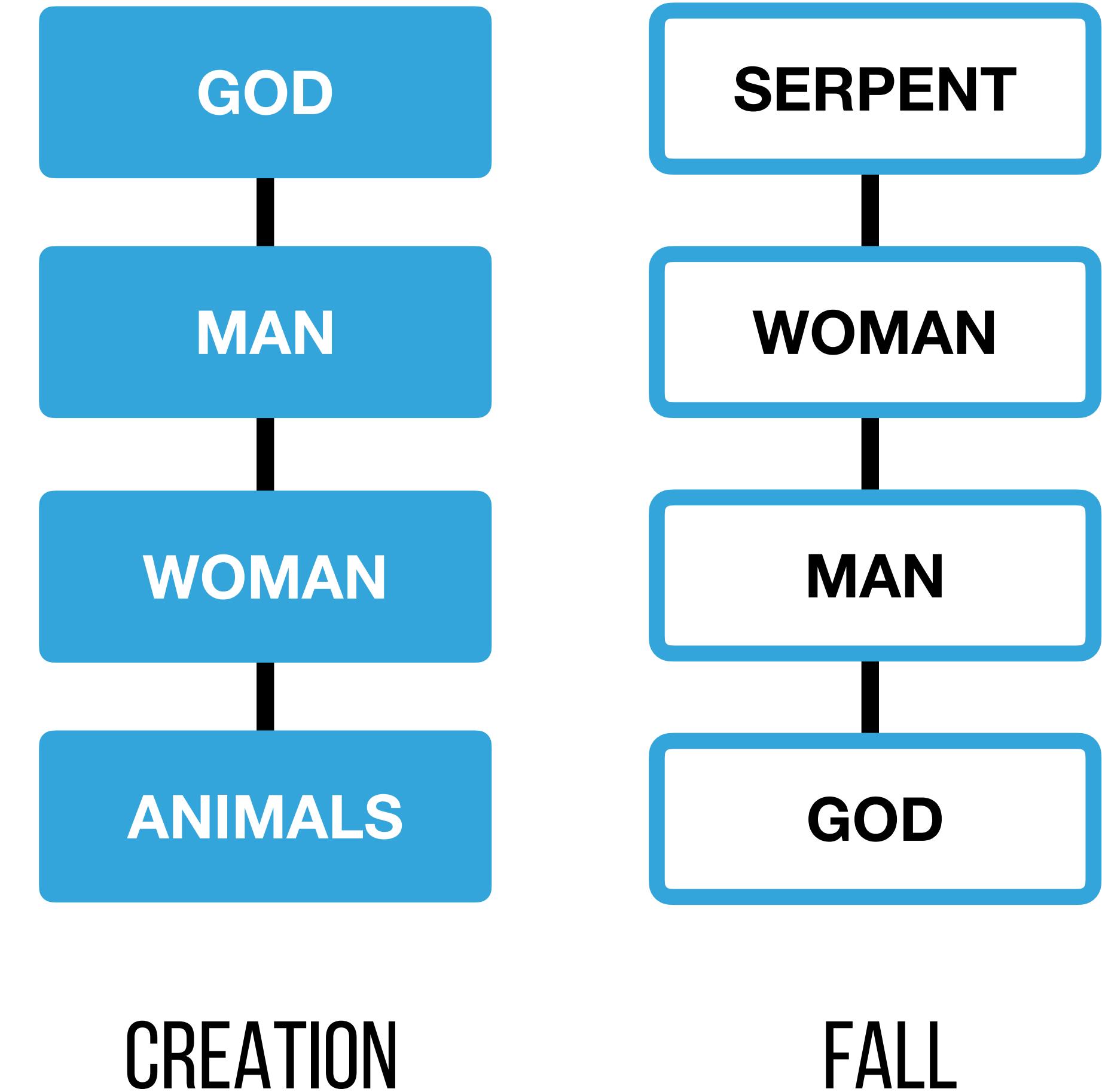
- Genesis 3 is *not* a celebration of Adam's autonomy or independence! It does not support the idea that human fulfilment comes from being liberated from subordination to God's Word or to His permissions and denials.
- Adam is shut out of Paradise and barred from “reaching out” and eating from the Tree 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)...

| ASIDE: CULTURAL CHALLENGES?

Many apparently modern cultural issues are only properly understood and addressed in the context of the Genesis story, Eg:

The rejection of **AUTHORITY** including the Word/Truth, gender, marriage and God Himself, in the belief that all authority is oppressive and takes away our right of self-determination...

The embracing of **IDOLATRY** and hedonism: de-throning God, self-seeking, pleasure-seeking and sensual self-indulgence - are all expressions of original sin...

The confusions about **IDENTITY** including manhood and womanhood, gender and sexual orientation, and other anxieties and traumas, may at root be issues of 'mistaken identity'...

"There is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl 1:9)



DISCUSS

HOW DOES OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF THE FALL
HELP US STAY UPRIGHT?



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).