

The Fall and Its Consequences

Genesis 3:1 – 6:5

The world as we find it!

The Ukraine-
Russia War!



The world as we find it!

Destruction of the Rainforests!



The world as we find it!

Human Trafficking!



The Fall and Its Consequences: The Big Story of Genesis 3:1-6:5

Genesis 3:1-6:5

In Summary:

Humanity's sinful fallenness was initiated by Satan through a strategy of distortion, which exploited people's ambition to become more than human, and this sin escalated into jealous rage and lustful abuse as it passed down the generations, and in every instance provoked the judgment of God as its inevitable, tragic consequence

Three 'Fall' stories in Genesis 3:1-6:5

- The fall in the garden (Genesis 3)
- Cain and his descendants (4:1-24)
- 'The Sons of God' (6:1-5)

Satan and a Strategy of Distortion!

Now **the serpent** was more crafty
than any of the wild animals the
LORD God had made.

GENESIS 3:1

The Book of Genesis

Written to the
ancient Hebrews in
language and
idioms that were
most plain to them

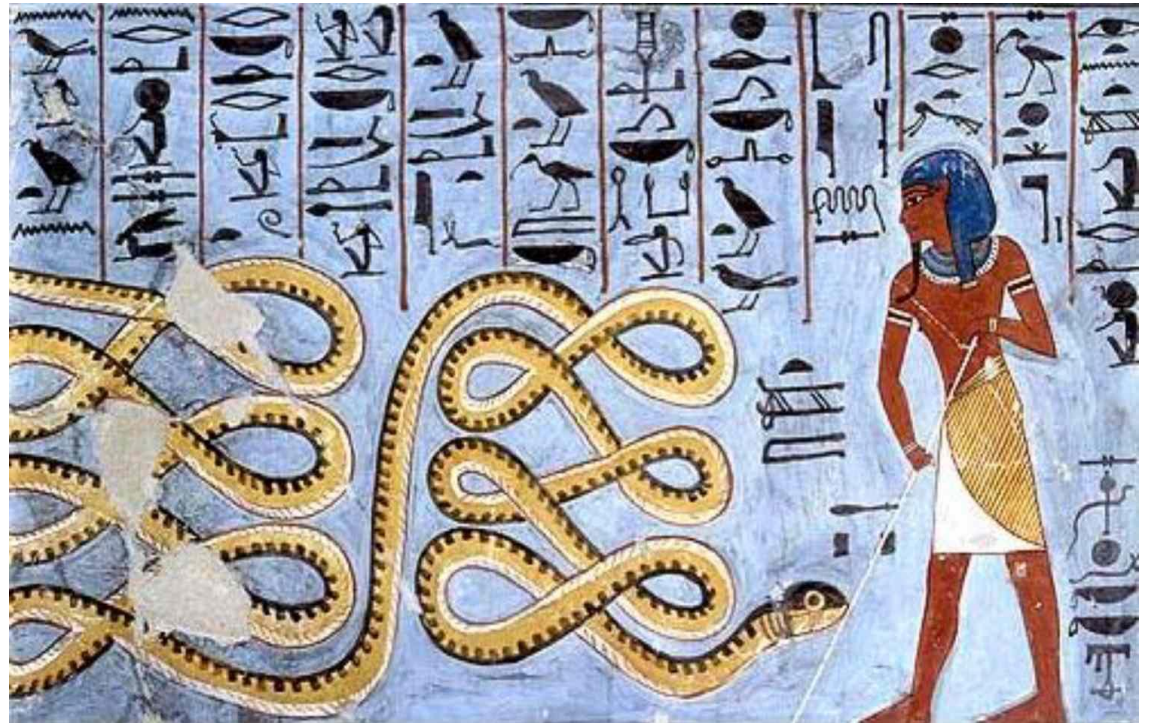
Uses imagery to
help the hearers
paint a mental
picture of the most
important ideas

The great dragon was hurled down –
that ancient serpent called the devil,
or Satan, who leads the whole world
astray. He was hurled to the earth
and all his angels with him.

REVELATION 12:9

“in the ancient world the
serpent was viewed as
possessing mystical
wisdom and as a
demonic and hostile
creature”

John Walton



Genesis adds, “craftiness”!

“Now the serpent was **more crafty**
than any of the wild animals the
LORD God had made”

Genesis 3:1

Satan's most effective strategies are introduced in Genesis 3

To distort the
Word of God!

To distort the
character of
God!

Distortion of God's Word (3:1-4)

The strategy of the tempter was to question and distort the Word of God – the weakness of the woman was that she was confused about the Word of God

¹ Did God *really* say that you must not eat from any tree in the Garden? ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Genesis 3:1-4

The greatest danger to the Christian faith today
does not come from liberal theologians who
deny the importance of the Bible; the greatest
danger is posed by enthusiastic preachers who
claim to hold to the supreme importance of the
Bible!

The subtle shift!

From the *unique authority of Scripture*
to the *unique authority of the*
interpreter!



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Distortion of God's Character (3:5)

The strategy of the tempter was to distort their opinion about the character of God and so to rationalise their decision to revolt against the will of God!

*God knows that when you eat of it
your eyes will be opened and you
will become like God.*

GENESIS 3:5

David Berg and the Children of God Cult



How we think
about God affects
how we think
about everything
else!

Our ambition to exceed limits
and become more than human;
to become like God!

*God knows that when you eat of it
your eyes will be opened and you
will become like God.*

GENESIS 3:5

Friedrich Nietzsche and the Nazis



God is dead, God remains dead,
and we have killed him.

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

AZ QUOTES

This is what's at the heart of temptation:

- ❑ to exceed God-given limits and arrogate to ourselves the prerogatives of God

- ❑ to take up God's right to decide what's right and wrong, what's good and evil.



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⁵ Have this mind in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the very *nature of a servant*, being made in *human likeness*. And being found in appearance as a *man*, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

The escalation of Sin

- I. Genesis 3 – Sin spoils the garden paradise
- II. Genesis 4 – Cain's violence intensifies
- III. Genesis 6 – The 'sons of God' and their arrogant, lustful abuse

Genesis 3:6-13: Sin spoils the garden paradise

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate”

Genesis 3:6

New experiences with the entry of Sin

- Abject Shame
- Crippling Guilt
- Irrational Fear
- Shifting Blame

These emotions and behaviours continue to wreak havoc in the world

Genesis 4:1-24: Cain's violence intensifies

4 And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,
5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. **So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.**

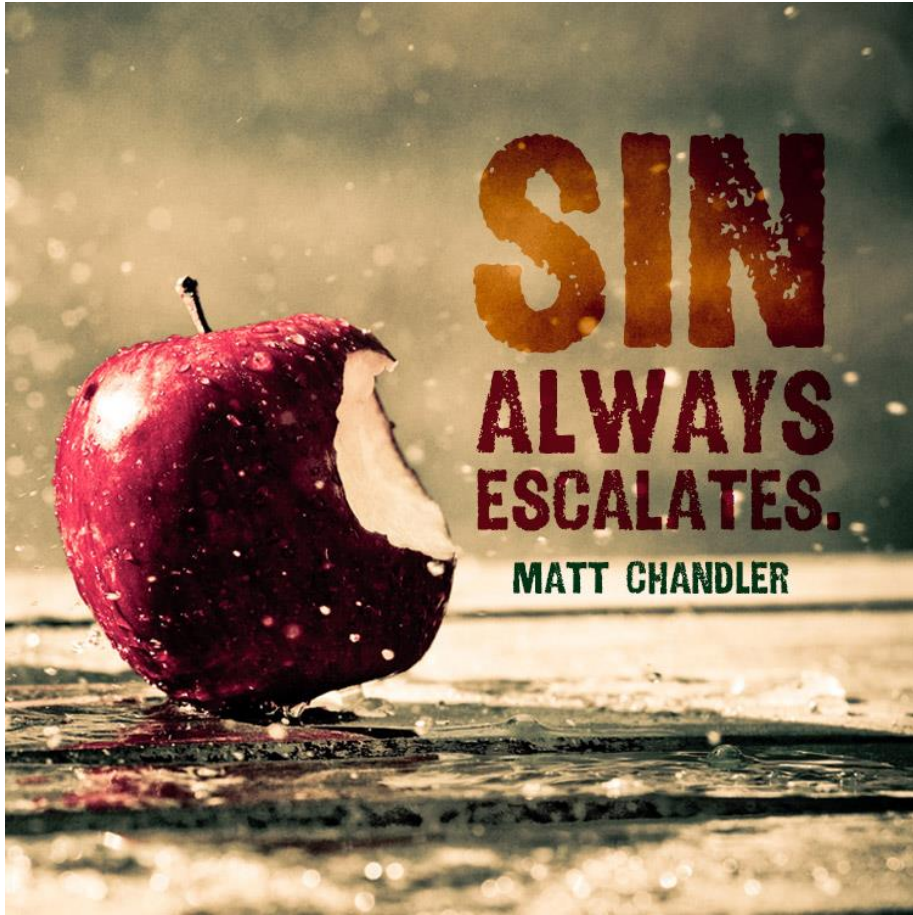
6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you**, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, **Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.**



Genesis 4:4-8



From murder
by Cain to
Lamech's
gratuitous
violence!

Lamech's boast of excessive violence

Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

Genesis 4:23-24

Genesis 6:1-4: The 'sons of God' and their arrogant, lustful abuse

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

Gen 6:1-2

Possible meaning for 'sons of God':

1. Sinful angelic beings forming marriages with humans
2. Descendants of Seth (4:25-26) marrying women from the line of Cain
3. Royal figures who demanded the 'right of the first night'

Gilgamesh, the Mesopotamian king of Uruk



“He will couple
with the wife-to-
be, he first of all,
the bridegroom
after”

Now the earth was **corrupt** in God's sight and was **full of violence**.

God saw how **corrupt** the earth had become, for all the people on earth had **corrupted** their ways.

GENESIS 6:11-12

Every act of sin provokes the
judgment of God

GOD IS HOLY!



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Holiness is the attribute of all God's attributes!



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I. God judges justly

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged **according to what they had done** as recorded in the books”

Revelation 20:11-12

II. Sin always has consequences

- Genesis 6:3 – Limitation on the span of life for the Flood generation:

Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years." (Gen 6:3)

- Genesis 4:11-14 – Alienation from the land and a paranoid lifestyle for Cain:

Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. (Gen 4:11)



The tragic consequences in the Garden!

16 To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life"

Genesis 3:16-17

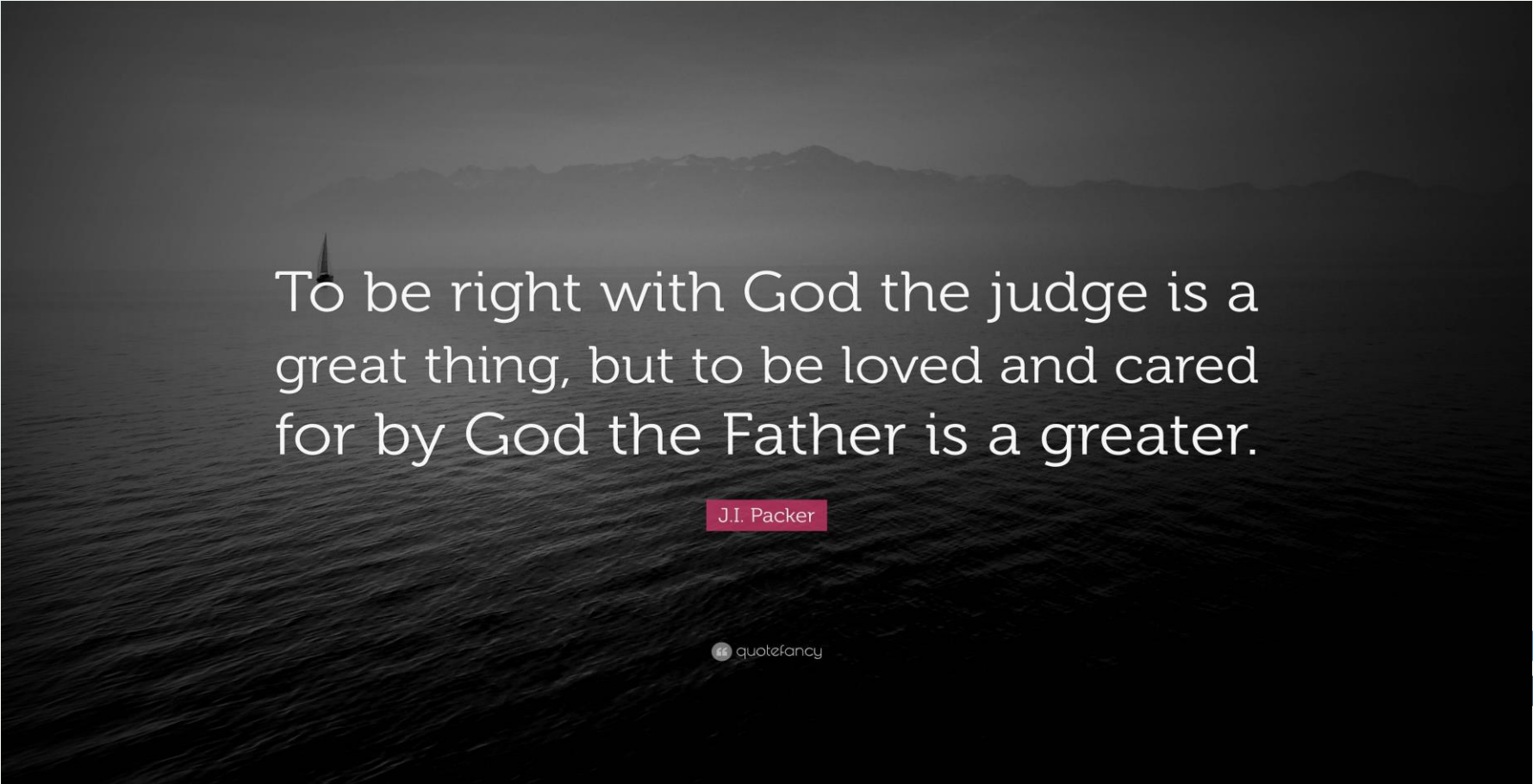
- Consequence for the woman (3:16): Increasing pain in creating the future (“childbearing”) and perpetual conflict in her marriage
- Consequence for the man (3:17-19): Increasing pain in meeting present needs (“you will eat”) and perpetual conflict in his place of work

The God of Genesis 1 - 11

The God of
Justice and
Severe
Judgment

The God of Love
and the
Compassionate
Father

The severe Judge is the compassionate Father!



To be right with God the judge is a
great thing, but to be loved and cared
for by God the Father is a greater.

J.I. Packer

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