

The rejection of life

The Story of Life- session 2

The story so far...

"Genesis 1 introduces us to the sovereign God who, as our creator, we **should** submit our lives to. Genesis 2 introduces us to the kind and generous God who, as our loving carer, it should be **a joy** to submit our lives to."

He made people for LIFE.

Submitting to his rule

*Experiencing his **blessing***

*Enjoying his **presence***

1. The heart of sin- rejecting God's rule (Genesis 3:1-7, p. 5)

a. A temptation to doubt God

- 'God can't be trusted!' (v1-4)
- 'God is a kill-joy!' (v5-6)
- 'God is a tyrant!' (v5-6)
- 'God can and should be rivalled' (v5)

b. A decision to disobey God

The created order is reversed:

God-Adam-Eve-Creatures → Creatures-Eve-Adam-God

"Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown, gives birth to death"

James 1:15

2. The consequences of sin- God's judgement (Gen. 3:8-24)

a. The breakdown of relationships (v8-13)

- *With God (v8-11)*
- *With each other (v12-13)*

b. The experience of God's curse (v14-19)

"Whereas blessing flows from obedience to God's loving rule, curses follow from the rejection of that rule."

c. God's judgement of death (v19-24)

- *Spiritual death*

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins in which you used to live"

Ephesians 2:1

- *Physical death*

3. The spreading grip of sin in the world (Gen 4-11)

*"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain." **Genesis 6:5-6***

4. God's grace in the midst of human sin

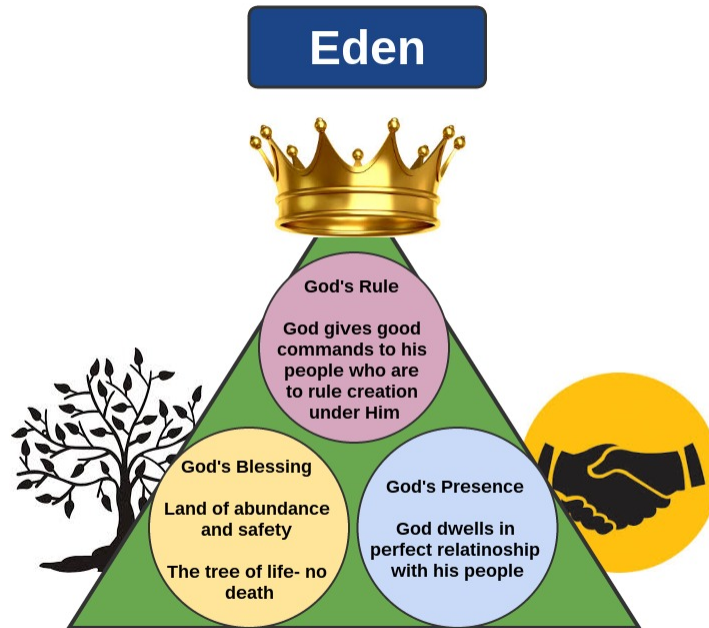
a. The woman's 'offspring' will crush the serpent (Gen. 3:15)

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work"

1 John 3:8

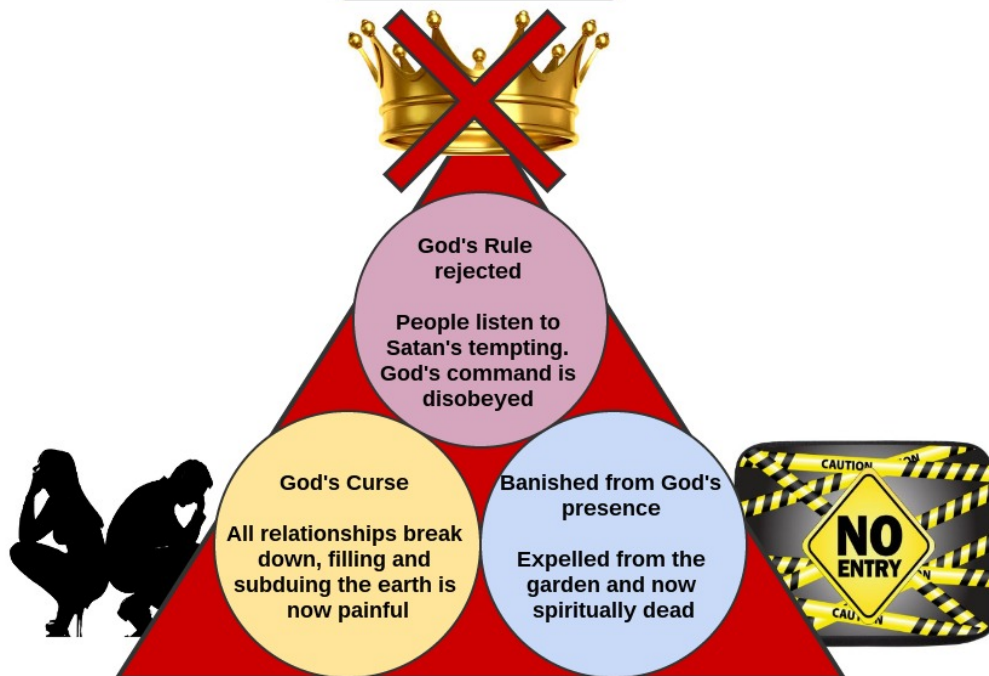
b. God promises to Noah never to destroy the earth again (Gen. 9:8-11)

The picture so far...



LIFE!

The Fall



DEATH

Small Groups – Romans 5:12–20

Next Time

Next time we meet Abraham and see how a single promise made to him will set the course for the whole Bible.

Reading for next week: **Genesis 12-15, Exodus 1-3, 12.**

Tracing the **SERPENT** through the Bible

Satan is an adversary who crops up again and again in the Bible. One way of tracing through the whole story of the Bible is as the story of his defeat, and the liberation of humanity from his captivity.

- **Genesis 4:6.** What is Cain tempted to do? Look up 1 John 3:12. Who lies behind this temptation?
- In **Job 41:1-11**, the 'Leviathan' is most probably a figurative representation of Satan. How much control does humanity have over him? How about God?
- **Matthew 4:1-11.** How does Jesus fare against Satan compared with Adam and Eve?
- **Colossians 2:13-15.** The 'powers and authorities' refers to Satan and his kingdom. What has the cross achieved in relation to Satan?
- **Rev. 20:7-10.** What is the final destiny for Satan?

For the book-worms

<i>God's Big Picture</i>	Vaughan Roberts	A book tracing out the big story-line of the Bible.
<i>Can we believe Genesis today?</i>	Ernest Lucas	A very helpful short book on the compatibility of Genesis and modern science.
<i>Seven days that divide the word</i>	John Lennox	Similar to above, but more recent
<i>God's Big Design</i>	Vaughan Roberts	A short and accessible book charting out the lessons we learn from the first chapters of Genesis