

Genesis

The study of the Beginning

Lesson #4

Return Church

June 24, 2026

Genesis

A study of the beginning

- Lesson #1 – The Creation
- Lesson #2 – We were made for relationships
- Lesson #3 – We were made for stewardship
- Lesson #4 – **Paradise lost**
- Lesson #5 – East of Eden

Paradise Lost

Genesis 3:1-9

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where *are* you? **Genesis 3:1-9 NKJV**

What is wrong with us?

- The Bible is a single story of what went wrong with the human-race and how God puts it all back right again.
- In Genesis 3, we see the origins of why is the human race so prone to selfishness, violence, lying, sexual sins, greed, war and other horrible behaviors.
- The Bible has a lot to say about sin, and the story begins here, in Genesis 3.
- There is something terribly wrong with all of us.
- There is something in our hearts that says, nobody is going to tell me what to do. I will boss my own life.
- There is something deep inside of us that tries to be our own god.
- We want to be the center of our life and have everyone else revolve around us.
- We all have self-centered tendencies, and inclinations.
- Have you faced yourself lately, and what are you going to do about it?

Adolf Eichmann

He was a German official of the Nazi Party, an officer of the (SS), a convicted war criminal, and one of the major leaders and organizers of the Holocaust. He was tasked with facilitating and managing the logistics involved in the mass deportation of millions of Jews to Nazi extermination camps across German-occupied Europe. He was captured and detained by the allies in 1945, but escaped and eventually settled in Argentina. In May 1960, he was tracked down and abducted by Israel's intelligence agency, and put on trial before the Supreme Court of Israel. The highly publicized Eichmann trial resulted in his conviction in Jerusalem, following which he was executed by hanging in 1962.





Yehiel Dinur

A survivor of the holocaust named Yehiel Dinur came in as a witness at Eichmann's trial in 1961. When he walked into the court room, he collapsed, fainted, fell out onto the floor.



What is inside of us?

In 1983, a reporter, Mike Wallace, did a story on his trial and he interviewed Yehiel Dinur, and showed him the video clip of him collapsing onto the floor of the courtroom. He then asked him what went through his mind at that time? Was it hatred or fear? What caused him to collapse? He said, no, it was not fear or hatred. As soon as I saw him in person, at that moment I realized that he was not a monster nor was he a demon. He was just a normal guy, and if he is capable of doing something so wicked and evil, then so am I. He stated that there is an Adolf Eichman is inside all of us.

Original sin

- Christianity teaches an unattractive idea called original sin. We were all born sinners. We are all broken, we are all a mess, everybody is a sinner, so we should no longer feel superior to anybody.
- This doctrine levels people. Sin is in all of us equally.
- This doctrine offends many people. It says that something is terribly and horribly wrong with you and only God can fix it.
- We were all born under judgment and condemnation, and we all have hope only by the grace of God, through Jesus Christ.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. ***Romans 5:12 NLT***

Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins. ***Ecclesiastes 7:20 NLT***

The junk in our hearts

The words of Jesus.

It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.

Mark 7:20-23 NLT

- This mess is in all of our hearts.
- It may be in seed form, but it is in there.
- If we can discover what is really inside of us, then we can turn to the Lord and ask Him to remove it and change us.

The serpent

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. ***Genesis 3:1 NKJV***

Obviously, Satan had already been kicked out of heaven and was given the authority as ruler of this world.

The words of Jesus.

And He said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ***Luke 10:18 NKJV***

Fallen from heaven

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. ***Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV***

Ezekiel 28 is another account of Satan before creation.

Dragon, Serpent, Devil, Satan.

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ***Revelation 12:9 NKJV***

Satan is the ruler of this world

And the devil said to Him, All this authority I will give You, and their glory; **for this has been delivered to me**, and I give it to whomever I wish. **Luke 4:5-6 NKJV**

I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world** is coming, and he has nothing in Me. **John 14:30 NKJV**

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **John 10:10 NKJV**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **1 Peter 5:8 NKJV**



What are we fighting

- We are at war with Satan and his demons. Satan is real and he will try to steal your joy, kill your faith and destroy your life.
- Satan attacks us with; lies, temptations, accusations, slander and more.
- I believe he does his best work in a church pulpit.

*And do not give the devil a foothold. **Ephesians 4:27 NIV***

And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ***II Corinthians 11:14 NKJV***

Why was the enemy in Paradise?

- The Bible identifies the "ancient serpent" as the Devil.
- Evil had already entered the spiritual realm through the rebellion of Satan and his angels prior to humanity's creation.
- God allowed this fallen spiritual being access to the physical world, even the Garden of Eden, to test humanity. Our life is a trust and a test.
- Remember we were created for stewardship and relationship.
- True Love Requires a Choice: If human beings had no option to disobey, their obedience to God would be mechanical. We are not puppets.
- For free will to exist, there had to be an alternative to God's command.
- God wants to give us a free will choice to see who and what we will love and trust.

A failure of leadership

- Adam was told to dress and keep the garden.
- The Hebrew word for "keep" is *shamar*, which means to hedge about (as with thorns), to guard.
- The presence of the serpent was a test of Adam's spiritual authority. Humans were commissioned to have dominion over or rule over the beasts.
- Adam should have cast the deceptive creature out of the garden, but instead he let him in the garden, and the serpent deceived Eve, and then they both submitted to his lies, and the human race fell into sin.

The command

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Genesis 2:16 NKJV

- What was the great sin that ruined the human race? They ate of the tree that God commanded them not to eat of.
- What is so wrong with that? What is the big deal?
- It is not as if they killed someone, or stole something, or lied, or cursed or even took God's name in vain.
- They only ate from the wrong tree. Why was that so bad?

The tree

So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **Genesis 3:6 NKJV**

- God was saying to Adam and Eve, I am God, I created you, and your life is a gift from me to you, and the creation is a gift from me to you.
- I want you to live as if I am God, and I own you. You are living because of me and by my power.
- I want you to live as if the creation is mine, you are only to steward it.
- So, you can't live anyway you want. You are mine so you must obey me.
- Don't eat of that tree. You have a choice.
- Am I going to be your God or are you going to be your own god?

The big lie

Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. **Genesis 3:4-5 NKJV**

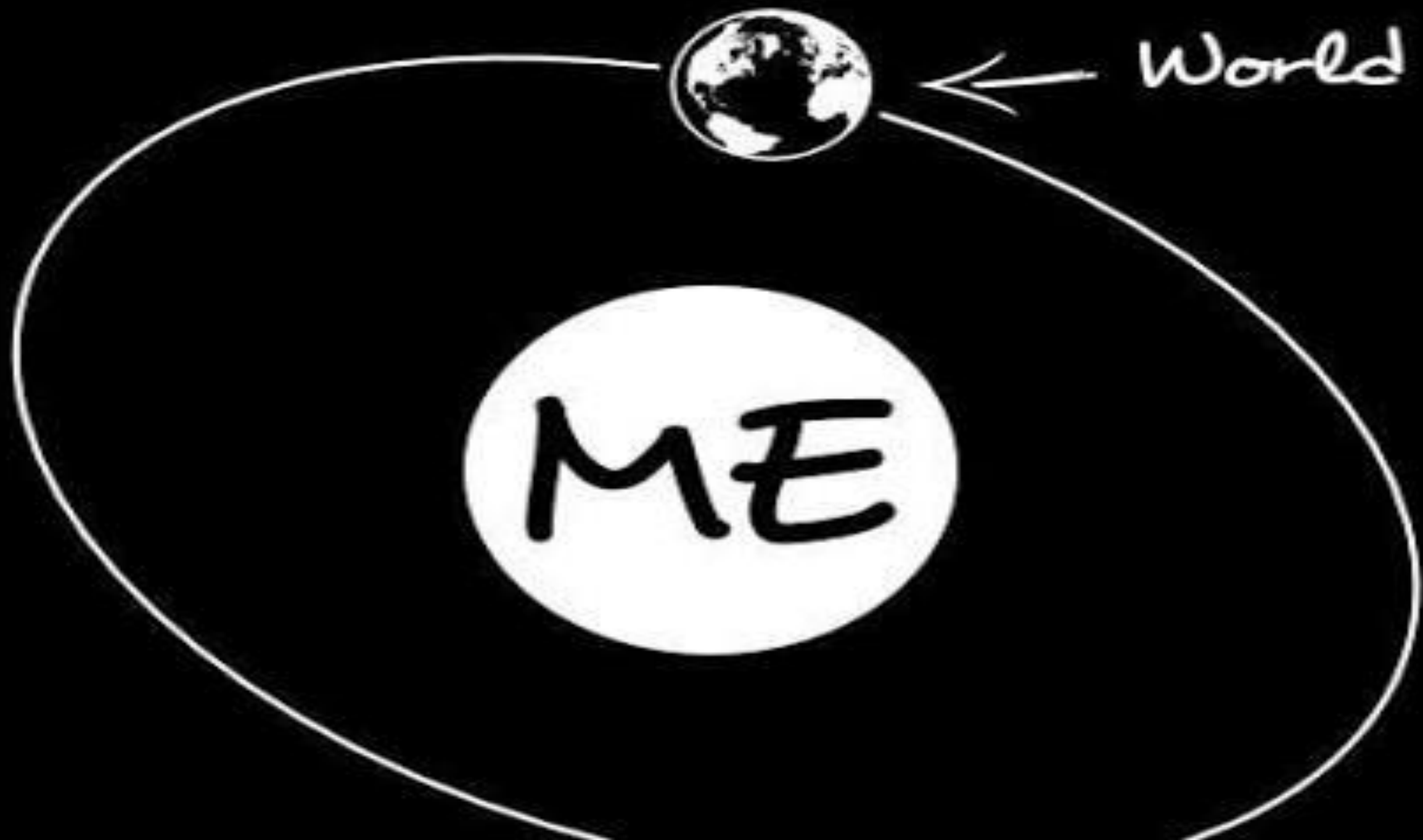
- This is a direct contradiction from what God said. What is the serpent doing?
- He is not attacking the existence of God, or the holiness of God.
- He is trying to assassinate Gods character.
- He is attacking the fact that God loves them, and God is good to them.
- God is saying, I love you and I will be good to you. I want you to obey me just because you love me and trust me. I want a loving relationship with you.
- The serpent says, you will not die, you will be like God.
- He is saying, you can't trust God, you can't trust His love for you, God is not good.
- If you obey God, he will keep you down, if you submit to God, you will miss out, you will not be happy, you will not thrive or succeed.

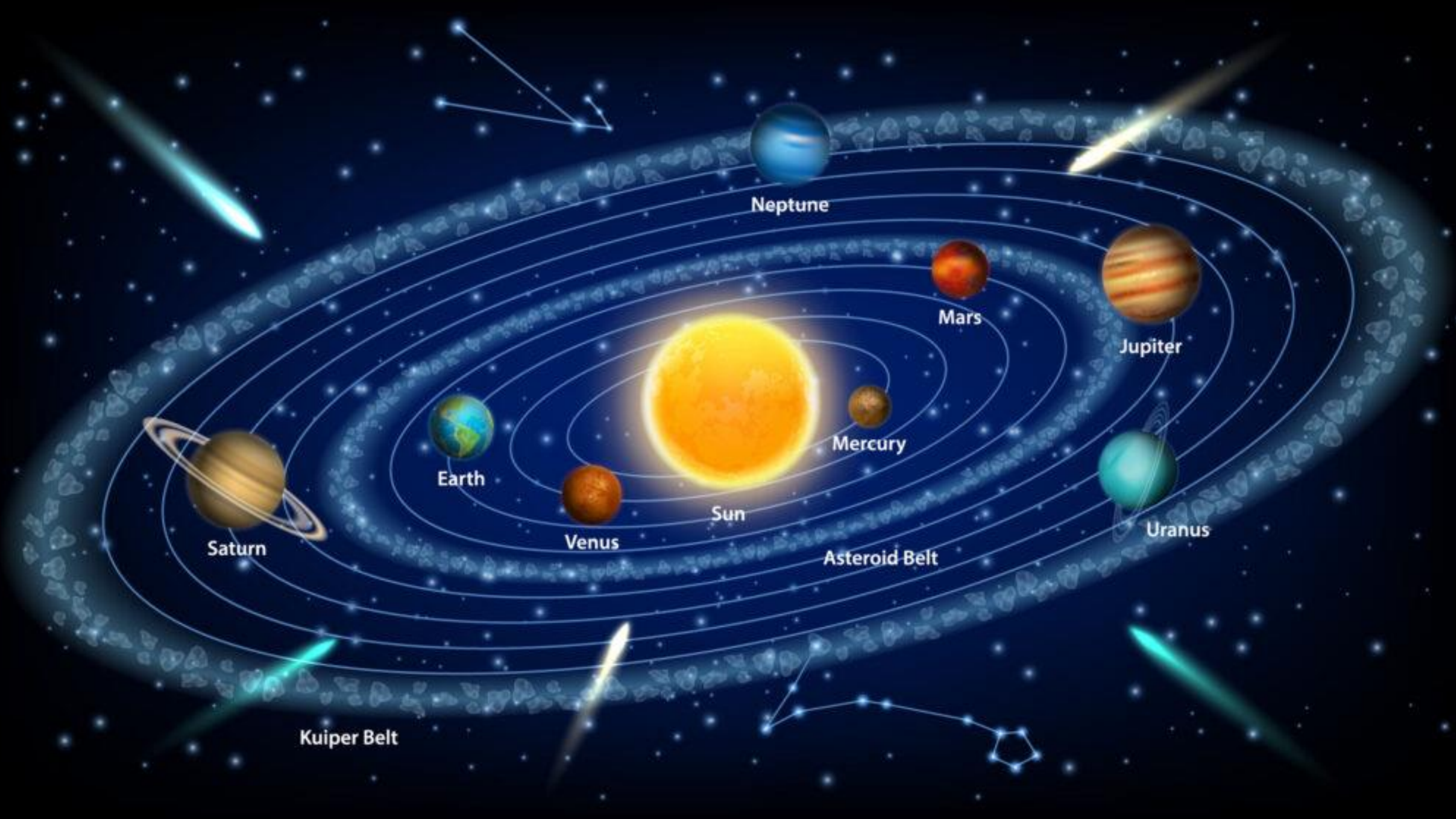
The big lie

- This is the big lie. This is in every human heart.
- The Bible says, I shouldn't sleep with this person, but my feelings and emotions tell me that it would be great, this would make me happy. Don't I deserve to be happy? I only want to be loved, is that so bad?
- The Bible says, I shouldn't spend all of this money on myself, I should be generous and give a lot of it away, but I want to spend it on myself. Didn't I work hard for this money, isn't it mine?
- These things would not even tempt you, if you had not already believed that you can't trust God.
- The enemy is saying, if you obey God, you will never be happy.
- Satan is trying to destroy our trust in the love and goodness of God.
- Some people try to control everything (control freaks), because they don't trust God enough to allow Him to control their lives, because they doubt whether or not He loves them.

Self-centeredness

- People are worried and anxious. They think they must take life into their own hands, because they don't trust God to manage or control their life.
- Controlling people, worried people and anxious people are all playing god, they are all trying to be their own god.
- The serpent said, you will not die, and you will be like God.
- This is what we are all after, you will be like God. This is the essence of sin.
- We put ourselves in the center.
- We try to get everything and everyone to orbit or revolve around us.
- Sin is putting ourselves in the place of God.
- Sin is trying to make everything center around us, instead of God.
- Self-centeredness is the essence of sin; it is the main problem with humanity.
- Sin is trying to be our own savior and lord.





Neptune

Mars

Jupiter

Mercury

Uranus

Sun

Earth

Venus

Asteroid Belt

Saturn

Kuiper Belt

Self-centeredness

- Everything wrong with this world is you and I putting ourselves in the place of God.
- The thing inside of us that says, I have to prove myself, I have to be successful, or rich, or beautiful or the best at what I do, to be loved and accepted.
- The thing inside of us that needs to lift ourselves up, exalt ourselves, or take the credit for something. The thing in us that wants to be admired, that wants to be known.
- We believed the serpent that we can't trust God, and His love, so we take our lives into our own hands. I will find happiness on my own.
- People put other people down, this makes them feel better about themselves, because they don't trust God, and they are self-centered.
- The sin of selfishness is a malignant tumor that destroys all of our relationships.
- Many people are so anxious, because they have an idea of how their life has to go, and they are afraid God isn't going to get it right. They think they know better than God. Really?

Self-centeredness

- Religion in general is fueled by self-centeredness. I obey my scriptures, I pray, I do good works, and I expect results, I expect blessings.
- People get mad at God when he doesn't answer their prayers. If you only obey God as long as He blesses you, you are trying to use God.
- Like the rich man about to marry a beautiful young lady. He loses all of his money in the stock market. The week before the wedding she says, I have changed my mind, I don't want to marry you.
- Do you love and obey God only because you want Him to bless you?
- We should obey simply because He is God, and we are not. He owns us and therefore He should be the center of our lives.
- The essence of sin is putting yourself in the place of God.
- Self-centeredness.

The Kingdom of Self

Earl Jabay

1. **I am power** – Will-power is not the answer. (The more the fish struggles the deeper the hook gets embedded. The only hope for the fish is for the fisherman to remove the hook.)
2. **I am truth** – (The sin of certainty is pride. How can we possibly know everything?)
3. **I am right** – (These people sometimes struggle with making decisions, because they can't be wrong.)
4. **I am above time** – (They are always late, their schedule is all about themselves.)
5. **I am a messiah** – (They are always trying to save or rescue somebody. Preachers become cult leaders because of this.)
6. **I am the law** – (Whatever I think, or feel is right is right, concerning any issue.)
7. **I am perfect** – (Perfectionism is a common trait of the self-centered narcissist.)

What is a narcissist?

- The term originates from the Greek myth of Narcissus. He was a handsome hunter who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water and died because the love he felt was never returned to him.
- This term is broadly defined as a person who is excessively self-centered, possesses an inflated sense of self-importance, and exhibits a profound lack of empathy for others.
- A narcissist is prone to vanity, selfishness, and bragging. They can be loud, arrogant, extroverted and full of themselves. They have a constant need for praise, validation and attention. They can be manipulative. This is also called superior pride.
- They also can be shy, insecure and highly sensitive to criticism, this is called inferior pride. Both are a form of self-centeredness.
- All humans have some degree of this self-centeredness.

Fig leaves

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. **Genesis 3:7 NKJV**

- They realized they were naked, they felt ashamed. They were afraid, they covered in fig leaves. They were trying to be their own savior and lord.
- Fig leaves: you know something is wrong with you, you are desperate to cover yourself.
- We cover with religion, surely that will help me patch up a righteousness of my own.
- Others cover with career, or beauty, or anything to try to be acceptable.
- We desperately want others to accept us.
- They covered up their nakedness from each other. We cannot bear to let other people really know who we are.
- Fig leaves; we have to cover up, we think we have to control what other people think or know about us,

Hiders

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, *Where are you?*

Genesis 3:8-9 NKJV

- Where are you? He knows where they are.
- We are hiders. Go back and look over your entire life. Because we don't trust God, we hide from ourselves, we hide from each other, and we hide from God.
- We are running from the truth, running from God.
- While we hide, God seeks. It is God's nature to seek.
- Where are you? Does he really need to know this? No, he is counselling them, trying to get them to answer.
- We hide, God seeks, if we ever find God it is because God found us.
- We hide from each other. I cannot bear to have you see all the way into me.
- They hid from God. If you get near a holy God, you will see how flawed you are.

The stain of sin

Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where *are* you? So he said, I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. And He said, Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat? Then the man said, The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. **Genesis 3:9-12 NKJV**

- The stain of sin. A metaphor for evil.
- Adam was basically saying, send Eve to hell, give me another wife.
- Because we have a sinful nature, people will throw others under the bus to justify themselves.
- Your life to enhance mine. I will hurt you so I can have what I want.
- The human stain of sin. The proneness of evil in the heart. This need to pull others down, so you can lift yourself up, or feel better about yourself. It is in everyone.
- The stain is self-righteousness. I feel better about myself, by putting you down.
- The man and the women are both are blame shifting, one is not more sinful than the other. Adam says it was Eve's fault. Eve said the devil made me do it.

The prophecy, the solution

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Genesis 3:15 NKJV

- In Genesis 1-3, we read about the creation and the fall of mankind.
- The entire rest of the Bible is about how God restores mankind back to Himself.
- Here in Genesis 3:15 is the first prophecy about what God intends to do about it.
- Some 4,000 years later, Eve's seed, Jesus Christ, will bruise the head or the authority of Satan by destroying sin and death at Calvary's cross, but He will get a fatal wound in the process as Satan bruises His heel.

A covering

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. ***Genesis 3:21 NKJV***

- After Adam and Eve's sin, God covered them with animal skins.
- Blood had to be shed. A life for a life.
- Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.
- God had to cover their naked bodies, because now they were sinners.
- What does it mean to be a Christian? You ask God to cover your sin because of what Jesus has done, and not by what you do.
- Ask God to cover you with the righteousness of Christ. Thank Him for forgiving and removing your sin.

Exiles

Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. **Genesis 3:22-24 NKJV**

- Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden.
- Now they would be homeless for the rest of their lives on the earth.
- Homelessness; you have no home. There is nothing more dehumanizing than homelessness.
- Because home is where you fit, where your needs are met and where you rest and are restored. It is the place of family, love, comfort and acceptance. People that do not have a home are missing all of that.
- We are all born as homeless exiles. This world is simply not our home.
- We are strangers and pilgrims just passing through.

Homelessness

He has also set eternity in the human heart; ***Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV***

- God has put eternity into our hearts, to always remind us that we are not home in his world.
- The entire human race is homeless.
- We are not made for this world, the world we live in is not home.
- My real home is where Jesus is, paradise. A place where there is no more death, or pain, or sorrow or crying.
- We simply do not fit here in this world, we are mis-fits.
- I may be homeless, but I have been promised an eternal home and one day soon, I am going home.

Jesus is the center

- Does God have a plan and a way to remove the thing inside of us that wants to go its own way, that wants to take the place of God and be the center of our own life? Yes, He does.
- How do we get rid of the self-centeredness?
- It begins with a choice to put God in the center where He belongs.
- This is what it means to make Him the Lord of your life.
- You are no longer the lord, the master, the boss of your life.
- Put Jesus in the center and begin to revolve around Him.
- Trust Him with your life, trust Him to give you the best. Let Him manage your life.
- This is a choice and a surrender that you must make everyday for the rest of your life.

Repent of playing god

- In 1988 I had a tremendous experience with God.
- I had just heard a sermon on pride, and for the first time in my life, I saw how evil pride was and that I had been trying to be the god of my own life.
- I began to repent of playing god. I was repenting of being in the center of my life and trying to control my own life.
- It was then that I was taken in the Spirit to Calvary where I literally saw the Lord. I repented, and my life has never been the same.
- You can't compete with God for the center of your heart. That place is made only for God, and He wants you to revolve around Him.

Going home

- Pray, Father accept me and bring me home. Accept me because of what Jesus has done for me, not for anything I have done.
- Accept me, make me righteous, wash me and cover me in the blood of Jesus Christ. Forgive me of all of my sins.
- One day soon, Jesus is going to come back to this world and make everything wrong with this world, right again.
- One day soon, He is going to come and get us, and take us home.