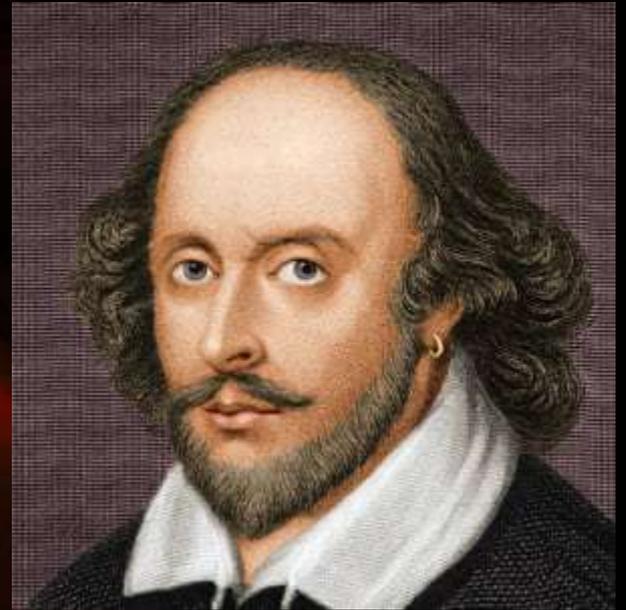


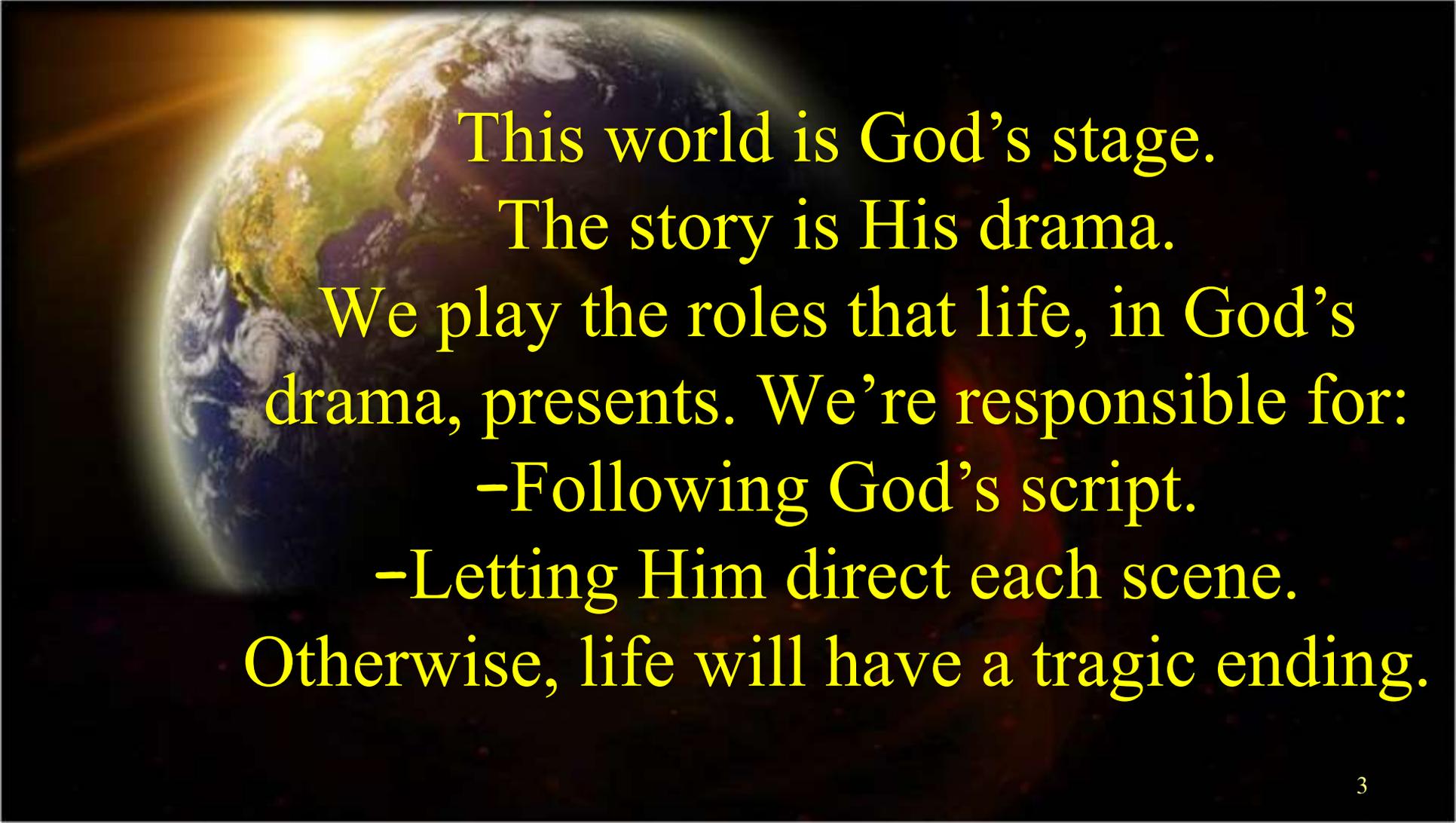
# Genesis

The Story of God And Humanity

*All the world's a stage,  
and all the men and  
women merely players.  
They have their exits and  
their entrances, and one  
man in his time plays  
many parts...”*



William Shakespeare  
*As You Like It*

A glowing Earth from space, showing the Americas, with a bright sun flare in the upper left. The text is overlaid in a yellow, serif font.

This world is God's stage.  
The story is His drama.  
We play the roles that life, in God's  
drama, presents. We're responsible for:  
-Following God's script.  
-Letting Him direct each scene.  
Otherwise, life will have a tragic ending.

# Genesis 4

Cain, Abel, and Seth

Sacrifice, Sin, And Salvation.

The Story Continues!

## Genesis 4:1-15 (NIV)

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.

The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.

So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry?

Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?

But, if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

But the LORD said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

# God's Role In His Drama

- Creator And Sustainer Of The Universe
  - Object Of Worship
  - Observer Of Creation
  - Judge Of All The Earth
  - Merciful Protector

# Cain's Roles In God's Drama

- First Born Son And Elder Brother
  - His name means “acquired” from God
- Farmer, As His Father Before Him
  - God ordained that form of work in the garden
  - God modeled the idea of work in creation.
- Insincere Worshipper
  - Gave “some” of his crops, lacking faith
  - God did not accept his gift.

“Cain wasn’t rejected because he gave a grain offering.

His grain offering was rejected because of the condition of Cain’s Heart.”

His offering was not given from a heart of faith.

- Angry And Dejected Not Humble And Repentant
  - Ignored God's attempt to personally reach him
  - Ignored God's advise about finding acceptance
  - Ignored God's warning about sin taking control
  - Ignored God's challenge to master/subdue sin
- A Premeditated Murderer
  - Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Gen. 4:8

- Cain Lied To God About Abel's Whereabouts
  - “Am I my brother's keeper?”
- Millennia later Cain Continues To Serve As An Example Of The Evil Of Jealousy.
  - *Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 1 John 3:12 (NIV)*

## Psalm 51:14-17 (NIV)

Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

# Cain's Punishment?

- Cursed as farmer—land would never produce for him
- Banished from his homeland—destined to wander
- Overwhelmed by fear, knowing he would be in danger
- God had mercy on him and marked him in some way that would protect him from harm by others.
- He still serves as an example of rejecting God.
- Founder of the city of Enoch in the land of Nod.  
Nod = *wandering*. He lived in *the land of wandering*.

# Abel's Roles In God's Drama

- Younger Brother
  - Abel = “breath” as in the brevity of life. Psalm 39:5
- Shepherd — first in a line of shepherds, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David
- Faithful Worshipper
  - Gave fat portions of the firstborn of his flock.
  - “By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did...” Hebrews 11:4
- Innocent Victim Of The Sins Of Another

# Seth's Roles In God's Drama

- Third Son of Adam and Eve
- Renewer of the Worship of the LORD (Genesis 4:26)
- Seth Links Adam's Family To Jesus (Genesis 10-11).
  - Adam » Seth » Enosh » Kenan » Mahalalel » Jared » Enoch » Methuselah » Lamech » Noah » Shem » Arphaxad » Shelah » Eber » Peleg » Reu » Serug » Nahor » Terah » Abram/Abraham » Isaac » Jacob/Israel.

# Let's Learn From the Story

Romans 15:4 (NIV)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

# 1. God Wants Worship To Be Authentic And From The Heart.

Mark 12:33 (NIV)

To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices

## 2. Sin Wants To Control Your Life And It Will, If You Don't Master It.

Genesis 4:7 (NIV)

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.

### 3. Uncontrolled Anger Can Be Deadly

Anger Towards A Person Leads To Sin

But

Anger Toward Sin Leads To Righteousness.

## 4. Sorrow And Regret Are Not Necessarily The Same As Repentance.

Genesis 4:13-14 (NIV)

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

## 5. God's Mercies Are Amazing

Genesis 4:15-16 (NIV)

But the LORD said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.