

The background of the slide is a deep space image featuring a prominent, glowing nebula or galaxy core in shades of orange and yellow, set against a dark, star-filled sky.

# Genesis

The Story of God And Humanity

# Paradise Lost...

The Genesis 3 Version

# Genesis 3 – Both Sad and Significant Is The Reason We Are Here Today

If not for the events of Genesis 3.....

- There would be no Sin.
- There would be no Bible.
- There would be no need of forgiveness.
- There would be no need for a Messiah.
- There would be no need for the Church.

# The Story Of Our Rescue.

From Genesis 3 to Revelation 22,  
the Bible is the story of the conflict that rages  
between God and Satan, and good and evil.  
It is God's revelation of His unfolding plan to restore  
the relationship He desires with and for His creation  
and ultimately usher in His eternal Kingdom.

# It Starts With The Enemy, The Foil Of The Drama

- The Serpent, Genesis 3:1
- A Dragon, Revelation 12
- A Roaring Lion, 1 Peter 5:8
- The Destroyer, Revelation 9:11
- Devil, which means Slanderer, Matthew 4:1
- Satan, which means Adversary, Matthew 4:10

- The Murderer, John 8:44
- The Father of Lies, John 8:44
- The Evil One, Matthew 13:19
- The Prince of this World, John 12:31
- The God of this Age, 2 Corinthians 4:4
- The Ruler of the Kingdom of the Air, Ephesians 2:2
- The Leader of Demonic Forces, Ephesians 6:11-12





And Yes,  
Satan Has Some  
Very Effective Strategies

# Disguise

- He used the body of a serpent, one of God's creatures that God himself had called "good."
- Paul wrote: "...*for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*" 2 Corinthians 11:14
- Satan has false ministers who preach a false gospel.
- He has servants who fake belief and influence weak Christians.



# Challenge and Misrepresentation Of God's Will

*“...One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” Genesis 3:1*

# Substitution Of His Own Message

*“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman.*

*“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”* Genesis 3:4-5 (NLT2)

## Romans 1:25 (NIV)

*“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.”*

### What Was The Lie?

We can be our own god and not suffer any consequences. It is basically, Humanism.

# Satan Introduces People To Shame!

- Shame separates people from each other.
- Shame causes people to hide from God out of fear.
- Shame leads to blaming others for our choices.
- The conscience accuses us when we do wrong and affirms us when we do right.
- Ignore the accusations of the conscience too long and it will become “seared” and will no longer function.

## Jeremiah 8:12 (NIV)

Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct?  
No, they have no shame at all; they do not even  
know how to blush. So they will fall among the  
fallen; they will be brought down when they are  
punished, says the LORD.

# Satan's Strategy Leads Us To Destruction

- God is both love and light. 1 John 4:8; 1:5
- God both loves sinners and hates sin.
- God loves sinners because they are His creation.
- God hates sin because it destroys His creation.
- God provides hope for what He loves.
- God provides a judgment penalty for what He hates.



# The Serpent Is Cursed And Satan Is Sentenced To Death

Genesis 3:14-15 (NIV)

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

# Consequences For The Women

Genesis 3:16 (NLT2)

Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”

\*Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." (3:16b NIV)

# Pain And Desire Become Issues

- Pain In Child Birth Is Increased
  - This is a distortion of God's original intent.
  - Perhaps a reminder of the price of choosing self rule.
- “Desire” and “Dominance” Become Issues
  - “Desire” occurs only 3 times in the Hebrew bible.
  - “Desire” could be to have sexual desire for the husband as seen in Song of Solomon 7:10
  - “Desire” could be related to who Dominates in the relationship as seen in Genesis 4:7

## Genesis 4:6-7 (NLT2 / NIV)

“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.” (NLT2)

\*“...sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.” (NIV)

# This Relational Struggle Over Control Still Exists And Is Evident In Scripture And Life.

- What follows in Genesis echoes these realities.
  - Polygamy exists because of male dominance.
  - Abraham and Isaac put their wives at risk to save their own hides.
  - Sarah persuades Abraham to have a child with Hagar resulting in Ishmael.
  - Rebecca deceives Isaac so Jacob, her favored child, will get Esau's blessing.

# The Curse of Adam

- Gardening becomes a curse without an assured harvest.
- These obstacles to get a harvest would remind Man that disobedience had affected all of creation.
- As he tilled the soil, he was reminded that one day he would die and return to soil from whence he came.





# The New Reality Sets In

## Genesis 3:20-24 (NLT2)

Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live. And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife. Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!”

So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

# Conflict Abounds Because of Sin

- Good and Evil
- God and Man
- Wives and Husbands
- Man and the Soil
- Brother and Brother
- Nation and Nation
- Jew and Gentile

*To say we live in a fallen world is a reality that will challenge life on this planet until Jesus comes again.*

# But, Jesus Offers Peace In The Midst of This World's Conflict

- Jesus preached: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.* Matthew 5:9 (NIV)
- [Jesus] *came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.* Eph. 2:17
- Jesus' most used phrase was: "Peace be with you."
- Beginning with Romans, Paul began his letters with some form of: *"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."*

- And Paul writes: *"...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1 (NIV)*
- Paul concludes Romans...: *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet... Romans 16:20*
- Peter began his message to the Gentiles this way: *You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. Acts 10:36 (NIV)*
- John wrote: *Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. 2 John 1:3 (NIV)*



# Jesus Is God's Answer To This World's Conflict, Caused By Sin.

- What happens in Washington, DC is not the answer to the problems we face. Sometimes it is the problem.
- The USA, while a wonderful place to live, is not the answer to the problems we face.
- The problems we face are not, at their root, political or national. They are spiritual and moral.
- Government cannot and was not commissioned by God to be the answer to those problems.

# Paradise Is Lost, Conflict Reigns

The conflicts we face, whether abortion, injustice, race and gender inequality or any other, will only have a peaceful resolution when hearts are transformed by the Holy Spirit.

These are Kingdom of God issues.

## Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

The Church  
Has Been Commissioned To Proclaim  
And Live Out The Good News Peace.

GO TEACH, LIVE AND LOVE LIKE  
JESUS.