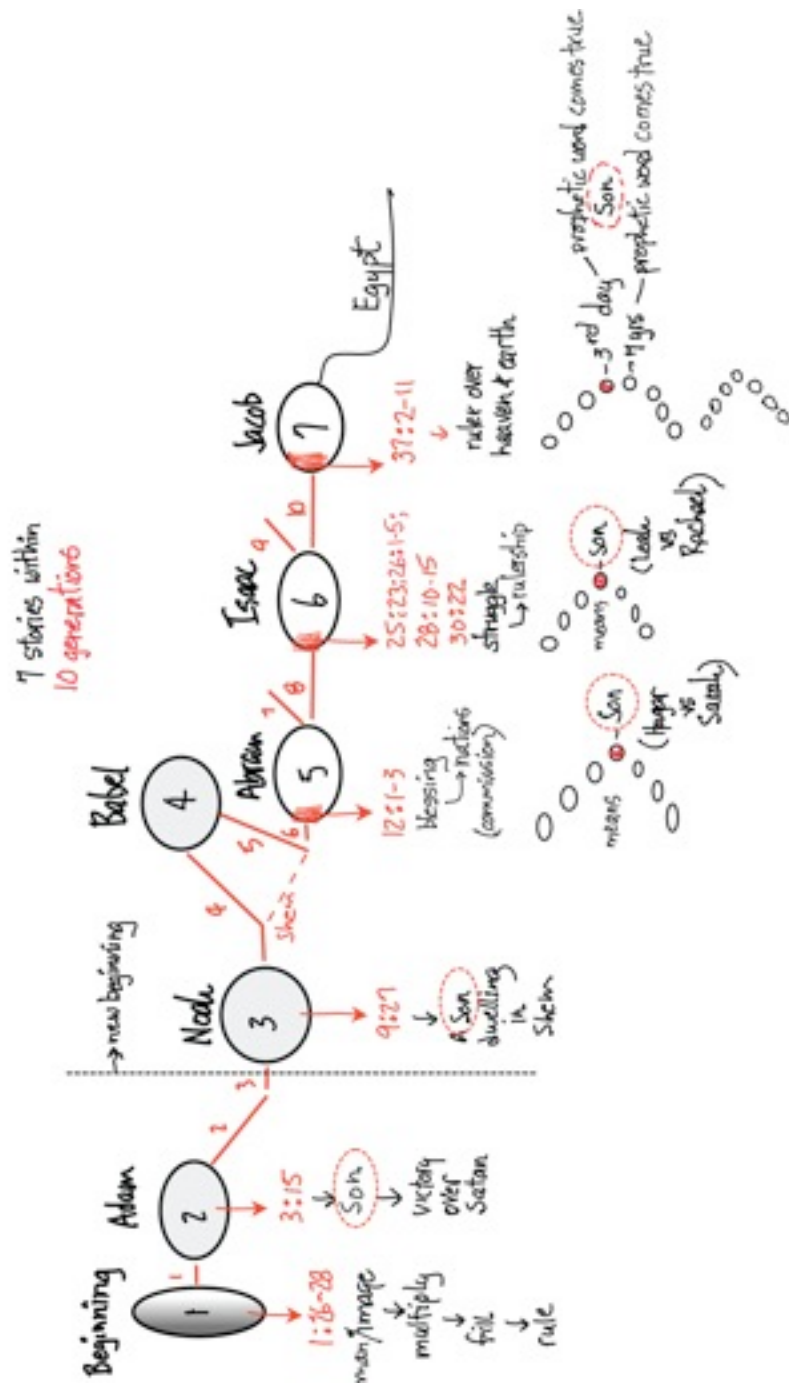


# Module 1–The Story of Early Beginnings

## Genesis--Beginnings



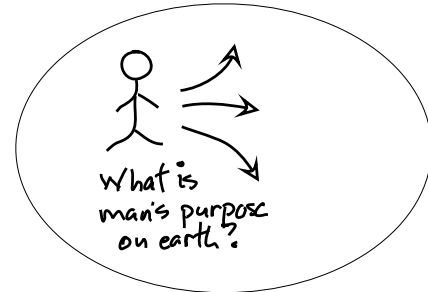
# A SON IN GOD'S IMAGE RESTORING THE EARTH FROM SATANIC CORRUPTION

## 1- God "Fathers" A New Beginning—Mankind in His Image

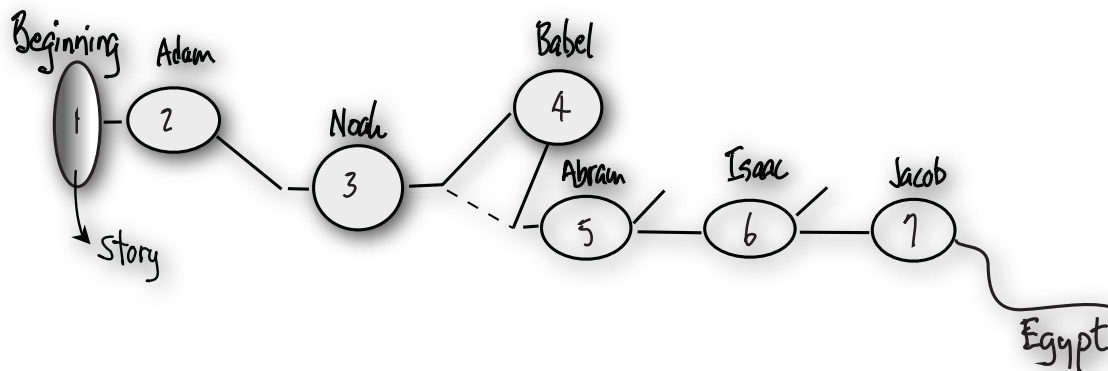
(Genesis 1:1-2:3)

### Draw out existing perspective

1. How do most people in your community think about the origins of mankind?
2. Do you think Gen 1 is primarily talking about the beginning of the universe or a new beginning for the earth and the heavens out of a state of destruction and chaos?



Key: Gen 1:26-28



### Introduction and Context

The opening account in this story pictures God at work creating out of chaos and disorder a place where a man and woman, created in God's image, are blessed to multiply, fill the land, and govern over all living creatures within this new heavens and new earth.

### Step 1: What is God revealing?

📖 Read Gen 1:1-2:3

1. What is foundational in this view of the world and man's place and role within it? How does it differ from the picture of the world within the culture in which you are working?
2. What does this story teach me about God, man and the nature of His creative work?

3. What purpose statements are found in this story?

### [Foundational Revelation]

- God creates this new beginning out of chaos and disorder (Hebrew: *tohu, bohu*).
- He accomplishes this work through the *power of His word* (a word announced and then fulfilled; a word that names (owns) and evaluates as good).
- Day's 1-3 He creates "bounded" realms by *separating*: light from darkness; water above from water below; and land from sea.
- Day's 4-6 He creates "bodies" that fulfill a purpose within those realms: heavenly bodies to rule the day and night; birds and fish to rule the sky and sea; animals, man, and plants to fill the land, and man ruling over all living creatures.
- As a climax to God's creative activity, He creates man and woman in His own *likeness*, to multiply after *His own kind*, and to *fill* the land with *His rule* and *dominion*.
- It's a work that is completed and users in a day that is blessed for rest.

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### Step 2: Focus and Reflection

1. What is man's purpose in this new creation (Gen 1:26-28)?
2. What is the nature and meaning of this *image*? The New Testament (after man's image has become corrupt through allegiance to evil) will describe the transformation of this corrupt image into the *likeness* of God through Christ (Col 3:9-11; Eph 4:20-24). How does man's image change?
3. What is the relationship between *image* and *rulership*?
4. Why do you think God is creating a man *in His own image*?

### Step 3: Application with Missiological Insight

1. Central to ***God's purpose for His creation*** is the filling of the earth with His image reflected in men and women who administrate ***His rule in wisdom*** and love over the earth. This rule and will is in ***conflict*** with a counter kingdom which we see in Gen 3. In what ways do you see this purpose of God thwarted in your community?
2. A people's understanding of themselves and their place and purpose in the creation is rooted in their *worldview*. ***So what is a worldview?*** Derive the basic foundations of the worldview reflected in Gen 1. Who is God? What is the nature of our world? Who is man? What is God's purpose behind what he has created?
3. The Creation Story portrays the world and man's place in it differently from how we often view our world. How does it differ? How might the worldview within this story modify, restore, challenge, or transform our perspective on our world?

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## Training Topics in the Story

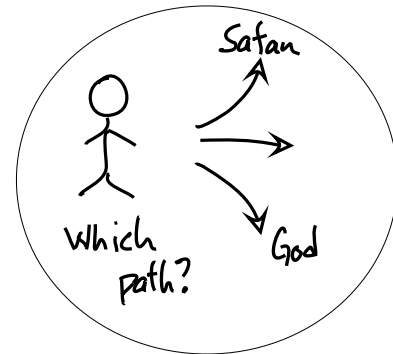
- man's identity
- man's purpose
- God's word (Jn 1:1)
- image or likeness
- DNA replication
- astrology and its error
- vegetarianism
- Why Genesis? Israel understanding the meaning of its deliverance
- wisdom from heaven vs. wisdom of man
- glory of God
- relationship of rulership with wisdom
- order, design
- a people's worldview

## 2- Adam and Eve Believe Satanic Infectious Nonsense and Corrupt Their Way

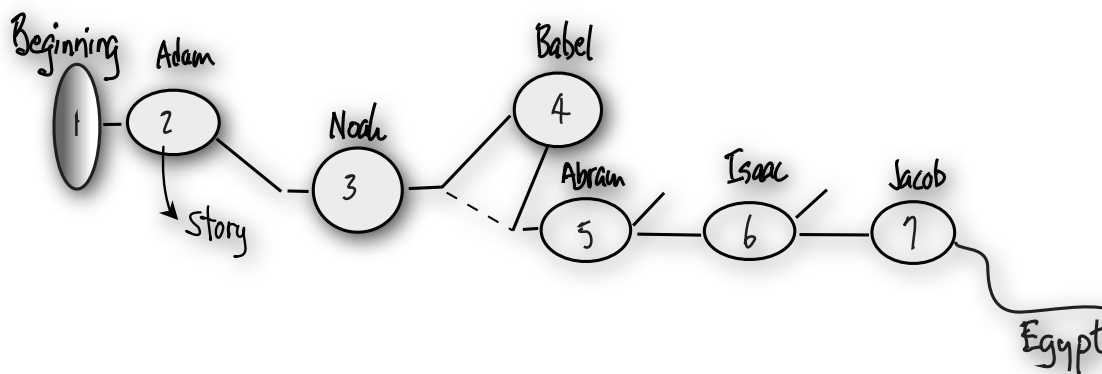
(Gen 2:25-3:24)

### Draw out existing perspective

1. What is man's most fundamental problem? Is he born with this problem? Why or why not?
2. What would be an ideal solution (in your mind) as to how to solve man's most fundamental problem?



Key: Gen 3:15



### Introduction and Context

Man is created out of the dust of the ground and the breath of life (from God) is breathed into him (Gen 2). He's put in a *God-provided place*—a garden. There, trees grow out of the ground *to provide food for man*. A river flows through the garden to water the ground and give man drink. In the middle of the garden are two special trees—the tree of **Life** and the tree of the **Knowledge of Good and Evil**. The name of each tree is symbolic of its fruit. Eat from the tree of Life and live. Eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and gain knowledge of good and evil.

In this place God gives man *a command*. His obedience will exercise God's Lordship of this place. The command is to *work* (serve/worship) and *take care of* (guard/obey) the garden. He must not eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Apparently God does not want man to discern good from evil on his own, apart from God. Man does not have the ability to maintain what is good and what is evil apart from God. God holds this standard for man.

He also gives man a *wo*-man as a *helpmate*—one also created *in God's image* to be man's companion—to be his helper. Together they reflect the image of God. Together they are *naked* and *without shame* (in Hebrew, *arom*), but then something tragic happens. A counter Satanic kingdom comes on the scene in opposition to God's purpose for man.

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## Step 1: What is God revealing?

 (Read Gen 2:25-3:24)

1. What do you feel went wrong in this story?
2. Why did this happen?
3. What is God's solution to this problem?

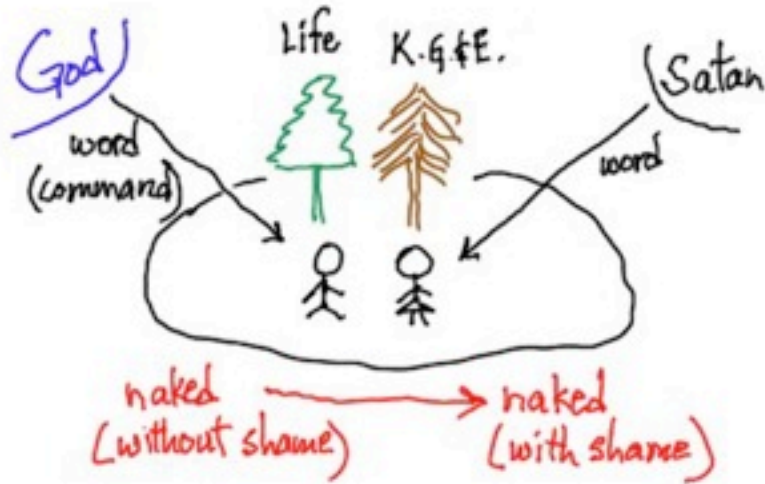
### [Foundational Revelation]

- The Serpent who tempts is crafty, like a snake. *Crafty* in Hebrew (“*arum*”) sounds like the word for “naked with shame” (*erom*). He schemes to sow doubt in God's word. He tempts to thwart God's purpose with man. He opposes God.
- At the heart of his temptation is an appeal for man to become like God; to become wise on his own terms, to believe the lie that Satan has man's best interest in mind rather than God.
- Before this tragedy, man was naked *without* shame (“*arom*”). After he violates God's command, man becomes naked *with* shame (“*erom*”). He fears God's presence. He hides. He blames. He's exchanged his glory for another. He becomes alienated (naked with shame) in relationship to His Creator and his own wife.
- This helpless condition of man needs *covering* and *restoration*.
- God responds with three words: a word to Satan, a word to the woman, and a word to man. These three words disclose the destiny of man on earth. But God will restore and overcome all that Satan has done.

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## Step 2: Focus and Reflection

1. What was the *process* by which Eve yielded to Satan's temptation?
2. *How* will God overcome this work of Satan?
3. Man's shame must be covered. Man's alienation must be restored and healed. Satan's work must be destroyed. God has a plan to accomplish this. What is it?
4. The conflict between God and the Devil and who will rule becomes the heart of the Biblical Story (Col 1:12-14). **Could it be that God created man in His image to drive out and defeat this Evil One who is corrupting God's design and purpose on earth?** (*Jn 8:42-44; 2 Cor 11:3,14; Rev 12*). How will God win!



### Step 3: Application with Missiological Insight

1. There is a relationship between *image* and *rulership* in the Biblical Story. Reflect on these verses and more will be learned as we get into the Greater Biblical story.
  - ▶ Ps 115: we become like what we worship (or trust). What do people trust in for life where you live?
  - ▶ Heb 1:3: Jesus is the exact representation of God's image; He's the one in whom we are being transformed. As we come under his rulership and bring near his kingdom in

- relationship to others, we represent him (Lk 10:9). In what ways might we do this more faithfully where you live?
- ▶ Col 3:10: our new self (image) is being renewed in the knowledge of the *image* of its Creator. What does this enable us to do? Why is God filling the earth with this image?
  - ▶ Joseph in Egypt gained wisdom from God in interpreting dreams. He exercised this wisdom over the earth and blessed nations. How does this example of Joseph reflect God's purpose for us?
2. How do we understand *sin* in different cultures?
  3. Those who become part of the mission of the Son will find themselves *in conflict with Evil* and working with the Son to destroy the works of Satan. Can you envision areas in your world where Satan's work needs to be overcome with the Kingdom of light?
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### Training Topics in the Story

- meaning of "put" (Gen 2:15)—root to the idea of witness
- image of God
- mankind's problem
- a people's story of their origins
- lie vs. truth
- knowledge of good and evil
- definitions of sin
- relational alienation
- poetry and the structure of a people's language
- nakedness
- deception
- craftiness
- wisdom
- evil and Satan
- Kingdom conflict
- rationalization
- shame
- blame
- hiding
- covering