

# GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

*STUDY 5  
THE FALL OF MAN  
REJECTING A GOOD GOD*



# THE ANATOMY OF TEMPTATION

1. Temptation always involves a loss of trust
2. Temptation originates from a loss of Identity
3. Temptation is ultimately a test of love

**REJECTING A GOOD GOD**



Genesis 3: 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.





Wadjet, the patron goddess of lower Egypt

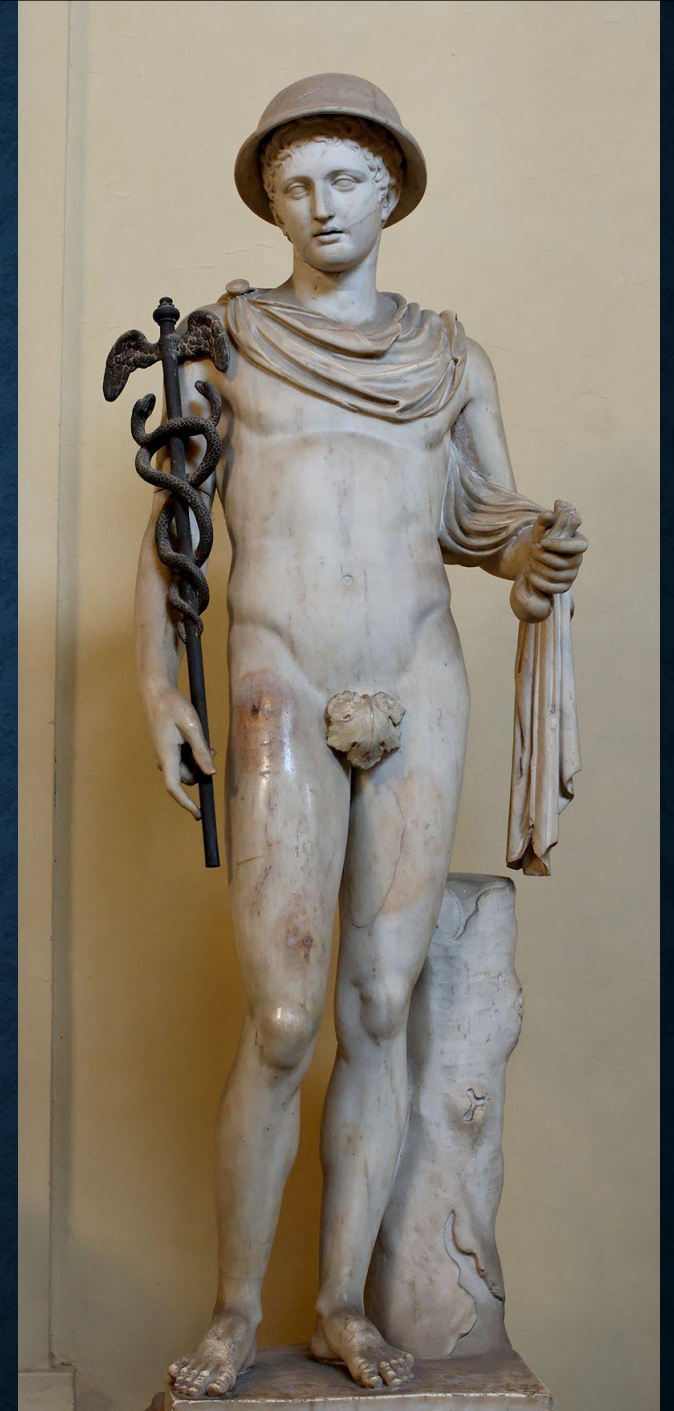
Serpent was considered a wise and magical creature





Ningishzida..Sumerian god

Greek god Hermes with  
caduceus...twin snakes  
representing NIngishzida






Genesis 3: 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.



# A. EROSION OF TRUST BEGINS WITH DOUBT

A close-up photograph of a woman with long dark hair and green eye makeup looking intently at a snake. The snake is a light-colored species with dark, irregular markings and is coiled around a wooden post. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Gen 3: 1b He said to the woman, “Did  
God actually say, ‘You shall not eat  
of any tree in the garden’ ?”



# DOUBTS CAUSED BY INADEQUATE VIEWS OF GOD

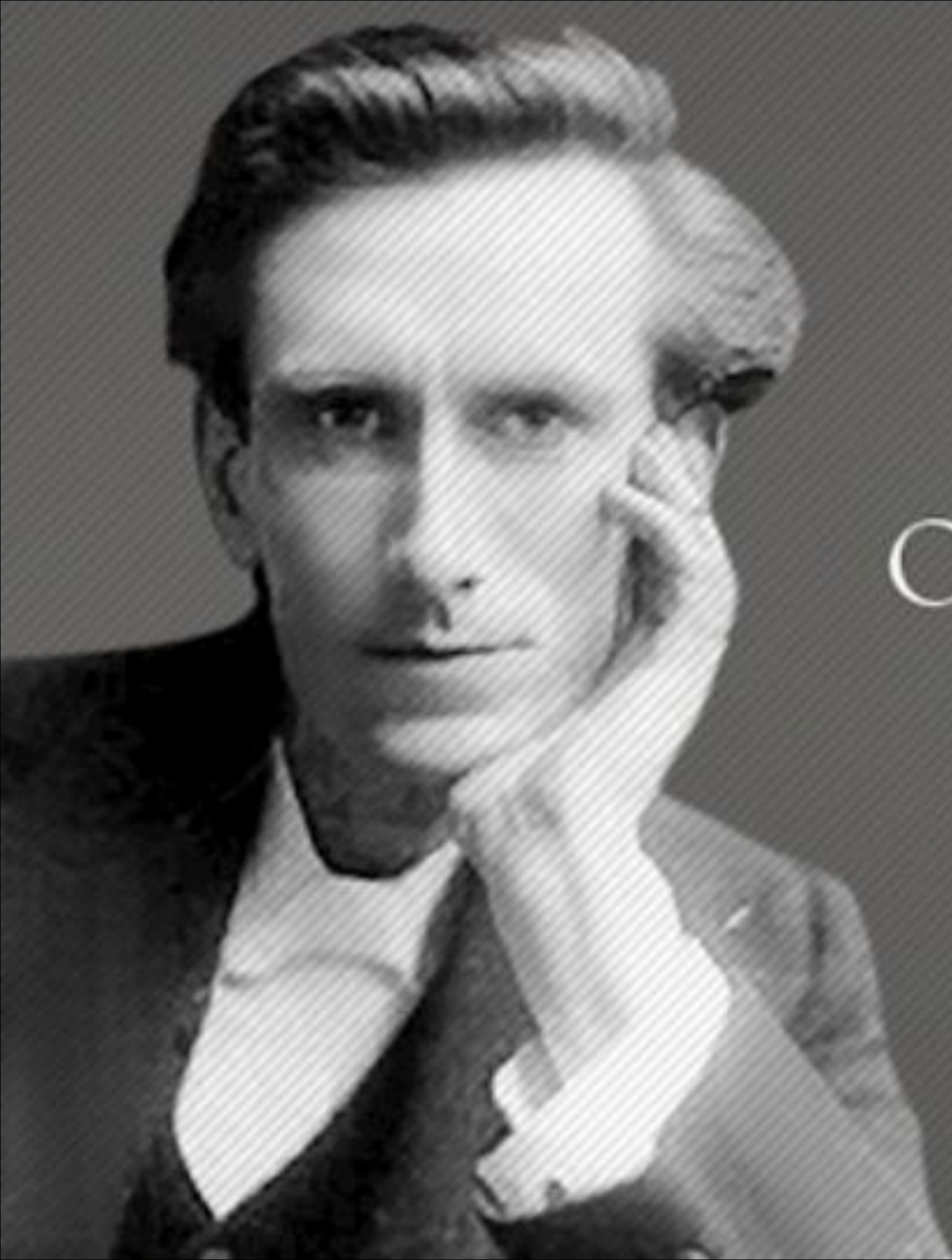
Power but no love

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Mark 1:40

Love but no power

And he said, “From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Mark 9: 22





# OSWALD CHAMBERS

1874-1917

*“All sin is rooted in the  
suspicion that God is not  
very good”*



# THE INFLUENCE OF SECULAR SOCIETY

HANNAH CLARKE AND THREE CHILDREN MURDERED BY FATHER IN CAR  
SET ABLAZE 2021



Hannah Baxter

*“So why does the Liberal Government do so little to reduce violence against women and children? Part of the issue lies in Morrison’s Pentecostal belief system — it preaches that women must submit to their husbands be subordinate to them. Pentecostalism has many strains. In some, it is even acceptable to discipline an insubordinate wife with violence*

“



# CONFESSIONS OF AN ATHEIST: WHY I LEFT THE FAITH

MALAYSIAN CHRONICLE  
FRIDAY, 07 NOVEMBER 2014 15:08

I don't have to try to fit in the divine when science can explain the way the world works. ....Most of all, I don't have to bother reconciling my idea of women's rights and the sexist notions in Christianity and other major religions. If other women are happy being submissive to their husbands because the bible tells them to do so, that's up to them. But at least now, I can choose not to and I'm free to seek a more egalitarian relationship outside the misogynistic boundaries of religion.

I found freedom in atheism, the freedom to think.











## EROSION OF TRUST PROGRESSES TO DOUBT GODS MOTIVES

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’ ?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



# TRICKIER ISSUES OF BALANCE

Holiness of God

Love of God

Justice of God

Grace of God

Sovereignty of God

Free will /Responsible  
man



## 2.THE DEVIL ALWAYS EXPLOITS VULNERABLE AREAS OF OUR LIVES

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

Why would Eve say that?



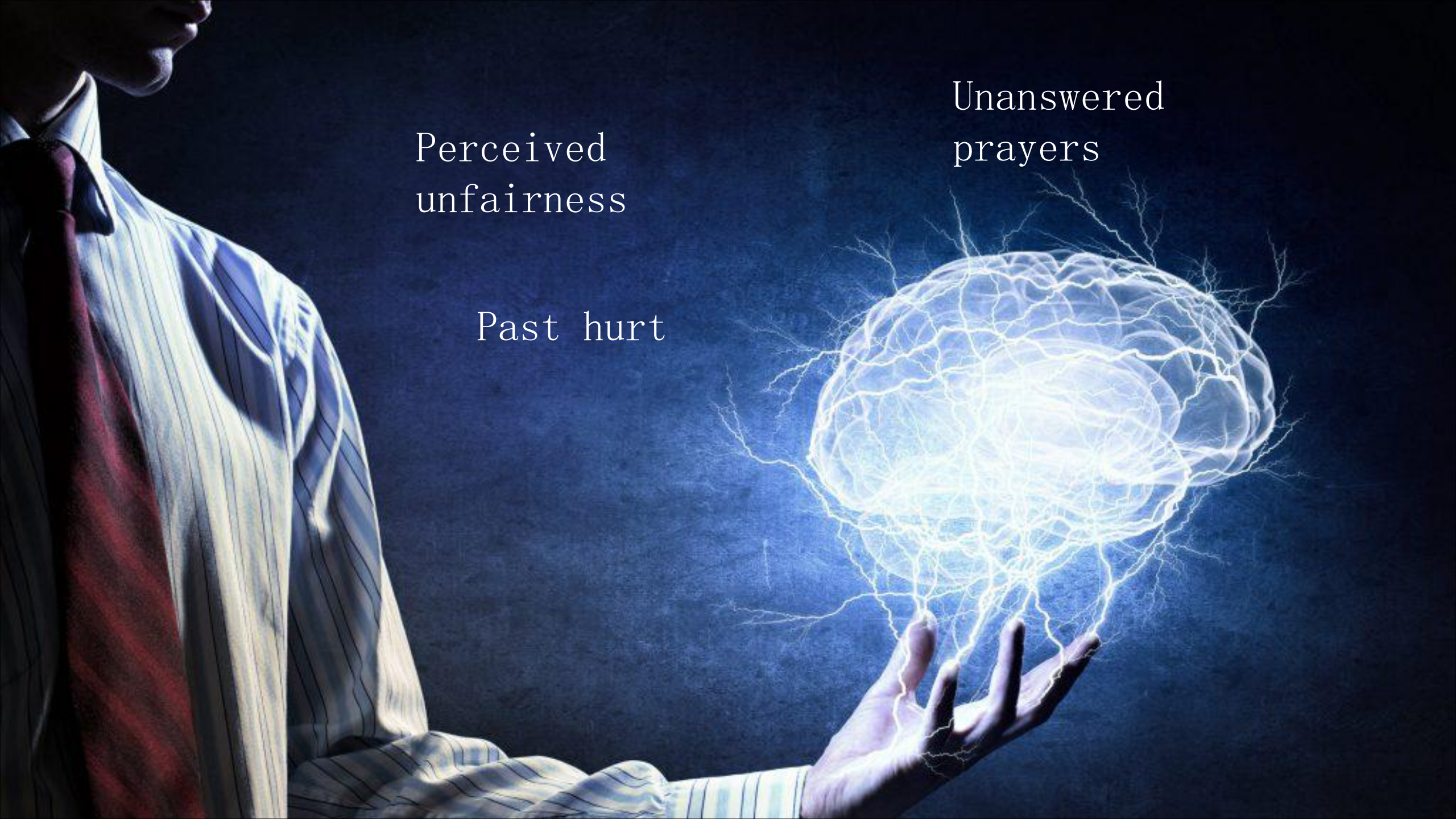
# THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TEMPTATION

*‘We are tempted to do only what we can do. It is not what is put into the mind, so much as the use made of ideas already there, that constitutes temptation;’*

Prof John Adams, Univ London 1906

The Biblical World Vol 27, , No. 2 (Feb., 1906), pp. 88-98 (11 pages)Published by: The University of Chicago Press





Perceived  
unfairness

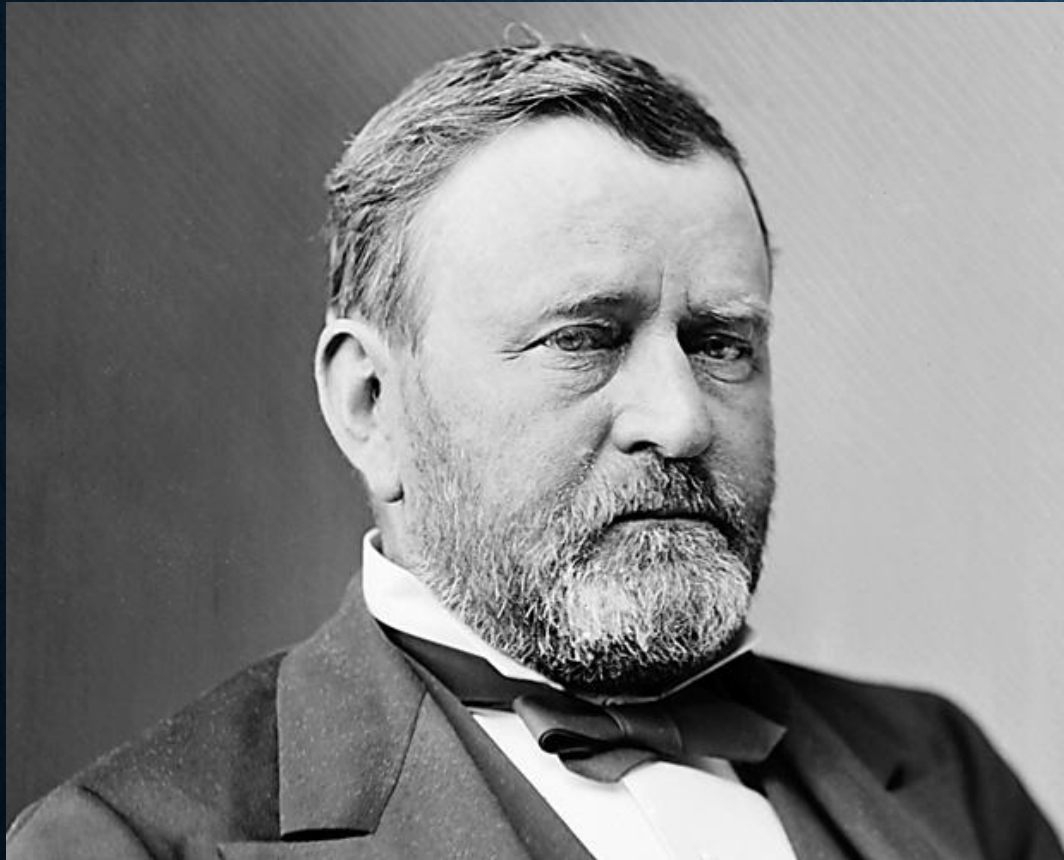
Unanswered  
prayers

Past hurt

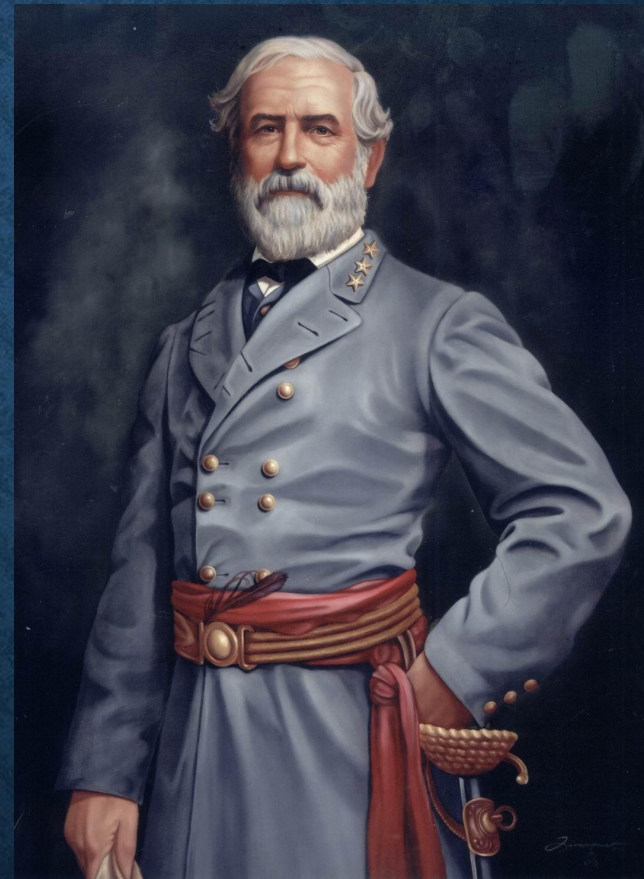


IT'S NEVER GOING TO MAKE ANY SENSE BECAUSE OF IT IS HIS PLAN AND NOT YOURS

# CONFEDERATE ARMY VS UNION



Ulysses S Grant- hard drinking swearing man



Robert E Lee devout Christian



Stonewall Jackson



Verdict—” Chayav”

**GOD ON TRIAL**  
BBC FILM 2008  
FRANK COTTRELL BOYCE





ing

g

ng



The role of blessings in our lives is not to mark the trail to our own successful lives but to let us feel the tangible reality of His love ...like a hug , or money ...to show us He cares not to help us build our empire



### 3. THE BEST LIES WILL OFTEN HAVE AN ELEMENT OF TRUTH

4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



A close-up photograph of a couple's hands held together in a heart shape. The woman's hands are on the left and right sides, and the man's hands are in the center. They are wearing white lace-trimmed sleeves. The man is wearing a gold watch on his left wrist. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white.

# GETTING MARRIED TO UNBELIEVER

All

true

- Marriage is a good thing
- God wants me to be happy
- God has a future for me
- Not many suitable Christian mates around
- We will bring kids to Sunday school
- I will bring my spouse to Alpha



**NOTHING  
IS ALLOWED TO  
UNBELIEVER**

## Also true

2 Cor 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols?



## 4. IT DOWNPLAYS CONSEQUENCES- DELIBERATE LIE

3 but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Making decisions without knowing the eternal consequences



# 5. MAKING US LOOSE PERSPECTIVE

## COMPARING THE TWO TEMPTATIONS





# IT MAKES US LOOSE PERSPECTIVE

- Garden of Eden: all the blessing in the world
- Wilderness: none the blessings in the world

If only God would heal me or provide me with promotion then I would serve Him





Eve's mind



An aerial photograph of a vast, dense green forest. A narrow, light-colored path winds through the trees from the upper right towards the center. In the lower right corner, a dark, calm body of water is visible. The overall scene is lush and verdant.

Reality



Nehemiah 9: And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.<sup>26</sup> “Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.



# TEMPTATION ALWAYS INVOLVES A LOSS OF TRUST

Features we need to recognise

- a. Erosion of trust begins with doubt
- b. The Devil exploits vulnerable areas of our lives
- c. The best lies always have an element of truth
- d. It downplays consequences
- e. It makes us lose perspective



# THE ANATOMY OF TEMPTATION

1. Temptation always involves a loss of trust

2. Temptation originates from a loss of

Identity

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# THE ISSUE IS IDENTITY: WHO YOU ARE DETERMINES HOW YOU LIVE

Gen 3: 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them

Luke 3: 38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Matt 4: 3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is



# THE ISSUE IS IDENTITY: WHO YOU ARE DETERMINES HOW YOU LIVE

Matt 3: 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



# TEMPTATION :WHO ARE YOU?

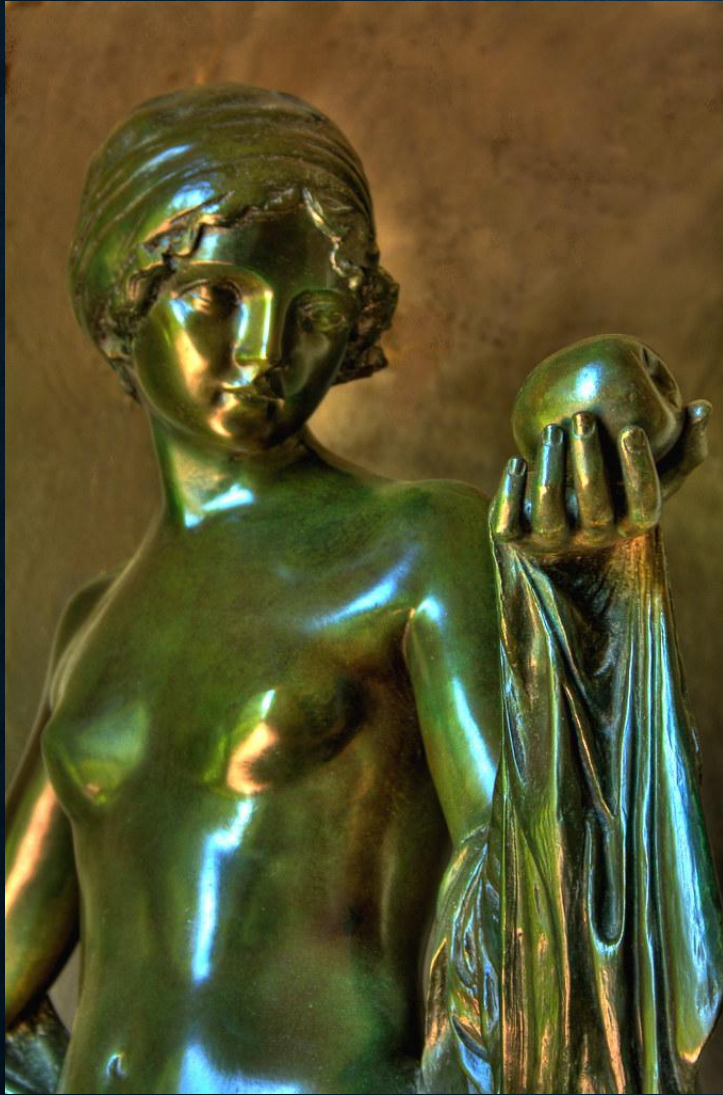
## Adam and Eve

- Denied their identity
- Unfaithful to the Word of God
- Outcome: Death

## Jesus

- Affirmed His Identity
- Faithful to the Word of God
- Outcome :Life





## THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL POSSIBLE MEANINGS

1. Man knows evil by giving into it ,  
God knows evil by resisting it
2. Patient know disease by experiencing  
it and doctor knows disease and  
healthy



### 3. THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS EVIL

- Genesis 31:24 <sup>24</sup> God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream of the night and said to him, "Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad."
- Genesis 24:50 <sup>50</sup> Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The matter comes from the LORD; *so* we cannot speak to you bad or good.





# WHO IS SHE GOING TO BELIEVE?

Data set-evidence

- good for food
- delight to the eyes
- make one wise,

God

Her own wisdom

Issue is identity.... as  
creature —image of  
God ...instead attempts to be god



# HOW WE DECIDE ON ULTIMATE TRUTH

Scientists –By observation

Philosophers –By logic



*Skeptic = "Truth is unknowable,"  
as ultimate truth*



*Postmodernists = "There is no such thing*

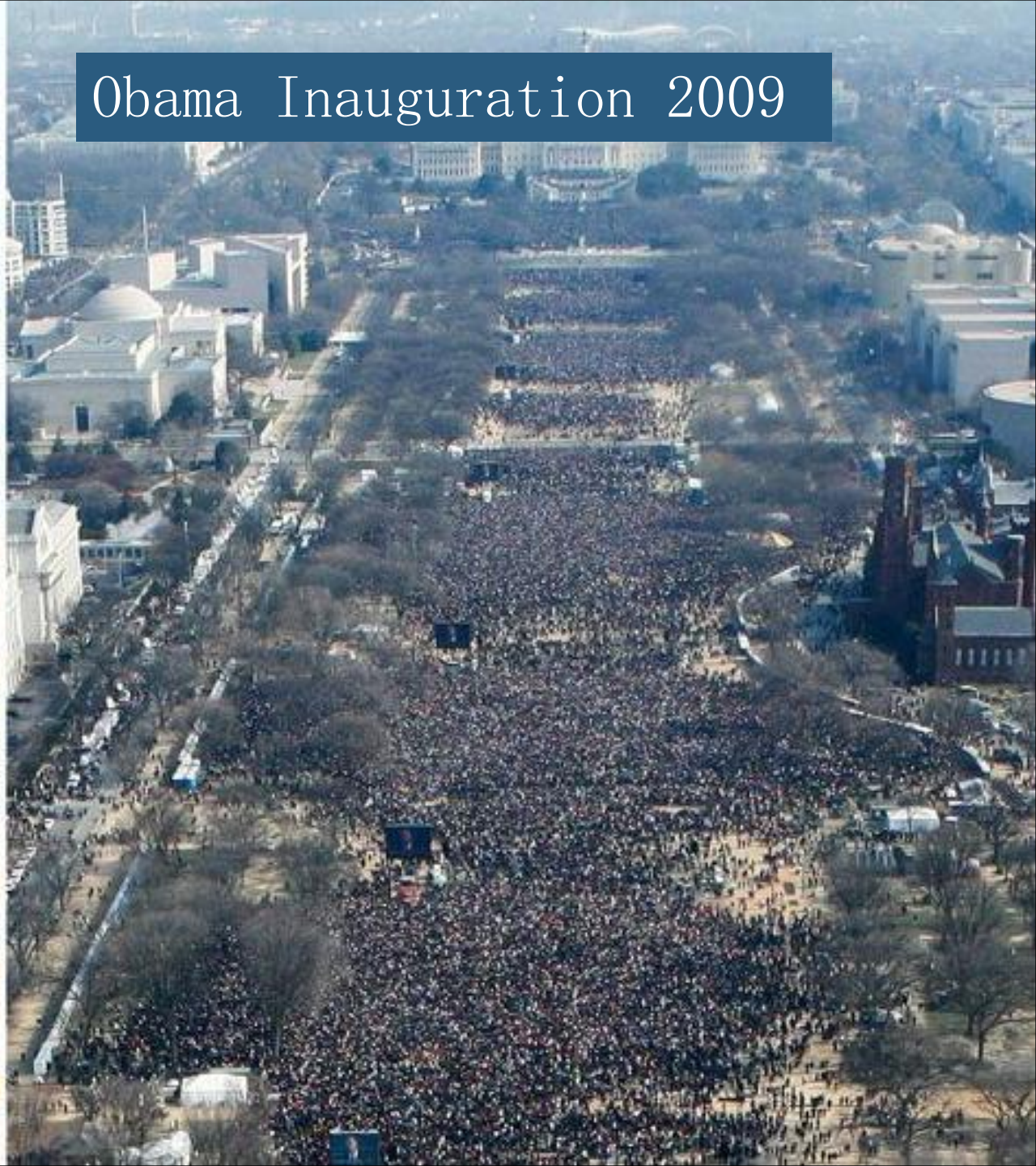
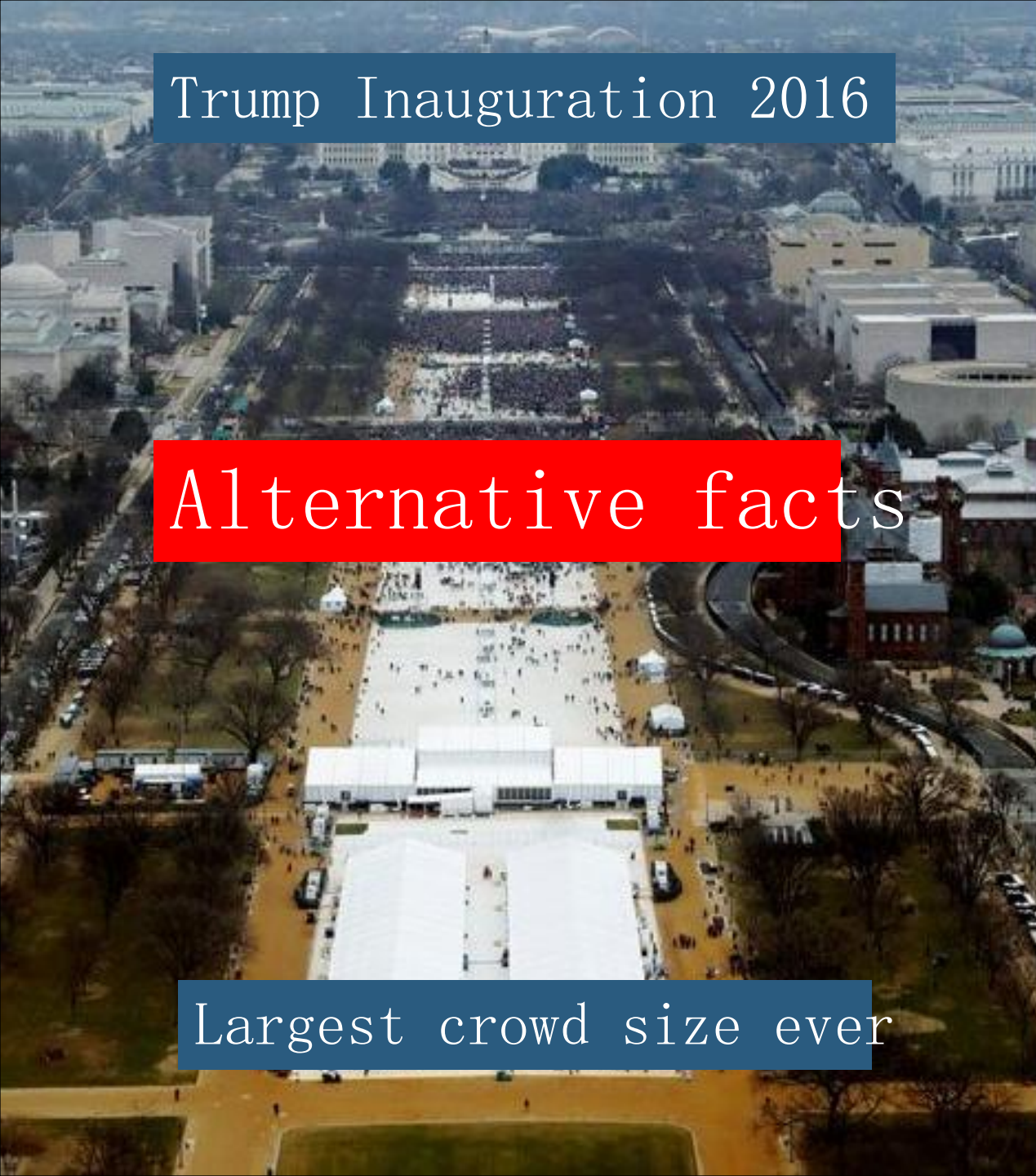


Trump Inauguration 2016

Alternative facts

Largest crowd size ever

Obama Inauguration 2009





## BEHAVIOR LINKED TO NEW IDENTITY

Colossians 3:9–10 (ESV) 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:12 (ESV) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience



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# SIMILARITIES IN TEMPTATIONS

## Adam and Eve

Genesis 3

## Jesus

Matt 4 and Luke 4

## Us

1 John 2

Good for food

Hunger

Delight to the eyes

Sight of the  
spectacular

Make one wise,

Glory of the kingdoms

Desires of the flesh

Desire of the eyes

Pride of life

1 Cor 10: 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.



## THE ISSUE IS LOVE

1 John 2: 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.



# ISN'T THIS WHAT GOD GAVE

☐ Desires of the flesh

☐ Desire of the eyes

☐ Pride of life..desire  
for glory





# DESIRE IS NEUTRAL

Always an issue of  
trust

Legitimate Desires



- Food
- Safety
- Respect
- Loyalty
- Love



# SIN

Illegitimate  
Desires



- Gluttony
- Lust
- Greed
- Revenge
- Love



# TWO OCCASIONS OF TEMPTATIONS OF LEGITIMATE DESIRES

Taking matters in his own hands in order to prove his Sonship—betray the trust of God



Disobedience for safety



Image by Waiting For The Word under CC BY 2.0





The Grim Tale of  
*Ananias*  
and  
*Sapphira*





# WHAT WE DO WITH DESIRES

## INDULGE IT

## AVOID

## REPRESS



Can't trust God  
God wants me to be  
miserable



Can't trust the goodness of God  
Live good lives to compel God to bless





Sign posts

Desires of the  
flesh

Desire of the  
eyes

Pride of life-  
desire for glory

**PURPOSE OF  
DESIRE**







## *SIGN POSTS TO GOD*

Genesis 2:9 (ESV) And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



# DESIRE IS WHAT GOD USES TO BRING US TO HIMSELF.

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4).

Our desires for God revealed in our ...

- Incomplete satisfaction
- Vulnerability



A black and white portrait of C.S. Lewis, looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a collared shirt and tie.

## CS LEWIS

It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased” (The Weight Of Glory, pp. 1-2).



# HARRY SCHAUMBURG

*Counselor specializing in the area of sexual sin*

*God's action is severe in that He gives us over not only to our desires but to a condition of ungovernable desires. We demand, God steps back. We choose to regulate our lives rather than honoring and obeying God; we lose the ability to regulate our desires (False Intimacy, p. 59).*





## THE FALL

Genesis 3:6 (ESV) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.



13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death

(James 1:13–15 ESV)



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# OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

## IDENTITY

Galatians 2:20  
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me to be saved by him from the wrath of God.



# WE NEED TO REALISE OUR TRUE IDENTITY

Chosen  
Race

Sons of God

Royal Priesthood

Heirs

Holy Nation

Gods new  
creation



People for his own possession,



# WHERE DO WE BASE OUR IDENTITY ON?

What Christ has done

*We don't battle Satan mainly by what we determine to do, but by declaring what Jesus has already done.*



How popular you are

How godly you are

How clever you are

What you have achieved

How hard working you are

How much you have sacrificed

How big is your church