



Trouble in Paradise

Genesis 3:1-24

Summary of “The Fall”



God forbids Adam from eating from “The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” in the garden of Eden. Tempted by a serpent, Eve eats the fruit and shares it with Adam. This disobedience causes them to gain knowledge of evil, feel shame, and get expelled from Eden—introducing sin, suffering, and mortality to humanity.

Genesis 2:16-17



“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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.”

(ESV)

Genesis 3:1-4



“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 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.’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will ...”

Genesis 3:4-7



“not surely die. For God knows that when 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, 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. Then the eyes of both were ...”

Genesis 3:7-10



“opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid ...’”

Genesis 3:10-14



“because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.’ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, ...’”

Genesis 3:14-16



“cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.’ To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he ...”

Genesis 3:16-19



“‘shall rule over you.’ And to Adam he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were ...”

Genesis 3:19-23



“taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’ The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever’— therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden ..”

Genesis 3:23



“of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”

(ESV)



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The Serpent (Satan)

“The serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field” (3:1)

The Serpent was Satan



- “The ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan” (Rev 12:9, 15)
- “The serpent who deceived Eve by his cunning ... for Satan disguises himself ...” (2 Cor 11:3; 14)
- “You are of your father the devil ... from the beginning ... he is a liar and the father of lies” (Jn 8:44)

Three Questions



- **Why is Eve not shocked when the serpent speaks?**

Three Questions



- Why is Eve not shocked when the serpent speaks?
- **When were the angels (i.e. Satan) created?**
 - We cannot say with certainty.
 - The Book of Job, however, describes the angels worshiping God as he created our physical world.

Three Questions



- Why is Eve not shocked when the serpent speaks?
- When were the angels created?
- **When did Satan fall?**
 - God created everything good: including angels.
 - Satan once ranked among the archangels.
 - At some point he fell from his position as one of God's chief angels (Cf. 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6:1; and possibly, Isa 14:3-17; Ezek 28:11-19)

Views of Satan and the Snake *genesis*

- Satan commandeered the body of a physical snake and spoke through that reptile.
- Satan only appeared as a snake.
- The Hebrew term “Serpent” (*hanachash*) should be viewed as a proper name for Satan, and no actual snake was involved.

Views of Satan and the Curse *genesis*

“Cursed are you ... above all ... on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.” (Gen 3:14, ESV)

- **Some:** This is a literal curse on physical snakes.
- **Others:** This should be seen as a descriptive depiction of the humiliation of Satan.

Micah 7:16-17 (cf. Isa 65:25)

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“The nations ... shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth.”

(ESV)

Genesis 3:15



“I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (ESV)

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The Temptation (the lie)

“You will surely not die ... you will be
like God” (3:4)

Satan's Temptation Strategy *genesis*

- Eve had not heard the prohibitive command directly, but learned it 2nd hand.
- Eve was initially alone at the time of temptation.
- Eve was in full sight of the tree, and it was pleasing.
- Satan wanted Eve to question God's Word.
 - "Did God actually say ...?" (3:1)

Genesis 3:4

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“You will not surely die.”

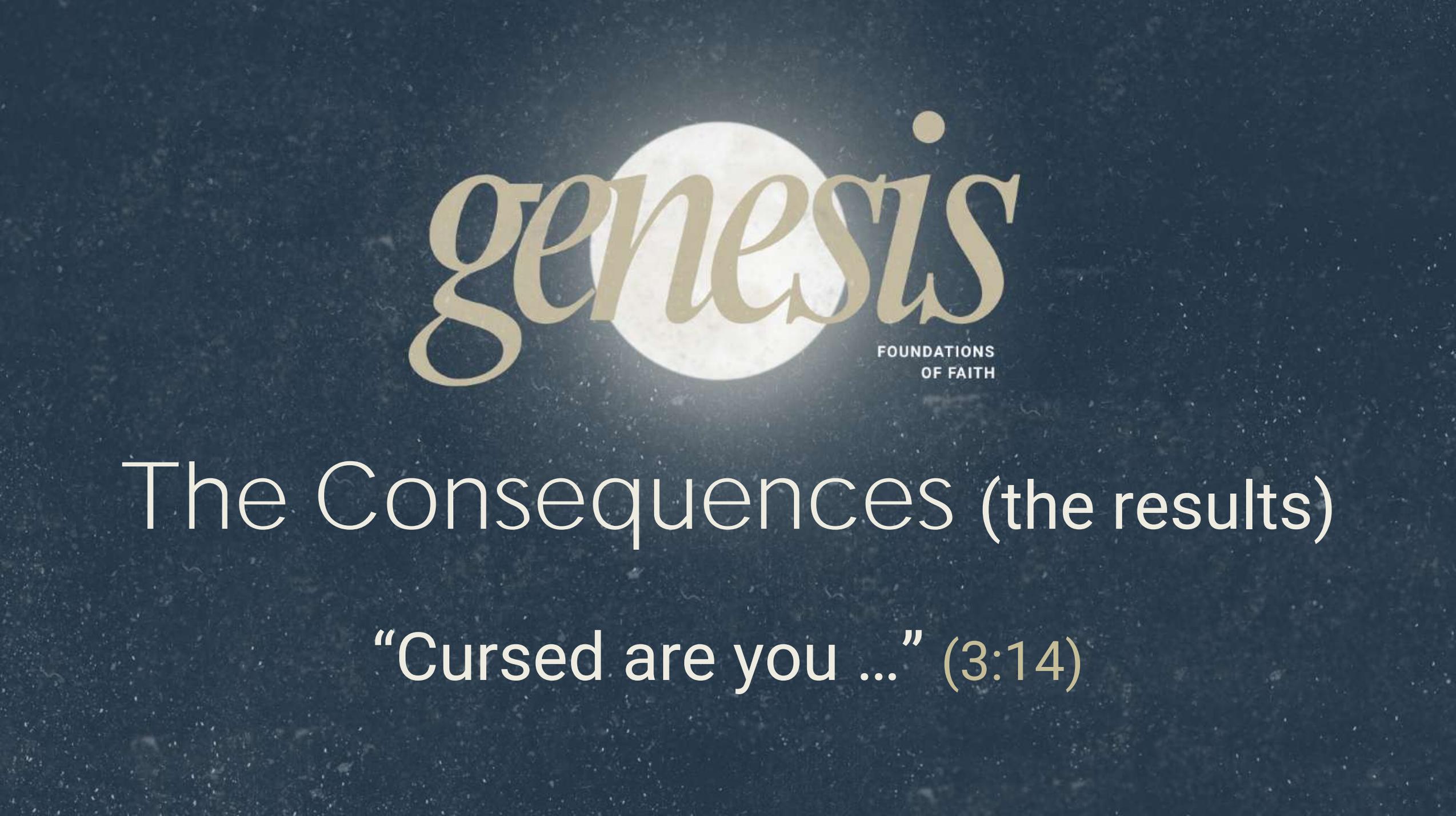
(ESV)

• Literally, “No, not true that you will die.”

Genesis 3:5

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“God knows ... your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (ESV)



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The Consequences (the results)

“Cursed are you ...” (3:14)

Not what they expected



- They realized their mortality.
- They realized they were naked.
- They were innocent, but now are guilty.
- They displayed cunning and cleverness, but not the God-like wisdom Satan promised.
- They lost fellowship with God.
- They developed self-justification.

1. The Punishment of the Serpent



- “Cursed are you above” (Heb: “*min*”—apart from, separate from) the animals
 - The curse is directed at Satan himself, the snake was an innocent vehicle of Satan.
 - The curse will bring enmity

2. The Punishment of the Woman



- As a part of the woman's punishment, she would experience "increased pain."
 - "I will multiply (Heb: 'issābōn) your pain in childbearing" (3:16, ESV)

3. The Punishment of the Man



- **“You will eat”** is used 3X in association with the curse (3:14, 17, 18).
- **Ongoing problems:**
 - The ground was cursed and Adam would have to toil for his food.
 - Adam would also experience “increased pain.”
 - Uneatable plants and weeds would multiply.
 - Life would become difficult.
 - The earth would eventually reclaim man’s body.

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The Proteuangelion

“I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Gen 3:15)

Offspring (*zera*)



- Literally, “seed”
- Used 59 times in Genesis.
 - Throughout Genesis, “seed” refers to the male’s contribution.
 - In Genesis 3:15, however, we find “the seed of the woman” which refers specifically to a miraculous, virgin-born descendant (Jesus).

Galatians 3:16; 4:4-5

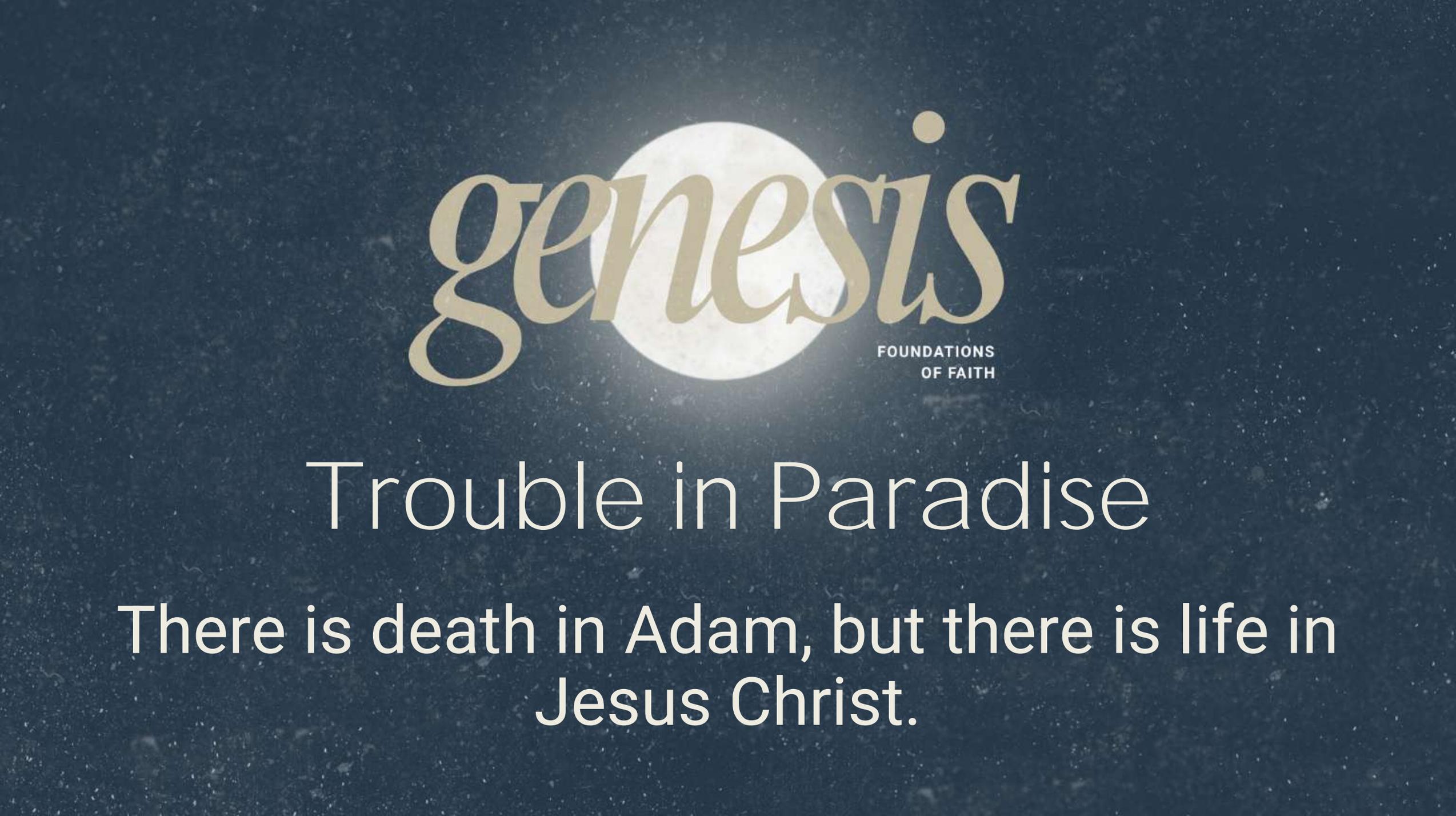


“Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, ‘And to offsprings,’ referring to many, but referring to one, ‘And to your offspring,’ who is Christ .. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” (ESV)

Romans 5:12, 17, 19



“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin ... much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ ... For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” (ESV)



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Trouble in Paradise

There is death in Adam, but there is life in
Jesus Christ.

Next Steps



- I am grateful that God's plan has always been Jesus Christ
- Knowing that Satan uses doubt, deception and isolation, I will:
 - Seek Godly community
 - Rely on God's word
 - Ask God to transform my mind
 - Choose to follow God's path