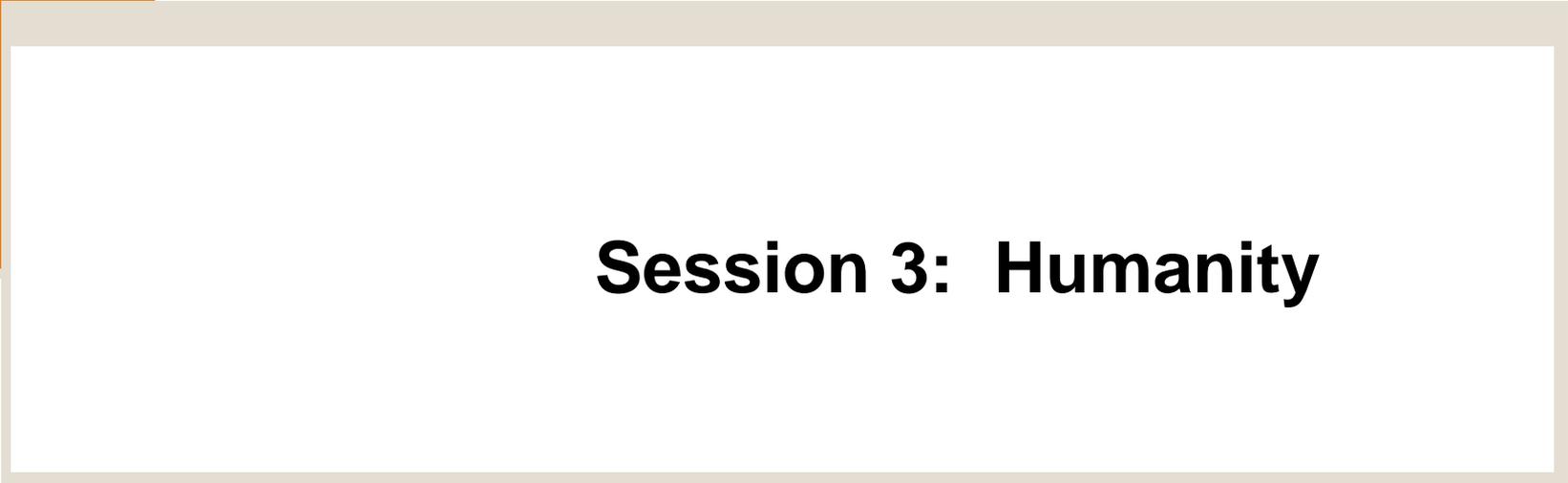




Foundations:

Basic Christian Teachings



Session 3: Humanity

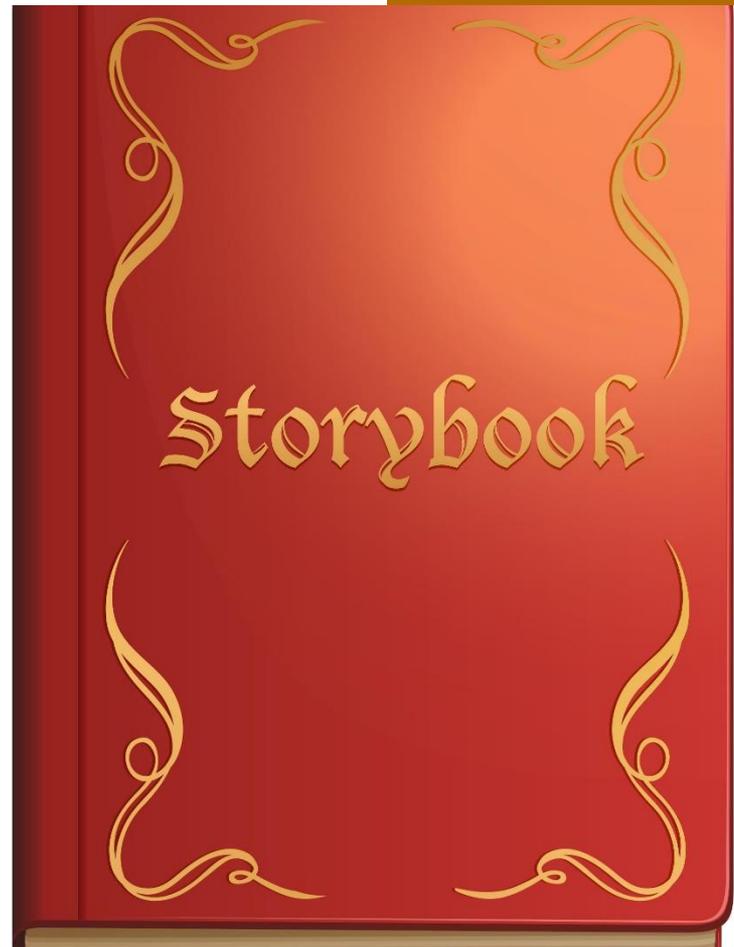
Let's Review



- Who is the main character of the Christian story?
- What are the two main competing stories of reality that we discussed?
- What do each of these competing stories say about the nature of reality?
- How do we learn about God?
- What does the Bible reveal about the complex nature of God?

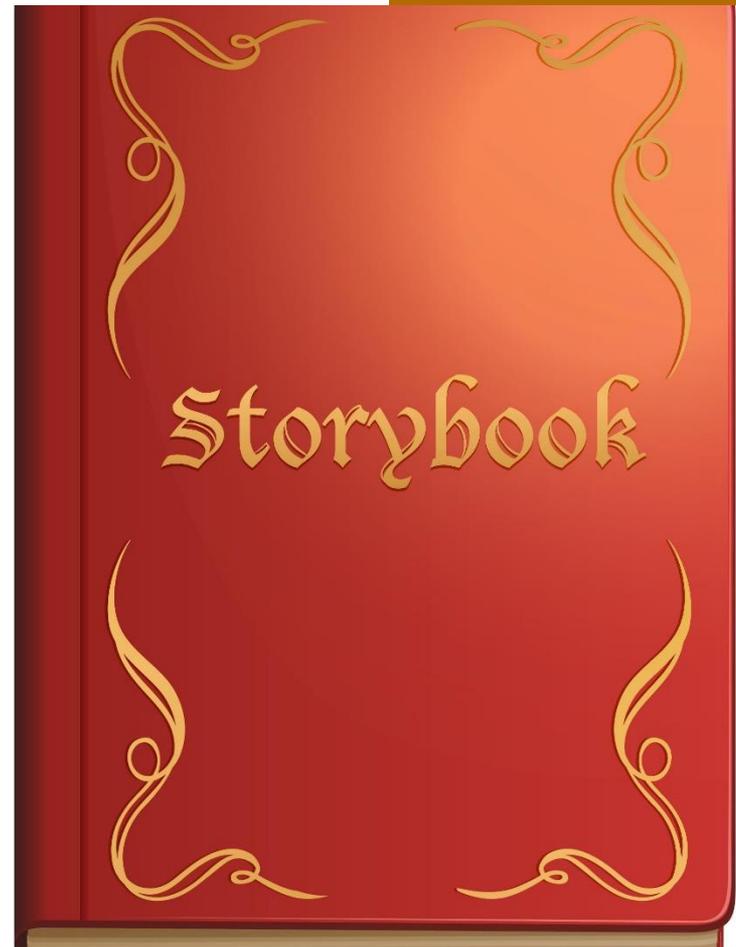
In this session . . .

- The creation of humanity in the image of God
- A comparison of this story about humanity to the stories of two competing views of reality
- How humanity's disobedience and rebellion changed the world we live in.



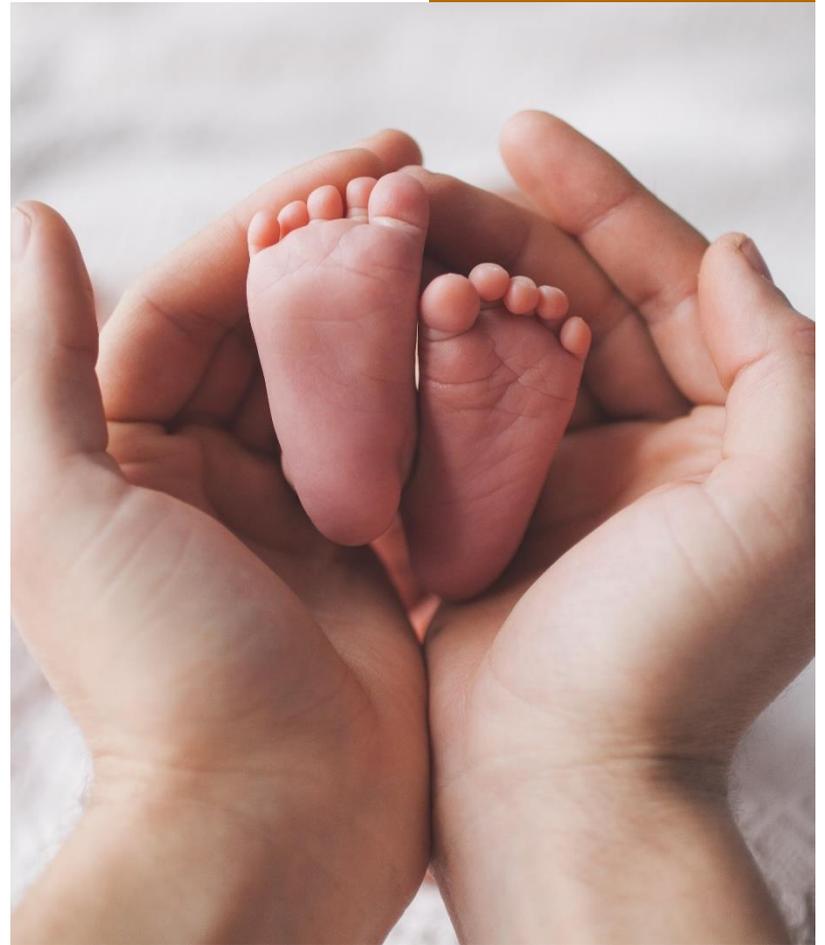
In this session . . .

- The spiritual consequence of humanity's rebellion
- We will revisit the question "Why is there evil in the world" in light of the Christian story of the fall.
- We will begin looking at God's solution to this problem.



Beautiful

*“Let us make mankind in
our image, in our likeness”
(Genesis 1:26)*



The Creation of Humanity



- Genesis 1:26-31
- Genesis 2:4-7
- Psalm 8
- Genesis 9:6-7
- Romans 2:14-15
- Genesis 2:18-25

What Does God Reveal in His Word?



- We are part of **CREATION.**
- We are both **VISIBLE** and **INVISIBLE.**
- We are **UNIQUE** in all of God's creation.
- We are made in the **IMAGE** of God.

Implications



- We are to **RULE OVER** and **CARE FOR** for creation.
- We are God's **REPRESENTATIVES** in creation.
- We are made for a **RELATIONSHIP** with God.
- We have **INTRINSIC** worth.

Implications



- We are imprinted with **GOD'S** character.
- This is the historic basis for **HUMAN RIGHTS**.
- This is one of the reasons why **RACISM** is wrong.

Genesis 2:18-25



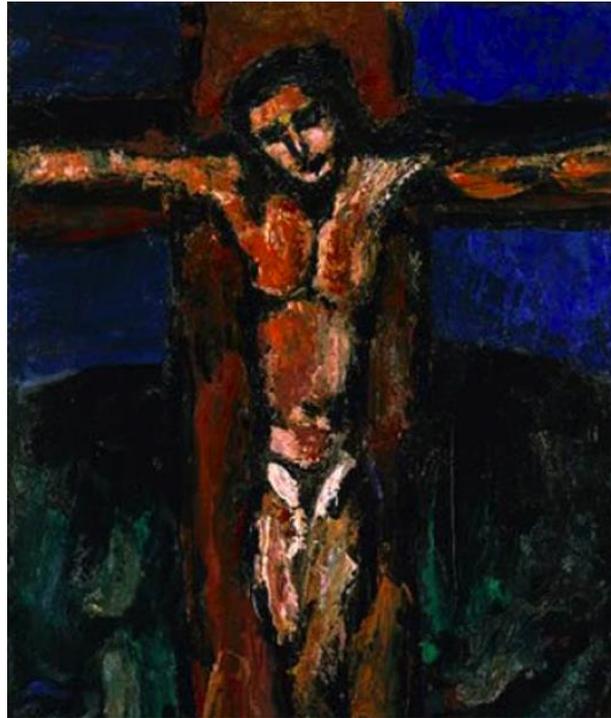
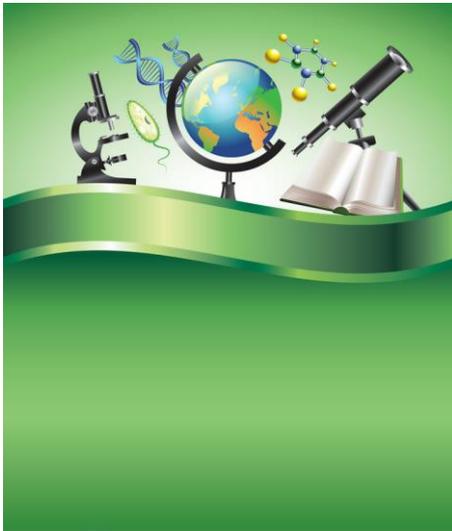
- We are made for **RELATIONSHIP** with others.
- God's design for humanity is two **GENDERS**.
- God's design for marriage is one **MAN** and one **WOMAN**.
- Marriage is the context for **SEXUAL INTIMACY**.

What does this mean?

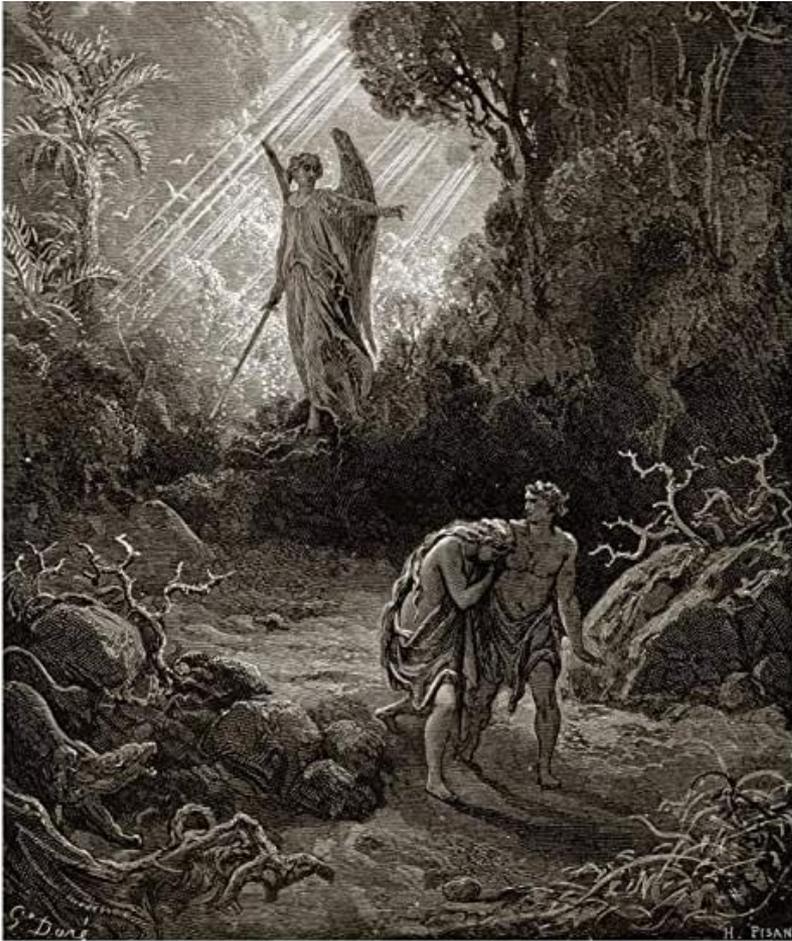


- You are an intentional body-and-soul creation of God.
- You have infinite value, dignity and significance because you are made in the image of God.
- You are made for a relationship with God.

Comparing Stories

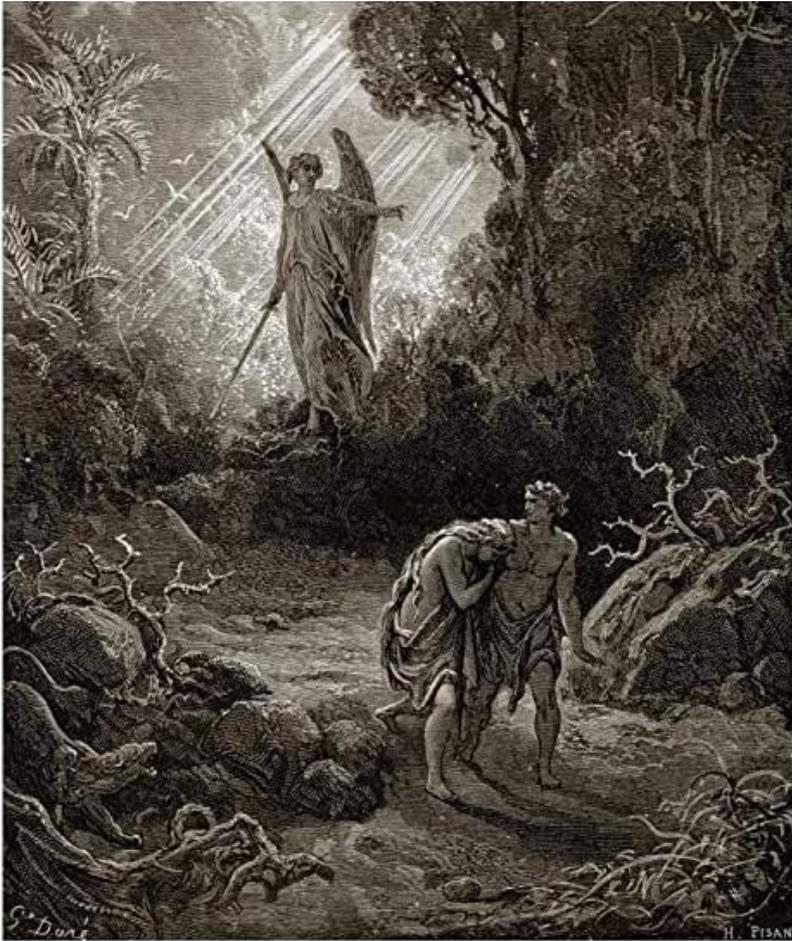


Broken



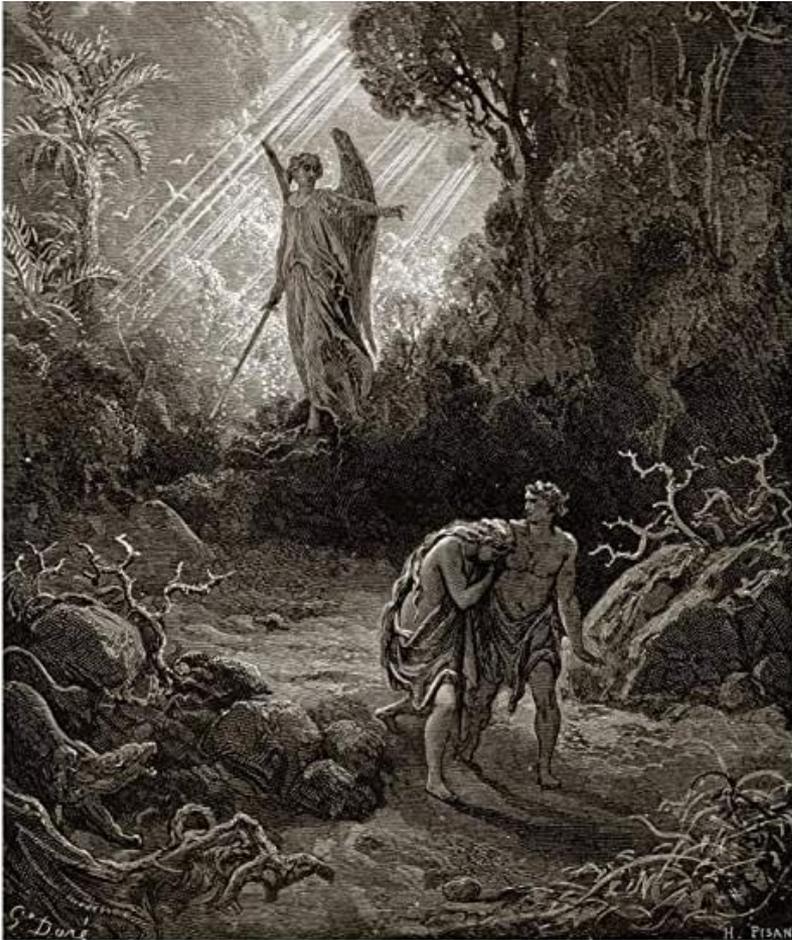
*“For when you eat from it
you will certainly die”*
(Genesis 2:17)

The Fall of Humanity



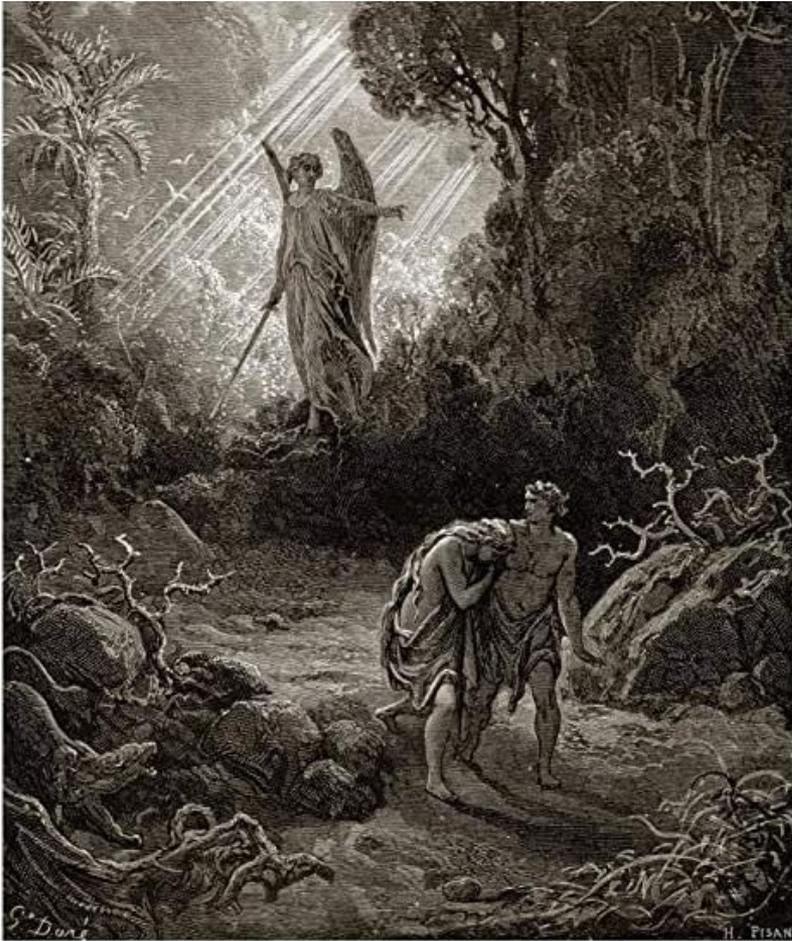
- Genesis 2:15-17
- Genesis 3
- Romans 5:12-21
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- Romans 1:18-32
- Romans 3:9-20

What Does God Reveal in His Word?



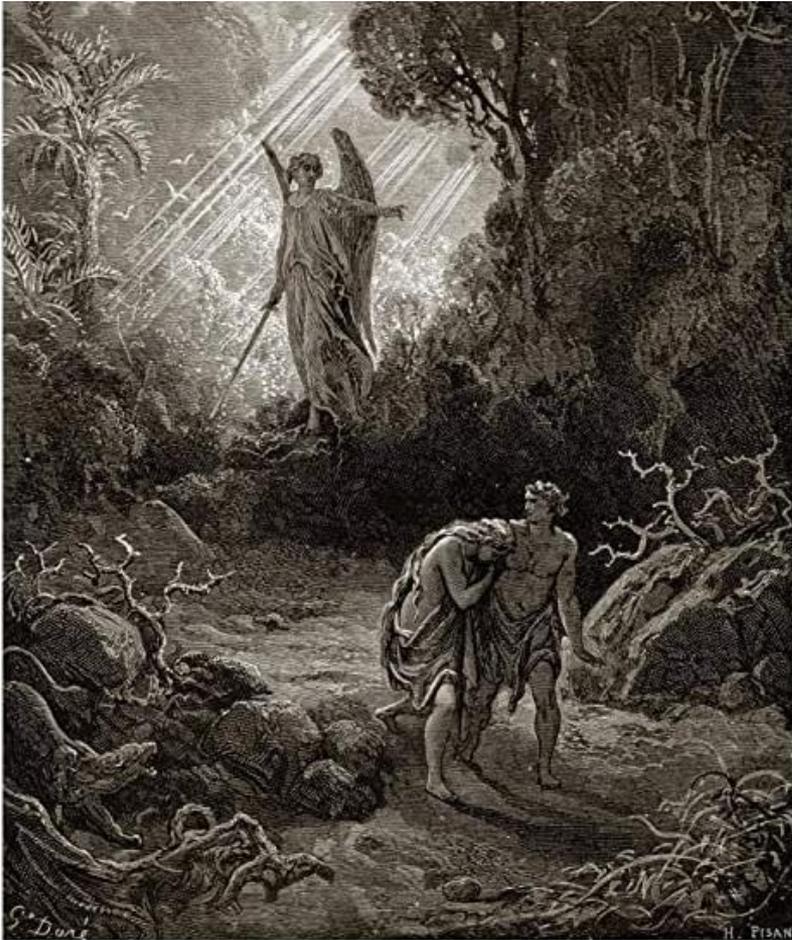
- We are **ACCOUNTABLE** to God.
- There is spiritual **EVIL** in the world.
- Sin is:
 - **DISOBEDIENCE**
 - **REBELLION**
 - **IDOLATRY**

What happened to creation?



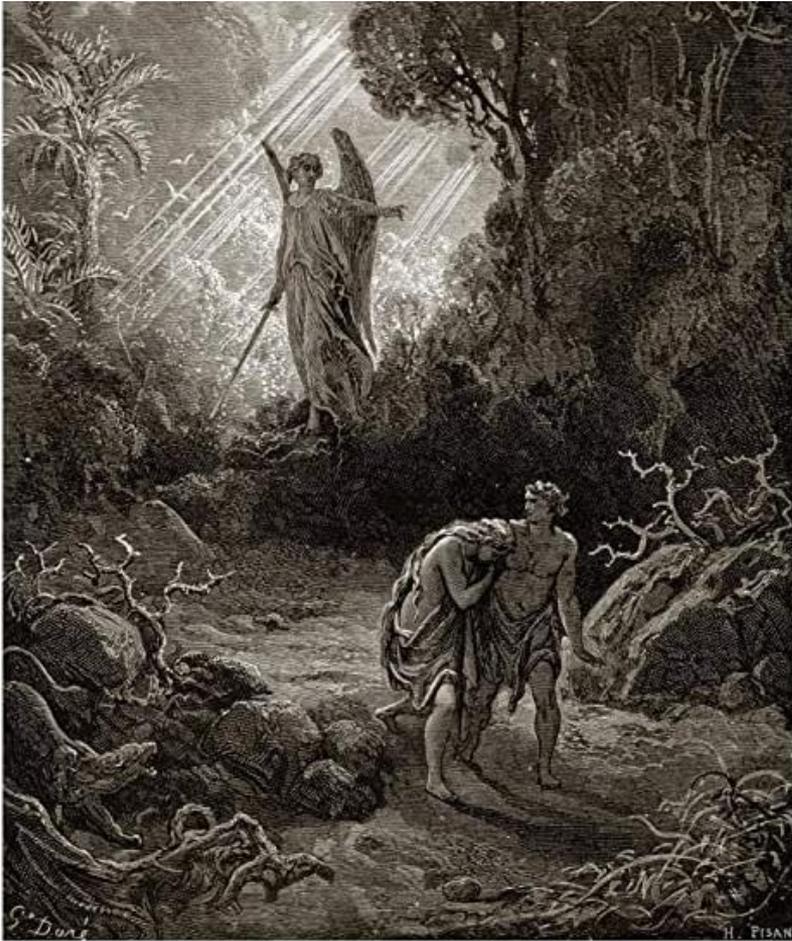
- Creation is under a **CURSE** (Romans 8:20-22)
- This is the source of **NATURAL** evil in the world (Natural disasters, disease, physical death, etc.)

What happened to humanity?



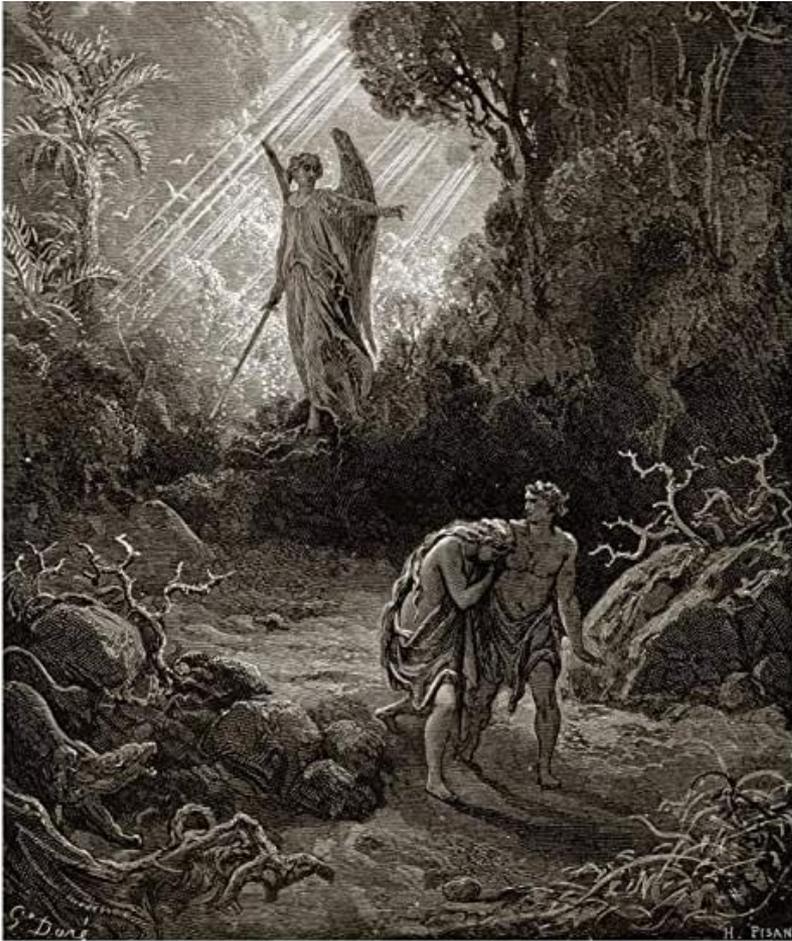
- Humanity now has a sinful **NATURE**.
- This is called **ORIGINAL** sin.
- We are **SELF-FOCUSED** instead of **GOD-FOCUSED**.
- We cannot **FREE** ourselves.

What happened to human relationships?



- Relationships are **DAMAGED.**
- This is the source of **CONFLICT** between people.
- This is the source of **RACISM**, **SEXISM**, etc.

What happened to our relationship with God?



- We are **GUILTY** before God.
- We are under God's **JUDGMENT.**

Humanity is Beautiful and Broken

- Non-Christians may live very moral generous lives because they are made in the **IMAGE** of God.
- Christians may at times live very immoral selfish lives because they have a broken **SINFUL** nature.
- We cannot defend our natural inclinations, claiming that we were “born that way,” since we were born with a **SINFUL** nature.



Humanity is Beautiful and Broken

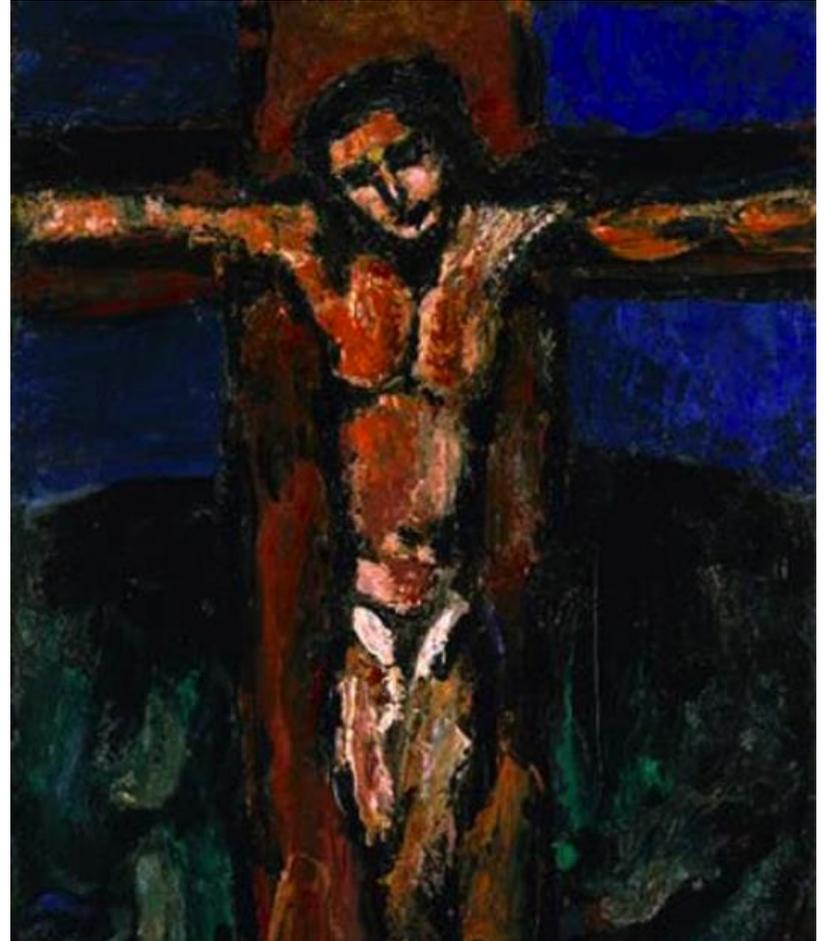
- We cannot rely on looking within ourselves for **TRUTH**, since we have a sinful nature.
- While we can never know why particular evil happens, we do know why there is evil in the world: **SIN**
- We need a **SAVIOR**



Redeemed

*“Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ,
he is a new creation.”*

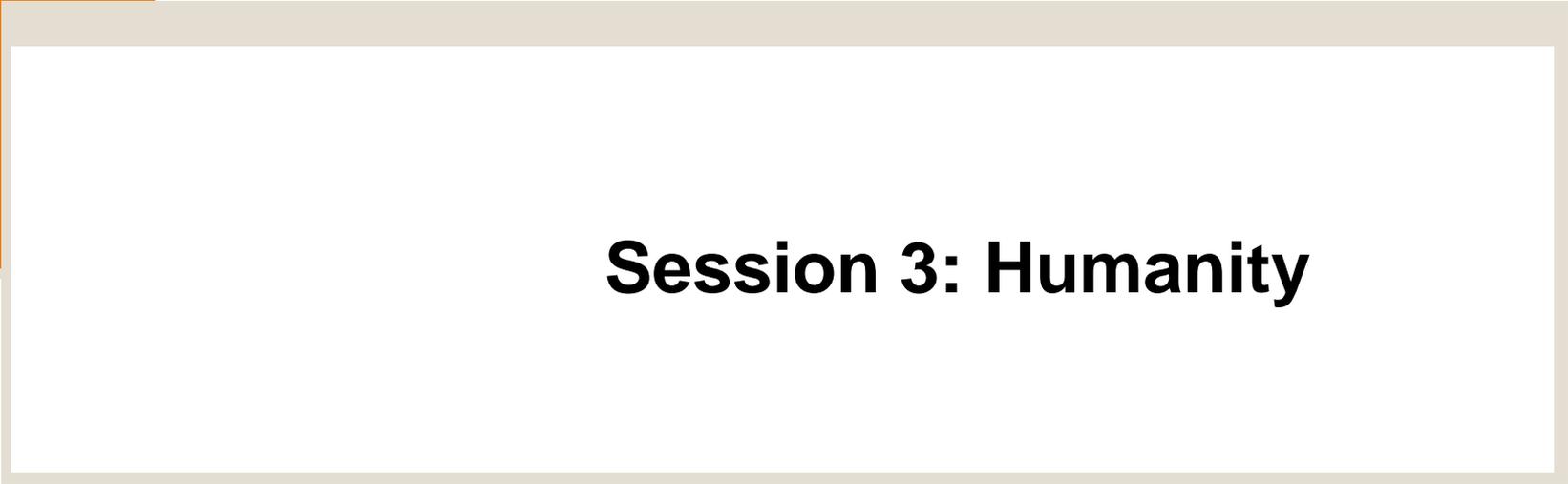
(2 Corinthians 5:17)





Foundations:

Basic Christian Teachings



Session 3: Humanity