

# Long Story Short Part 1: Creation & Fall

The Bible is one cohesive story written over the course of 1500 years, by 40 different authors recording the history of God's unwavering extension of His love to humans. The Bible isn't just a history book or a self-help novel. It is a record of God's love being made known and available to humanity. Many of us miss God's documenting of His love for us! We've heard it, we've said it, but do we believe it?

In this message, we'll see **how God demonstrated His love for us from the very beginning.**

## Message Outline

1. The purpose in creation
2. The problem in the beginning
3. The solution from the beginning

## Genesis 1:1-3

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

### 1. The purpose in creation

#### *Creation is meant to glorify (make much of) God*

Created things: **Ps 19:1** – The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Think of the most beautiful place you've ever been. That place screams God's love!

Humans: To image God, reflect Him, be His representatives, show & share His love

## Genesis 1:26-27

*<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

*God didn't create because He lacked anything. He was fully satisfied in communion with the Son & Spirit. He created because of His glory (beauty, splendor, character), for His glory.*

### 2. The problem in the beginning

#### *Man didn't trust God, and wanted glory for himself*

## Genesis 3:1b-5

*...He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup>"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

God's response to Adam & Eve's sin:

- He comes near in the moment of sin (Gen. 3:8)
- He makes a sacrifice to cover their shame (Gen. 3:21)
- He protects mankind from the possibility of being stuck forever in their fallen state (Gen. 3:22-24)

Think of the worst thing you've ever done, God must judge that sin (and He has, in Jesus), but He also wants to rescue you from that judgment.

*We're all like Adam & Eve. We think God is holding out on us, and we want glory for ourselves. We think we'll be happy & satisfied when we seek our own glory, but it's a lie.*

### **3. The solution from the beginning**

***A perfect man would take the punishment we deserve, and offer us the life we don't deserve.***

#### **Genesis 3:15**

*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."*

***Bottom Line: God's love for us is clearly seen in creation, through His mercy, and by His grace.***

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the most beautiful or awe inspiring scene you've ever seen? After hearing this message, what does that scene tell you about God?
2. How easy would you say it is for you to believe that God loves you? What makes it easy? What makes it hard to believe?
3. Adam and Even decided to disobey God, because they believed that He was keeping something good from them. What good thing are you tempted to believe God is keeping from you?
4. Because of Adam & Eve's sin, we all sin instinctively. What are the most common ways you find yourself sinning i.e. choosing to disobey God?
5. Is it easy for you to believe you need saving? Why or why not?