



## CUNNING

Week 2: Foundations – Old Testament: The Battle Begins (Part I) H.O.

Wednesday Night Crew

2024 WINTER SERIES January – March

## CUNNING

### The Spiritual Battle from Genesis to Revelation

*I am sending you out like sheep amongst wolves...Matthew 10:16*

ALL VERSES NKJV

**Genesis 1:1.** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**Genesis 3:14-15** – serpents curse

Your seed: **John 8:44; Acts 13:10, 1 John 3:8**

Her Seed:

We think this way when reading Genesis: **Isaiah 7:14** (Luke 1:31-35)

But we live in this reality: **Galatians 4:4-7** – Which means what?

Supernatural Laws governing Natural Actions: **Colossians 2:15**

**WORD WEALTH** **Genesis 1:1 create, bara·** (bah-rah); Strong's #1254: To form or fashion, to produce, to create. Originally this verb carried the idea of "carving" or "cutting out," and that concept is still expressed by the intensive verbal form in Josh. 17:18, referring to "cutting" down trees to "clear out" the land. This suggests that creating is similar to sculpturing. Thus *bara·* is a fitting word to describe both creating by bringing into existence and creating by fashioning existing matter into something new, as God did in "creating" man (Gen. 1:27) out of dust from the ground. God is always the subject of the verb *bara·* in its standard form; creating is therefore a divine capacity.<sup>1</sup>

### HOW FAR HAVE WE COME FROM GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENT FOR MANKIND?

**God in Genesis 1:** Let there be Light. Let there be Atmosphere/Heaven. Let there be Earth. Let there be Sun. Let there be Aquatic Animals & Birds. Let there be Earth Animals.

**Let there be Mankind:** In Our image, according to Our likeness. Male & Female. Blessed. Fill & Subdue the earth. Have Dominion over it.

#### Lord God in Genesis 2

**2:7** Formed: Six Hebrew words found in these early chapters to describe the creation process are quite similar, so modern translators use varied English words to let the reader know a different Hebrew word is being rendered. All six words are normally used of God's creative activity: *bara·* (1:1), "create"; *asah* (1:7), "make"; *nathan* (1:17), "set"; *yatsar* (2:7), "form"; *banah* (2:22), "make" or "build"; and *qanah* (4:1; 14:19), "create," "possess," or "acquire." A most intimate moment occurred when the Creator **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.** "In Him was life" (John 1:4), and He gave mankind the precious life that only God has to give.<sup>2</sup>

#### Genesis 2:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **tend and keep it.** <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> 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."

#### 6. The Garden (2:8-9, 15-17)

##### a. The park keeper at work

The Garden is really a park of trees, and the man is the park keeper. He is God's estate manager. His task is 'to till and to guard' (2:15), that is: **to cultivate and protect.** Work is part of the responsibility laid on human beings here at the beginning, even before things go wrong. May there, though, be just a hint of trouble ahead, in the word 'guard'? Human fulfilment includes the human creativity of work, and the Garden is the place for mankind to find that fulfilment.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hayford, J. W., ed. (1997). *Spirit filled life study Bible* (electronic ed., Ge 1:1). Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> Hayford, J. W., ed. (1997). *Spirit filled life study Bible* (electronic ed., Ge 2:7). Thomas Nelson.

<sup>3</sup> Atkinson, D. (1990). *The Message of Genesis 1-11: The Dawn of Creation* (J. A. Motyer & D. Tidball, Eds.; pp. 59-60). Inter-Varsity Press.



## CUNNING

Week 2: Foundations – Old Testament: The Battle Begins (Part I) H.O.

Wednesday Night Crew

2024 WINTER SERIES January – March

- Work: abad (aw-bad') to work, implied to serve, enslave, bond servant, compel, husbandman, keep, labor, bring to pass, servant, service, be wrought, worshipper.
- Take care: shamar (shaw-mar') to hedge about as with thorns, beware, be circumspect, **guard**, **protect**, attend to, take heed, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, save, sure wait, watch.

**Genesis 2:18** *And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; <sup>(2)</sup>I will make him a **helper** comparable to him."*

So the Lord God proposes to make a *helper fit for him* (2:18). As we know, this comes to its fulfilment in the creation of the woman described in 2:21–22. But we need to pause here and ask what it means, for this phrase has sometimes been grossly misused, and treated as a charter for male domination over women.

The Hebrew phrase includes two words *ēzer k<sup>e</sup>negdō*.

The first of these, translated '**helper**', implies someone who assists and encourages. 'Help' provides support for what is lacking in the one who needs help. It is a word that is used several times in the Old Testament for the help which comes from God. The 'helper' is then qualified by *k<sup>e</sup>negdō*, which seems to be related to the verb meaning

'to be plain or visible'. A related noun refers to an 'eminent' person. So perhaps '**helper fit for him**' means 'a helper matching his eminence' or perhaps 'his distinctiveness'. It certainly points to one who is fit to stand before the man, opposite him, as his counterpart, companion and complement. There is no sense of inferiority, subordination or servitude implied here—rather it is one who is 'like him', but 'like opposite him' (to give a literal rendering). Advocates of male superiority and authority will have to find support somewhere other than Genesis 2. <sup>4</sup>

**Genesis 2:19-20a** – Naming of the beast. Claiming mankind's authority of dominion in the Garden.

**Genesis 2:20b-25** *But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*

### THEN: Genesis 3

The Enemy will appeal to our flesh, our human nature, our desire to be "the most". **1 John 2:16**

**Genesis 3:1a** *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.*

#### CUNNING TRUTH:

But the snake does not appear as the devil to the woman. The voice of temptation does not come as the voice of evil. If Satan is present in the story of Genesis 3, he is wearing a careful mask. He is hidden in the ordinariness and the everydayness of a creature in the Garden. The snake does not feature in this story as the cause of human failure, but as that which faces human beings with the reality of their trust in God.<sup>5</sup>

### 1. MANKIND WAS HANGING AROUND EVIL 2. THEY LISTENED

**Genesis 3:1b** *And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"*

#### A. QUESTIONING GOD'S WORD – Casting Doubt (This time on God's intent).

#### CUNNING TRUTH:

Temptation begins to take root in the woman's heart. The serpent began the conversation in the seemingly harmless terms of a discussion about God. The serpent does not deny the goodness of God, he simply sows small seeds of mistrust<sup>6</sup>

It simply moves from the woman's knowledge of God's goodness to cause doubt about the one prohibition God has given for human freedom. It does so by twisting, ever so slightly, the word which embodied a gift of freedom (2:16) to tinge it with a sense of God's meanness: 'Did God say you shall not eat of any of the trees?'

### 3. SHE REPLIED!

**Genesis 3:2-3** *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*

<sup>4</sup> Atkinson, D. (1990). *The Message of Genesis 1–11: The Dawn of Creation* (J. A. Motyer & D. Tidball, Eds.; pp. 68–69). Inter-Varsity Press.

<sup>5</sup> Atkinson, D. (1990). *The Message of Genesis 1–11: The Dawn of Creation* (J. A. Motyer & D. Tidball, Eds.; p. 81). Inter-Varsity Press.

<sup>6</sup> Atkinson, D. (1990). *The Message of Genesis 1–11: The Dawn of Creation* (J. A. Motyer & D. Tidball, Eds.; p. 82). Inter-Varsity Press.

<sup>7</sup> Atkinson, D. (1990). *The Message of Genesis 1–11: The Dawn of Creation* (J. A. Motyer & D. Tidball, Eds.; p. 83). Inter-Varsity Press.



## CUNNING

Week 2: Foundations – Old Testament: The Battle Begins (Part I) H.O.

Wednesday Night Crew

2024 WINTER SERIES January – March

### 4. THEY STUCK AROUND.

**Genesis 3:4** *Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.*

**B. YOU RECONSTRUCTS GOD'S WORD** – (Redefines God & His character).

### 5. THEY CONSIDERED.

**Genesis 3:5** *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

**C. YOU CAN BE LIKE GOD**...you kinda are already, right? You're the ruler of this Garden, right?

[Redefining man as God. Sin: **Self - aggrandizement.**]

**Genesis 3:6** *So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she **took** of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

- SATISFYING YOUR HUNGER
- SO BEAUTIFUL/DISREABLE TO SEE
- THE KEY TO BE LIKE GOD – OWNER OF ALL WISDOM

**1 John 2:16.** *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, <sup>(A)</sup>the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

### **Genesis 3:7-8**

*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

## **The Freedom of life in the Garden & the Authority in the Garden shifted.**

<b>Genesis 3:9-11</b>	The Lord God Calls
<b>Genesis 3:12-13</b>	Man & Woman answer
<b>Genesis 3:14-15</b>	Curse of the serpent
<b>Genesis 3:16</b>	Consequence over the Woman
<b>Genesis 3:17</b>	Consequence over the Man

This is not a divine prescription of what should be, but a description in the fallen world of what will be.<sup>8</sup>

## I CAN DEVELOP MY CUNNING BY:

### **Understanding The Enemy's Methodology:**

Step #1: **Dons a DISGUISE** (angel of light) that we would find acceptable.

**2 Corinthians 11: 14**

*"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness."*

<sup>8</sup> Atkinson, D. (1990). *The Message of Genesis 1–11: The Dawn of Creation* (J. A. Motyer & D. Tidball, Eds.; p. 94). Inter-Varsity Press.



## CUNNING

Week 2: Foundations – Old Testament: The Battle Begins (Part I) H.O.

Wednesday Night Crew

2024 WINTER SERIES January – March

Step #2: **Outwits** humanity through confusion & distortion.  
**REINTERPRETS** scripture.  
Did He really say? Do you think that is what He really meant?  
**Questioning God's motives to us.** Implying he knows more than us or that we are misinterpreting...always appeals to our human nature.

### 2 Corinthians 4:4

*"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

Step #3: Satan **REDEFINES God** to Eve.  
He **cast doubt** on God's plan/order/instructions.  
**Questioning** God's character.  
(A process he personally knows, he is seeking to distort her image of God.  
"He would not want you to do without or to be unhappy." )

Step #4: He **RECONSTRUCTS God's Directives.**  
("You will not surely die! You will become....")

Step #5: He **ELEVATES the role of humanity to be like God.**  
(Which was his sin = self aggrandizement)  
("You will become LIKE HIM!")

*"For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."* **2 Chronicles 16:9**

### TRIED SAME PROCESS WITH JESUS

**Matthew 4:1-11** The Temptation of Christ...the difference between our response & His.

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted <sup>[a]</sup> by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "**If** you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

- **QUESTIONING GOD'S WORD** – Casting Doubt (This time on God's intent).

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' <sup>[b]</sup>" (Deut 8:3)

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "**If** you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' <sup>[c]</sup>" (Psalm 91:11,12)

- **RECONSTRUCTS GOD'S WORD** – (redefines God & His character).



## CUNNING

Week 2: Foundations – Old Testament: The Battle Begins (Part I) H.O.

Wednesday Night Crew

2024 WINTER SERIES January – March

<sup>7</sup> *Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* <sup>[d]</sup> (Deut 6:16)

<sup>8</sup> *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

**YOU CAN BE LIKE GOD**...you kinda are, right? You're the ruler of this Garden, right?

[Redefining man as God. Sin: **Self - aggrandizement.**]