Sunday February 27 2022



life is a garden

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Genesis 1:1-2:3 paints a large-scale picture...

...of God's establishment of cosmic order...

...with His divine images who represent His rule...

...so that the world becomes sacred space for His presence to dwell.

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2:4-17		2:4-17	Characters: Yahweh, the human Setting: From outside the garden to inside the garden.			
•	When the woman saw that the tree was good for food,		2:18-25	Man and Woman Created and Unified Characters: Yahweh, the human, animals, woman Setting: Inside the garden		
В	nd that it was a delight to the eyes , nd that the tree was desirable to make one wise ,			3:1-5	Dialogue Between the Snake and the Woman Characters: Snake, woman Setting: Inside the garden	
C'		the eyes of both of them were opened, hey knew that they were naked; hey sewed leaves of a fig tree together			3:6-7	The Woman and Man Eat from the Forbidden Tree Characters: Snake, woman, man Setting: The center of the garden
B' A'	and they knew that they were <i>naked</i> ; and they sewed leaves of a <i>fig tree</i> together and made themselves waist coverings.			3:8-13	Dialogue Between God and the Humans Characters: Yahweh, man, woman Setting: Inside the garden	
			3:14-21	Consequences for the Snake, Man and Woman Divided Characters: Yahweh, the man, woman, snake Setting: Inside the garden		
3:22-24 life is a garden		Humanity is Banished from the Garden Characters: Yahweh (active), the human (passive) Setting: Inside the garden, moves to the land outside the garden				

Humanity is Created and Placed in the Garden

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die." 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die! 5 For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil." 6 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 desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 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 waist coverings.

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"Walking" (Heb. hithalek / אורת הלך): This picture of Yahweh "walking about/ strolling" in the garden, waiting for the humans to join him, is a powerful image of divine and human intimacy idealized in the garden. The righteous of later generations who live outside of Eden are those who "walk/stroll with Yahweh," that is, they relate to God in the Eden ideal. 21 Now Enoch lived sixty-five years, and fathered Methuselah. 22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he fathered Methuselah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.



8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
9 These are the records of the generations of Noah.
Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.
Noah walked with God.



1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty;

Walk before Me, and be blameless.



9 So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm My covenant with you...
11 Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. 12 I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.



12"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?



22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and he spread out his hands toward heaven. 23 And he said, "LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping the covenant and showing faithfulness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart, 24 You who have kept with Your servant, my father David, that which You promised him; You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day. 25 Now then, LORD, God of Israel, keep with Your servant David my father that which You have promised him, saying, 'You shall not be deprived of a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful about their way, to walk before Me as you have walked.'

8 He has told you, mortal one, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?



16 ...For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people."





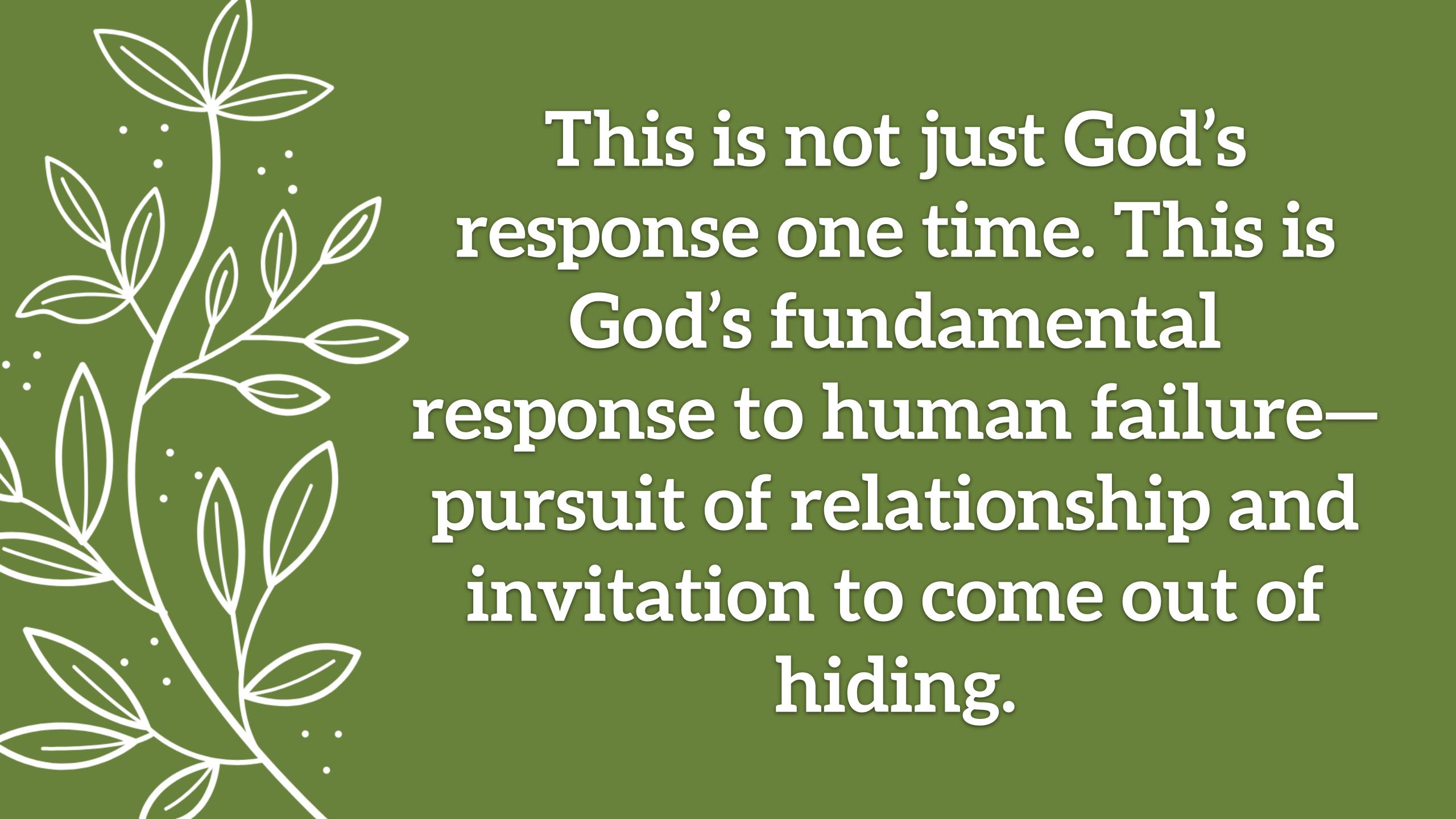
How are you walking with God?

And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

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God's response to the first humans' failure is to seek them out and pursue relationship with them.



...So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy. 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy? 7 If you do well, will your face not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." 8 Cain talked to his brother Abel; and it happened that when they were in the field Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 Then He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying out to Me from the ground.

24 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated while he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have contended with God and with men, and have prevailed."



1 Then Moses said, "What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you." 2 The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff." 3 Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it turned into a serpent; and Moses fled from it. 4 But the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out with your hand and grasp it by its tail"—so he reached out with his hand and caught it, and it turned into a staff in his hand—5 "so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

11 So He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and powerful wind was tearing out the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake, a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said,

"What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind and said,
2 "Who is this who darkens the divine plan
By words without knowledge?
3 Now tighten the belt on your waist like a man,
And I shall ask you, and you inform Me!
4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?



1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim were standing above Him, each having six wings: with two each covered his face, and with two each covered his feet, and with two each flew. 3 And one called out to another and said,

"Holy, Holy, is the LORD of armies.

The whole earth is full of His glory"....

8 Then I heard the voice of the LORD, saying,

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"

Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 He had me pass among them all around, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and behold, they were very dry. 3 Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "Lord GOD, You Yourself know."



30 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that power from Him had gone out, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" 31 And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?" 32 And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. 33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. 34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be cured of your disease."

27 Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 They told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." 29 And He continued questioning them: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." 30 And He warned them to tell no one about Him.



31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise from the dead. 32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's purposes, but on man's."



34 And He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? 37 For what could a person give in exchange for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."