



THE SCARLET THREAD

FROM THE FALL TO THE CRUCIFIXION

WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTIONS SERIES | 08 JANUARY 2024



WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTIONS

Five Transformative Themes:

1. The Scarlet Thread (08 Jan)
2. The Holy Place (19 Feb)
3. The Anointed Persons (11 Mar)
4. The Sacred Rest (08 Apr)
5. The Living Tree (13 May)

CHECK-IN

How do you interpret the phrase ‘Scarlet Thread’?



Scarlet: Color of blood, in particular Jesus’ blood



Thread: Symbol for something that is continuous, joining things together

‘Scarlet Thread’ describes the continuous theme of sacrifice through the shedding of blood throughout the Biblical narrative.

THE SCARLET THREAD: FROM THE FALL TO THE CRUCIFIXION

At the end of today's session, you will be able to:

- **Understand the characteristics of redemption**
- **Recognise "Scarlet Thread" as a unifying theme in the Bible**
- **Draw insight into typology and prophetic foreshadowing**
- **Enhance Biblical literacy and interpretation skills**



THE BEGINNING

NATURAL ORDER OF GOD'S BLESSING



The Hebrew verb בָּרַךְ (bārak) means “to bless”, with a similar-sounding noun, בִּרְכָּה (berākāh), meaning "blessing."

Appears 400 times in the OT. Appearing 88 times in Genesis alone (more than any other text in the OT).

BLESSINGS...

Familiarise yourself by reading the following passage and identify the three things (or groups of things) that God blessed.

➤ Genesis 1:1-2:3

GENESIS 1

God pronounced blessings twice...

*v.20 [Day 5] God **blessed** them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."*

GENESIS 1

God pronounced blessings twice...

*v.28 [Day 6] And God **blessed** them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*



PRINCIPLE #1

- **The role of humans in God's divine blessing is to participate in stewarding this blessing.**



THE DOWNFALL

CONSEQUENCE OF THE ABSENCE OF SACRIFICE



...CURSES

Familiarise yourself by reading the following passage and identify instances where the perfect blessings of God are reversed.

➤ **Genesis 3**

GENESIS 3

God pronounced curses twice...

*v.14 “**Cursed** are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.”*



disruption of the
previous harmony
that existed in Eden

*v.15 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.*

decisive victory
over evil and sin

broadens the
conflict beyond
Adam and Eve

GENESIS 3

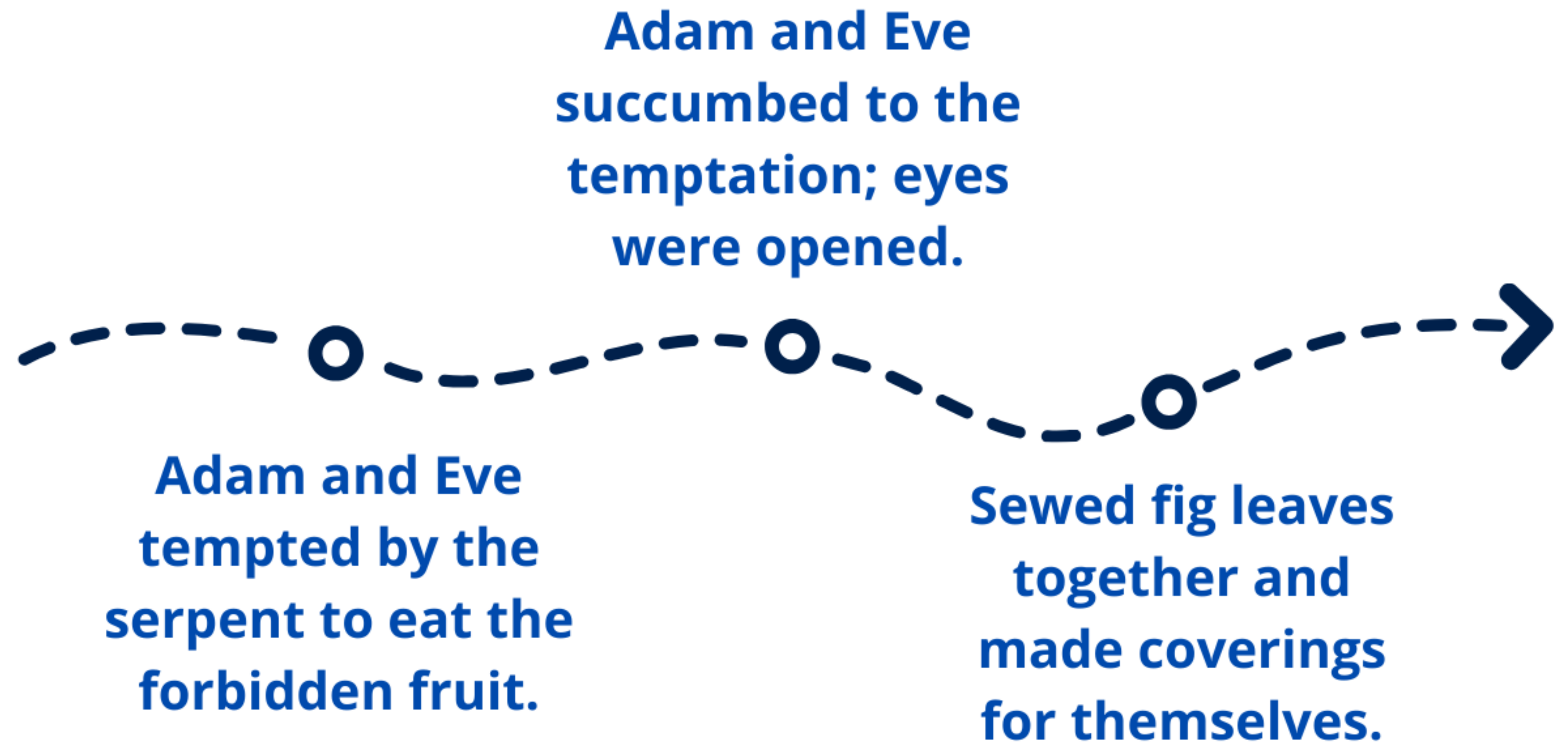
God pronounced curses twice...

*v.17 “**Cursed** is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.”*

IS HUMANITY SPARED FROM GOD'S CURSES?

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GENESIS 3



GENESIS 3

LORD God was walking in the garden, but could not find Adam...

... "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Herein lies the problem...

- **knowledge of good and evil in a sinful body**
- **human hands cannot resolve**

God gave mankind two gifts:
1. Physical death
2. First sacrifice



GIFT 1: PHYSICAL DEATH

v.22 “He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

If Adam and Eve still had access to and eaten from the Tree of Life, they would have been conformed in this deteriorating body and subjected to sin forever.



GIFT 2: FIRST SACRIFICE

v.21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

With the sacrifice of an innocent animal, God took coats of skin and covered over the shame and the nakedness of the man and his wife.



IS HUMANITY SPARED FROM GOD'S CURSES FOREVER?

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IN CONTRAST...

Read the following passage and identify both the similarities and differences in how God dealt with Cain vis-a-vis Adam and Eve.

➤ **Genesis 4:1-16**

CURSE ON CAIN

*vv.10-11 “What have you done?
Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out
to me from the ground. Now you are
under a **curse** and driven from the
ground, which opened its mouth to
receive your brother’s blood from
your hand.”*



RESULT OF THE CURSE

*vv.13-14 Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and **I will be hidden from your presence**; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”*





PRINCIPLE #2

- **Sin reverses God's blessings, resulting in a life void of God's presence.**

ROMANS 6

WAGES OF SIN

v.23a For the wages of sin is death...



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HEBREWS 9

SACRIFICE BEGETS FORGIVENESS

*v.22b ...without the shedding of blood
there is no forgiveness.*



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10 MINUTES BREAK

GENESIS 12

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

*vv.1-3 The Lord had said to Abram,
"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."*



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THE SACRIFICE

RESTORATION OF BLESSINGS TO ALL PEOPLES



PROTOTYPE OF SACRIFICE

Read the following passages. According to the passage, what are the characteristics of sacrifice?

- Genesis 22:1-18
- Exodus 12:1-30

PROTOTYPE OF SACRIFICE

1. **Act of Obedience**
2. **Substitutionary Sacrifice**
3. **Redemptive Purpose**
4. **Innocence and Purity**
5. **Display of God's Providence**
6. **Universal Implications**

PROTOTYPE OF SACRIFICE

Since the institution of the Mosaic covenant, the Israelites (and subsequently Jews) have adopted the sacrificial system as a substitute for the consequence of their sin.

➤ Leviticus 16

Problem with the prototype...

- for Israelites
- not a means to steward blessings to others

SACRIFICE PERSONIFIED

Isaiah 53 speaks of a sacrifice that is personified through the suffering servant. How do the identified characteristics of sacrifice align with the person described in these verses?

➤ Isaiah 53

SACRIFICE PERSONIFIED

Act of Obedience - The servant is described as submitting willingly to suffering and death, embodying obedience and submission to a divine purpose.

Substitutionary Sacrifice - The servant's suffering is portrayed as taking on the burdens and sins of others, serving as a substitute.

Redemptive Purpose - The suffering servant's afflictions are depicted as having a redemptive purpose for many, bearing their iniquities.

SACRIFICE PERSONIFIED

Innocence and Purity - The servant is described as innocent, "like a lamb led to the slaughter," and without deceit.

Display of God's Providence - The servant's suffering is portrayed as part of a divine plan, with a higher purpose ordained by God.

Universal Implications - The servant's suffering is depicted as having a universal impact, bearing the sins of many.

Victory through Exaltation - The passage concludes with the promise of exaltation and vindication for the servant after his suffering.

LAMB OF GOD

v.29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

LAMB OF GOD

vv. 18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.



PRINCIPLE #3

- **Jesus, the Lamb of God, came as a sacrifice for us, forgiveness was bought with His blood.**

Act of Obedience - Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Substitutionary Sacrifice - Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Redemptive Purpose - John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



Innocence and Purity - Luke 23:4 Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

Display of God's Providence - John 5:36 "For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me."

Universal Implications - John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



THE REVELATION

RESURRECTION LEADING TO RESTORATION



Victory through Exaltation

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



REVERSING THE CURSE

We have seen God's plan for reversing the implied curse on mankind through the death and resurrection of Jesus. However, recall that God cursed two other things - animals and the earth.

The Scarlet Thread also traces God's redemptive work for these in the Book of Revelations. To redeem all of creation, God had to defeat the cosmic evil.

REVERSING THE CURSE

5:6 "Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne"

12:11 "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

17:14 "They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."



Revelation 22:3-4 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.



PRINCIPLE #4

- **The blood of the Lamb continues to perform its redemptive work until all of Creation is restored back to God.**

CHECK-OUT

Summarise what you learned today in **one** phrase or sentence.



RESOURCES

- "The Scarlet Thread Through the Bible" by W.A. Criswell
- "Christ in the Old Testament" by Charles Spurgeon
- "The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament" by Edmund P. Clowney
- Seeing Christ in All of Scripture: Hermeneutics at Westminster Theological Seminary
- "The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name" by Sally Lloyd-Jones - suitable for the young

