



G E N E S I S

Genesis 2:15-24

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man ^k and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ^l you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat ⁴ of it you ^m shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; ⁿ I will make him a helper fit for ⁵ him.” ¹⁹ ^o Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed ⁶ every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and ^p brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.
²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam ⁷ there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a ^q deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made ⁸ into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is ^r bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was ^s taken out of Man.” ⁹

²⁴ ^t Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

The Fall

3 Now ^u the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You ¹ shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ^v ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ ^w But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So 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 to be desired to make one wise, ² she took of its fruit ^x and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, ^y and he ate. ⁷ ^z Then the eyes of both were opened, ^a and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool ³ of the day, and the man and his wife ^b hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ⁴ ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, ^c because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, ^d “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, ^e “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,

cursed are you above all livestock

and above all beasts of the field;

on your belly you shall go,

and ^f dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring ⁵ and ^g her offspring;

^h he shall bruise your head,

and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;

ⁱ in pain you shall bring forth children.

^j Your desire shall be contrary to ⁶ your husband,

but he shall ^k rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife

and have eaten of the tree

^l of which I commanded you,

‘You shall not eat of it,’

^m cursed is the ground because of you;

ⁿ in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,

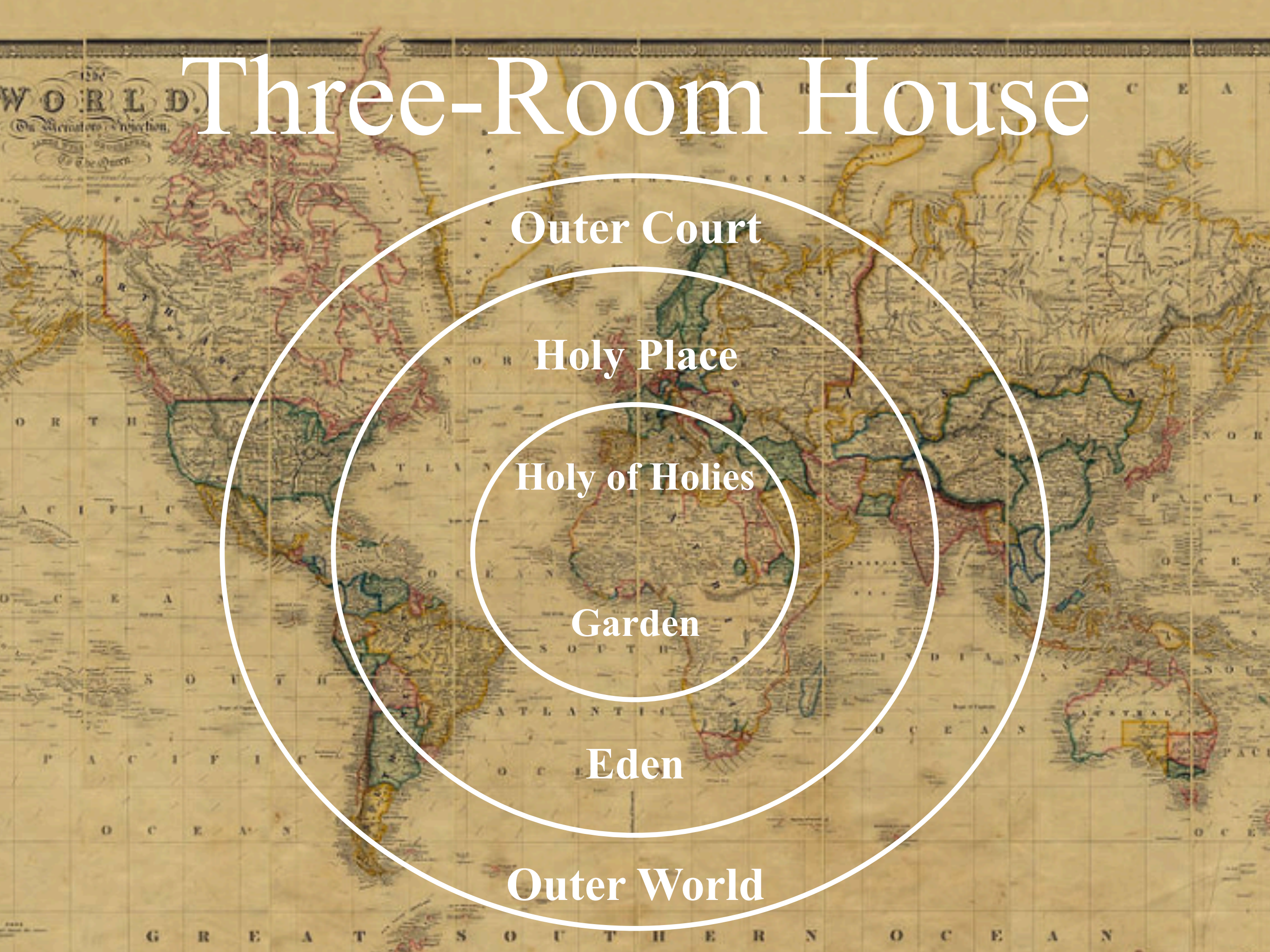
for out of it you were taken;

^o for you are dust,

and ^p to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ⁷ ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, ^q "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand ^r and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden ^s to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the ^t cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.



Three-Room House

Outer Court

Holy Place

Holy of Holies

Garden

Eden

Outer World



The Fall

- Contrary to the foundation of the creation narrative, the serpent deceives Eve by suggesting that God is not the giver of good gifts but, instead, is holding back wisdom (3:4-7).
- Adam seems to adopt Satan's view and blames God for giving him Eve (3:12).
- There is often a separation between moral righteousness and what we desire (cf. Gen. 3:6, Isa. 53:1-3 and Rom. 3).

- Adam flouts his priestly duties to serve and guard God's sanctuary.
- Guarding:
 - Fails to instruct Eve (again Gen. 2:16-17) in proper eating/obedience to God
- Cultivating/Serving:
 - Sin enters the world
 - Death enters the world
 - Undoing of creation—the opposite of cultivating the earth (cf. Gen. 1:1-2 and Gen. 7-9)





The Curse (3:14-19)

- Satan comes under a curse
 - on his belly and eats dust ('eating dust' is another indication of the enmity between mankind and Satan b/c men are dust) (cf. 1 Pet. 5:8)
- Tasks Frustrated
 - Eve: filling the earth by bringing forth life is made painful ('mother of all life/the living' in Gen. 3:20).

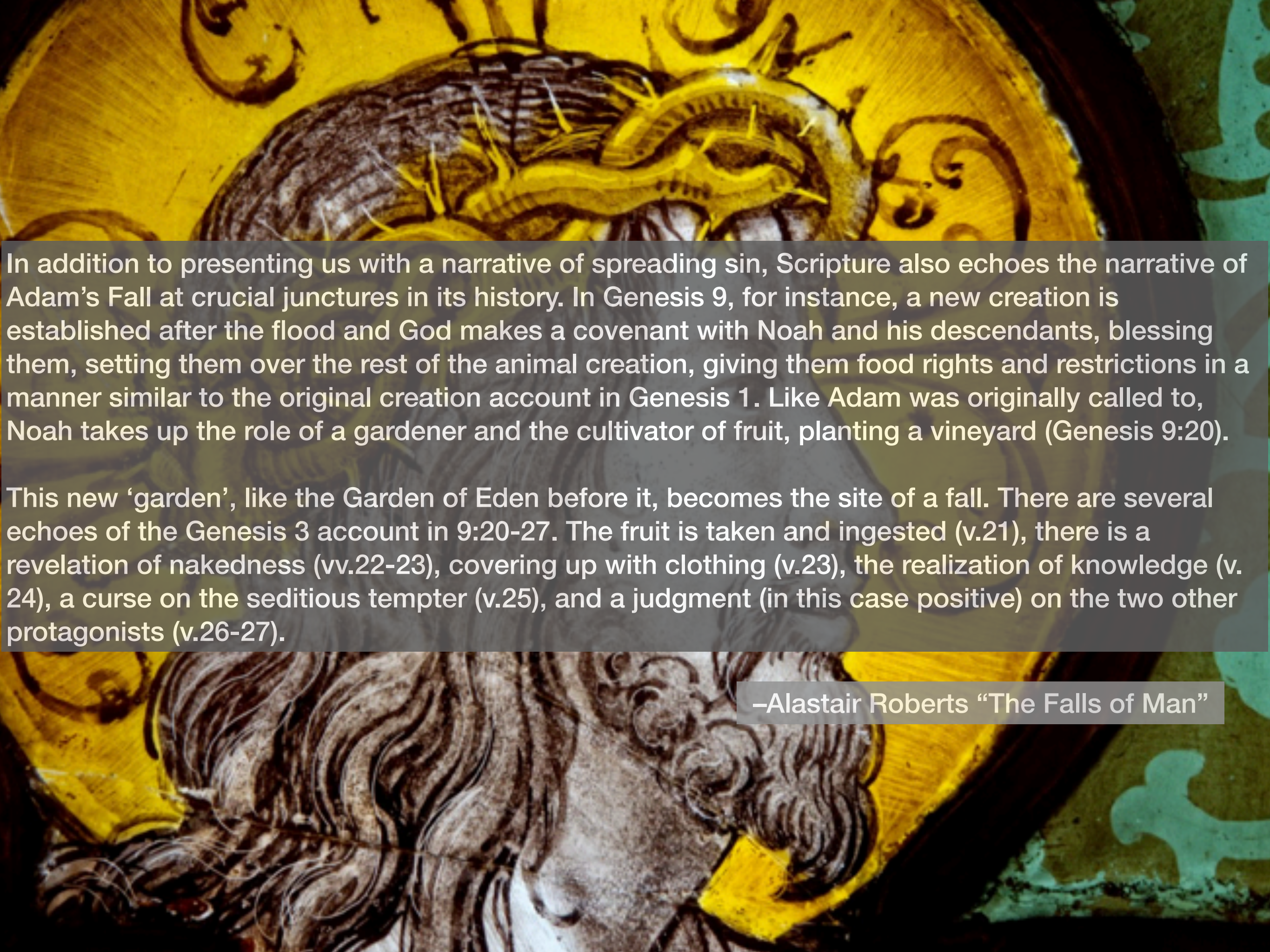
Adam: painful, toilsome labor with the ground in order to eat.

Adam & Eve: Hardship in their relationship with one another. She will contest his headship and he will be harsh with her. This has negative implications for their mutual efforts in subduing the earth. (Ephesians 5:22-30)

Thorns, Thistles and a Pattern of the Fall in Genesis

- The ground is cursed (3:17)—Adam and his posterity are of the dirt and, therefore, cursed.
- Adam and Eve, being of the dirt, will produce thorns and thistles in the form of offspring (e.g., Cain).
- The Bible often speaks of people (or, groups of people) as thorns.
 - e.g., Num. 33:55, Josh. 23:12-13, Mt. 7:16, Mt. 13.





In addition to presenting us with a narrative of spreading sin, Scripture also echoes the narrative of Adam's Fall at crucial junctures in its history. In Genesis 9, for instance, a new creation is established after the flood and God makes a covenant with Noah and his descendants, blessing them, setting them over the rest of the animal creation, giving them food rights and restrictions in a manner similar to the original creation account in Genesis 1. Like Adam was originally called to, Noah takes up the role of a gardener and the cultivator of fruit, planting a vineyard (Genesis 9:20).

This new 'garden', like the Garden of Eden before it, becomes the site of a fall. There are several echoes of the Genesis 3 account in 9:20-27. The fruit is taken and ingested (v.21), there is a revelation of nakedness (vv.22-23), covering up with clothing (v.23), the realization of knowledge (v. 24), a curse on the seditious tempter (v.25), and a judgment (in this case positive) on the two other protagonists (v.26-27).

—Alastair Roberts “The Falls of Man”

- *Protevangelium* - the first announcement of the Gospel (i.e., God's promise of a Savior) appears in Genesis 3:15.
- The covenant with Noah is established (Gen. 9:8-11).
- The covenant with Abraham is established (Gen. 15:5-6).

