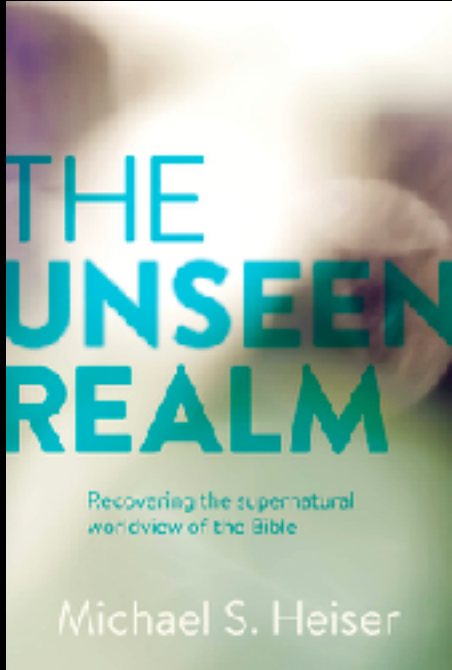


# The Fall of Man

Genesis 3

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# THE UNSEEN REALM

Recovering the supernatural  
worldview of the Bible

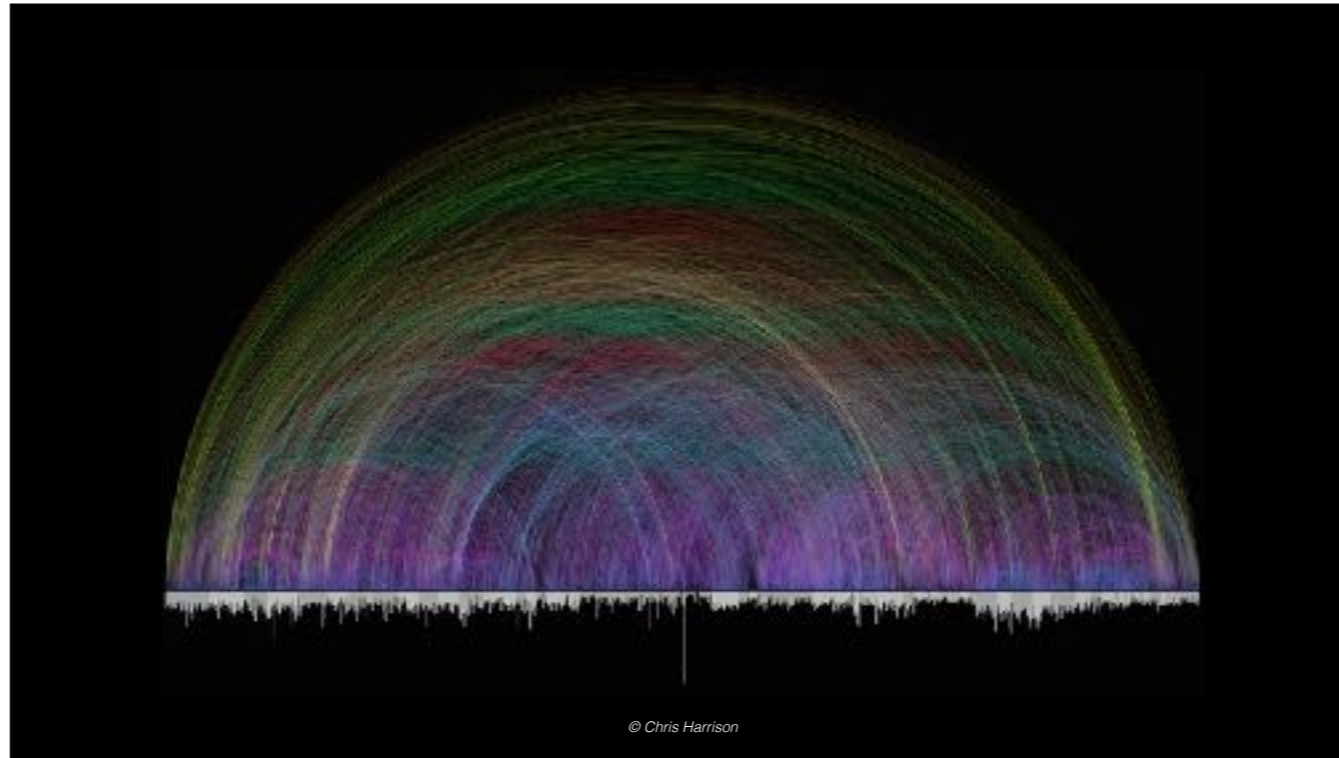
Michael S. Heiser



## EXODUS OLD AND NEW

A Biblical Theology  
of Freedom

L. MICHAEL MORALES



63,779 cross-references between each chapter.

Honorable Mention for illustrations in the 2008 International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge — NSF / *Journal of Science*.

Shown in National Geographic.

"It almost looks like one monolithic volume," said Carnegie Mellon's Chris Harrison..

Chris Harrison, Carnegie Mellon University;

Christoph Romhild, North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Hermeneutics

## Rules for interpretation

- **Consistency** : compatible and in agreement with the whole text
- **Coherence** : forms a unified whole — common themes and patterns
- **Context** : coheres with what proceeds and what follows
- **Genre** : Narrative, Poetry / Psalms, Proverbs / Riddles, Parables, Prophecy, Epistles / Letters, Apocalyptic, Metaphor / Allegory / Figures / Hyperbolae / Humor, Types / Patterns, Rhetoric, Idioms, Euphemism, ...
- **Author intent / audience** : what did the author mean and to whom is it written (at least originally)?
- Like Christ, Scripture is both...
  - **Human**: raw, honest, exposed, ...
  - **Transcendent**: supernatural, “speaks of heavenly things,” “God breathed,” spiritually discerned,
- Can biblical interpretation be *falsifiable*?

- Themes : the Exodus Pattern
- Humor: mocking the idol maker Isaiah 44:9-12; strain a gnat, swallow a camel
- Parable : Nathan confronts David with story of poor man and lamb
- Hyperbolae
  - Having a log in your eye (Matt 7:3-5)
- Euphemism
  - Death = sleep
- Idioms
  - lambs to the slaughter
  - eye for an eye
- If the Bible is written by God, shouldn't I be able to unravel scientific mysteries and deduce mathematical models that explain the universe by reading it? Shouldn't it contain something like Maxwell's Equations for electromagnetism?

*I looked at the earth,  
and it was formless and empty;  
and at the heavens,  
and their light was gone.*

Jeremiah 4:23

- Jeremiah 5:1 “If you can find but one person...” echoes of Genesis 18
- Jeremiah 626 BC, Fall of Jerusalem 586 BC

# Genesis 1-11

## In the beginning...

- **Genesis 1:** Creation Week.
  - God speaks, the earth is transformed from *chaos to order*
  - Man is created in the image of God, male and female, to rule over all the earth
  - *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. 1:31*
- **Genesis 2:** Creation of Adam and Eve
  - Adam is created and placed in the *Garden of Eden* to work and care for it
  - Single prohibition : "you must not eat from the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*" else "you will surely die."
  - Creation of Eve as a help mate for Adam
- **Genesis 3 - 11 :** Mankind falls, chaos ensues, humanity is exiled and alienated from God



- Setup to a large story / narrative
- Genesis 12 - Revelation 20 : story of redemption
- Revelation 21 - 22 : New creation, God dwells with Mankind, Sin and death are eradicated

# Eden

## Genesis 2 : 8-14

- Garden Paradise
  - Garden planted by God
  - Rich and well watered garden with “*trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.*”
  - The *Tree of Life*, the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil* are in the middle of the garden.
- Eden ≠ Earth
  - Eden is a region on Earth with geographic boundaries
  - Eventually man was to fill, subdue, and rule the entire earth (1:28)
  - Are conditions outside of Eden less conducive to life?
- Bible ends with a new heaven and earth (Revelation 21, 22)
  - Tree of Life is in the paradise of God. Revelation 2:7, 22:2



- Note: things are not perfect as we will see evil is lurking in the Garden in Genesis 3.
- Garden of Gethsemane
-

# The Serpent

## Genesis 3:1a

- נָחָשׁ [nachash] (noun) “snake.” (verb) “give omens.” (adj) “bronze.”
  - “bronze serpent” in Numbers 21:9 is a wordplay on verb / noun
- The Woman, Red Dragon, The Male Child (Revelation 12)
  - “that ancient serpent” Revelation 12:9, 20:2
- The taunt against the king of Tyre (Ezekiel 28)
  - Segues from human king to divine being (v 12-19)
  - “You were in Eden, the garden of God”
- The taunt against the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14)
  - Segues from human king to divine being (v 12-14)
- The serpent is the most crafty / shrewd of the wild animals
  - Would Adam have already named and cataloged the serpent? (2:19,20)



- serpent is “triple entendre” Heiser, Unseen Realm p 87.
  - “fiery serpent” in Numbers 21:8 is “seraph” = “burning”
  - “sea monster” in Exodus 7:9 is “tannin”
  - <https://hebrewwordlessons.com/2021/03/07/nakhash-seraph-tannin-snakes-seraphim-and-sea-serpents/>
- אָרוּם (arum), meaning shrewd/clever is simply a play on the two words `arummim (nude) and `arum (shrewd)
  - <http://learn-biblical-hebrew.com/hebrew-scripture/garden-of-eden-story/genesis-31/>
- Common Gartersnake : from my garden



# The Temptation

## Genesis 3:1b - 5

- LORD God = YHWH Elohim (v 1)
- The serpent disparages God's command (3:1b-4)
  - “*You certainly will not die!*” — contradicts God by equivocating on the semantics of “death”
  - “*your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God [Elohim] (gods, Brenton LXX), knowing good and evil.*”
    - 3:22 “*knowing*” — understanding from witnessing or experiencing
    - Adam and Eve were capable of disobeying, but had no direct experience with sin — they were *innocent*.
    - God and other divine beings knew and had witnessed or experienced divine rebellion before
    - God is portrayed as the mean, jealous, cosmic killjoy.
- Unlike in Job, we are missing background on what God is doing



- God [Elohim] plural “like one of us” (3:22)”
- God and his divine council knew what evil was.
- Was The Fall “predestined?”
  - God knows all outcomes — even those outcomes that are only potential i.e. don’t occur
    - e.g., 1 Samuel 23:1-13 : David asks God if the rulers of Keilah will deliver him into Saul’s hands and God says they would. Yet David flees so this never happens.
    - e.g., Matthew 11:20-24 : God knows what would have happened to Sodom, Gomorrah, Tyre, and Sidon if they would have repented (assuming this is not hyperbolic).

# The Fall

## Genesis 3:6-13

- Eve, and then Adam, fall to the temptation to become like God.
  - Well worn path ... human is alienated from God in a desire to be God.
  - They will be expelled from the garden (3:22-24) and their relationship with God is severed.
  - It will take God to become man and die to reverse the fall.
- *“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked”*
  - Before they *“were both naked, and they felt no shame.”* (2:25)
  - They are now exposed and *“made coverings for themselves.”* (3:7)
- *“.. they hid from the LORD God..”*



# The Proto-Evangelium

From the curse on the Serpent Genesis 3:15

*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.*

five-fold curse: Genesis 3:14,17; 4:11; 5:29; 9:25

- offspring seed => the promise to Abraham => Israel => Christ
- crush head => crucifixion
- curses
  - 3:14 — curse on serpent
  - 3:16 — pain in child bearing (source of seed / salvation)
  - 3:17 — curse on the ground
  - 4:11 — Cain — curse on ground
  - 5:29 — Noah — reverse curse on ground
  - 9:25 — Canaan