

# “Reformed Basics”

## 3. Humanity

+ the purpose of life is

X

AI Mode

- 🔍 the purpose of life is **not to be happy**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **to find your gift**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **a life of purpose**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **to live it**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **not to be happy but to be useful**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **to be happy**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **to experience**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **to live not to exist**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **to give it away**
- 🔍 the purpose of life is **not to be happy quote**

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

+ humanity is

X

AI Mode

- humanity is **overrated**
- humanity is **doomed**
- humanity is **dead ultrakill**
- humanity is **dead**
- humanity is a **failed experiment**
- humanity is **lost**
- humanity is
- humanity is **cooked**
- humanity is **inherently evil**
- humanity is **beautiful**

Google Search

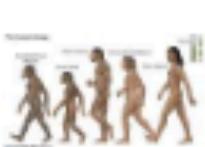
I'm Feeling Lucky

+ humans are

X

AI Mode

humans are **space orcs**



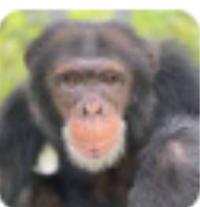
humans are animals

Human — Primate

humans are **what percent water**

humans are **social creatures**

humans are **space orcs ao3**



humans are apes

Apes — Primate

humans are **omnivores**

humans are **inherently evil**

humans are **warm blooded**

humans are **devolving**

Google Search

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+ the meaning of life is|



AI Mode

- the meaning of life is **to find your gift**
- the meaning of life is **42**
- the meaning of life is **to give life meaning**
- the meaning of life is **that it stops**
- the meaning of life is **whatever keeps you from**
- the meaning of life is **just to be alive**
- the meaning of life is **that it ends**
- the meaning of life is **service to others**
- the meaning of life is **to live**
- the meaning of life is

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# Why are we talking about this?

What does it mean to be human?

Who decides?

# The Creator defines human nature

- In creating humanity, God defines humanity's nature
- To flourish as a human being requires adhering to the Creator's design
- In this Scripture is our authority, not traditional culture or modern ideas

Then God said, “Let us make man in our **image**, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (1:26)

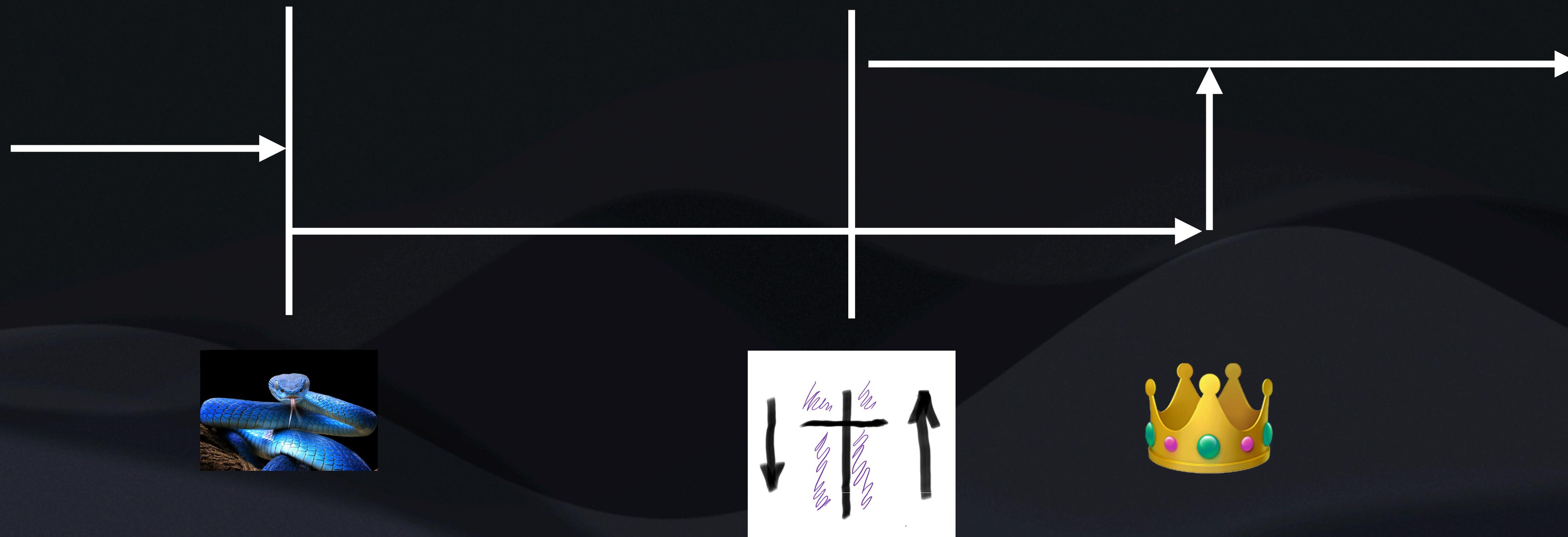
So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them. (1:27)

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.” (1:28)

# Nature, Vocation, Ultimate End

Humanity as created, fallen, redeemed, consummated

**as created**

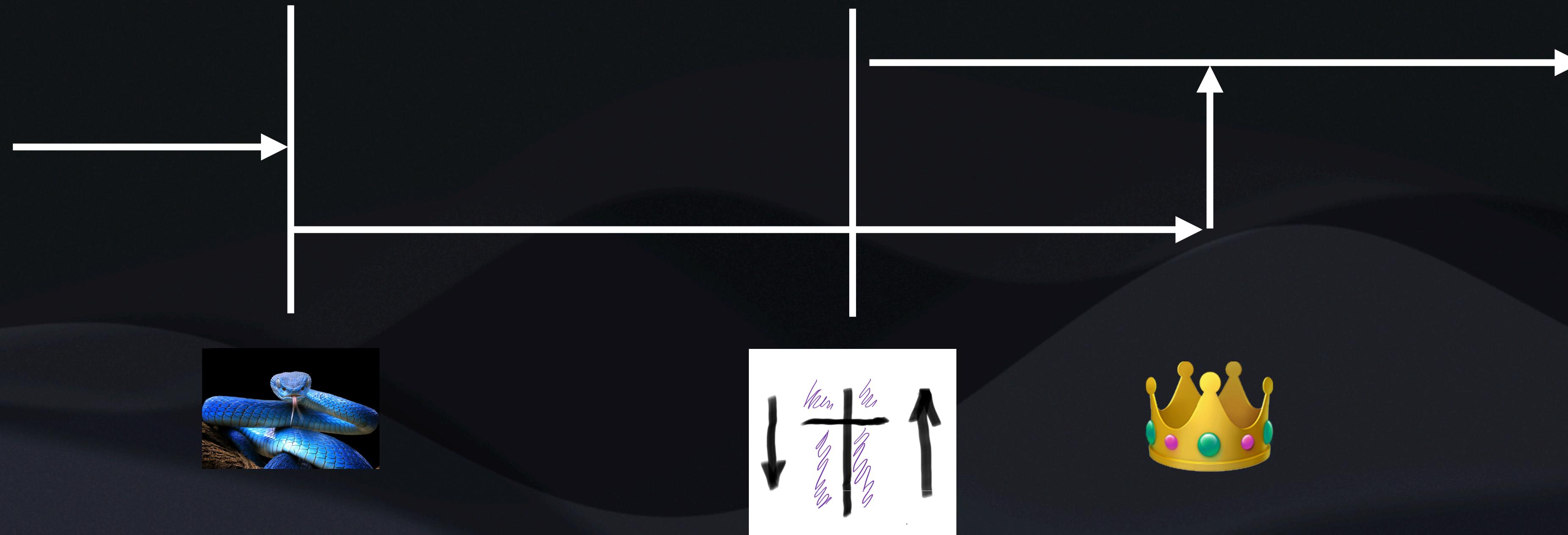


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Humanity as created, fallen, redeemed, consummated

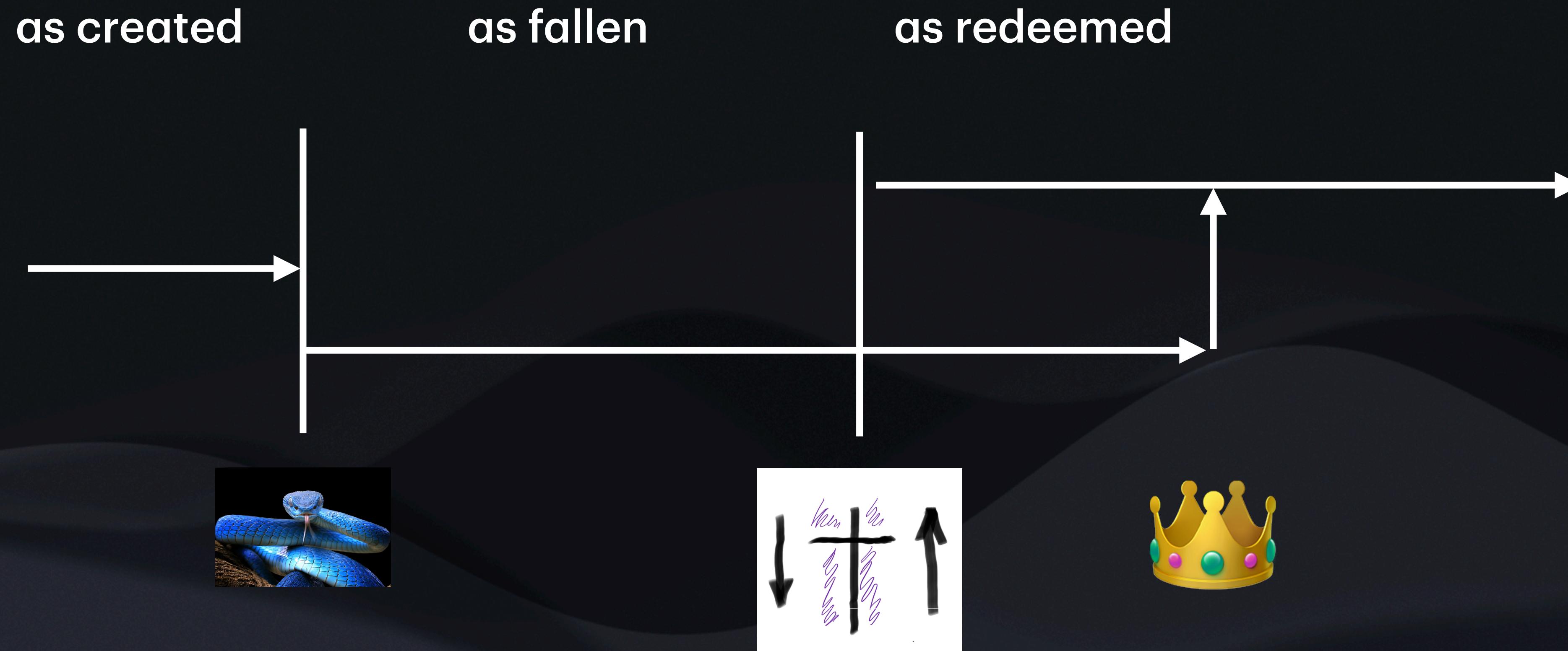
as created

as fallen



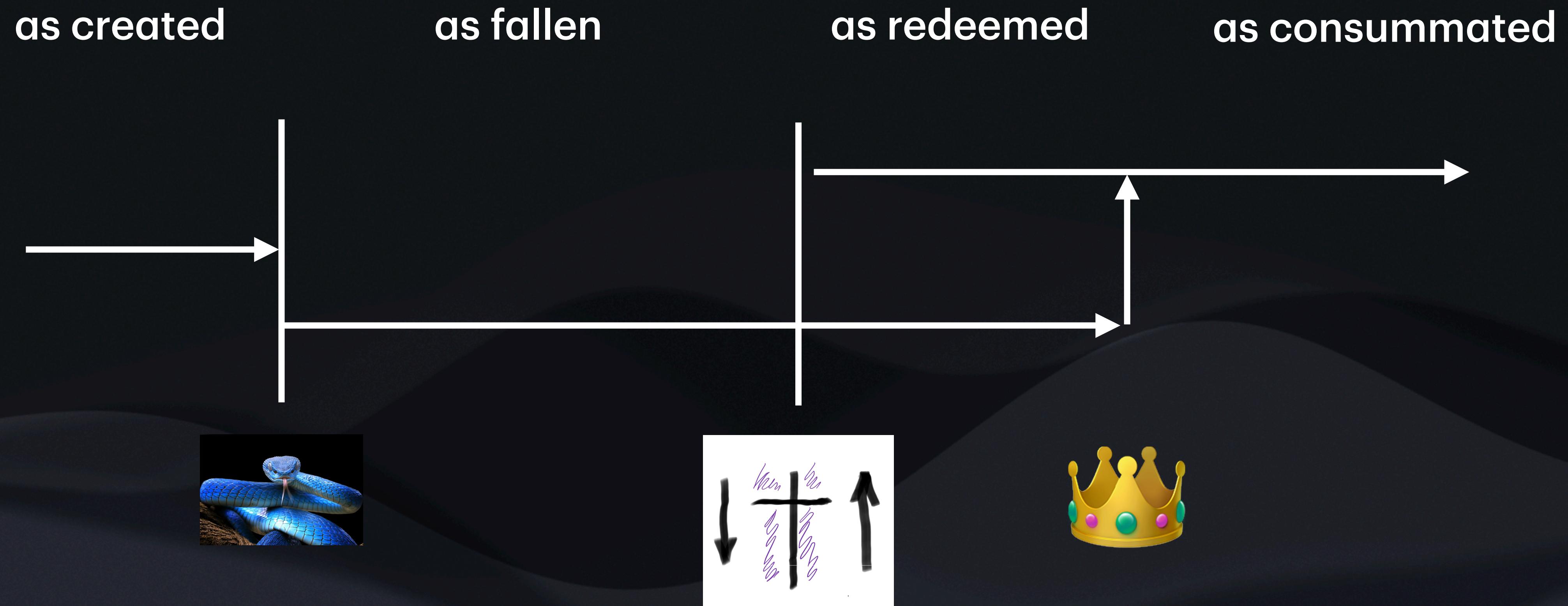
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Humanity as created, fallen, redeemed, consummated



# Vocation of humanity as created

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (2:15)

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 you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (2:16-17)

# Vocation of humanity after the Fall

And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree

of which I **commanded** you,

‘You shall not eat of it,’

**cursed** is the ground because of you;

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;

for you are **dust**,

and to dust you shall return.” (Gen 3:17-19)

What does man gain by all the  
toil at which he toils under the  
sun? (Eccl 1:3)

# But human culture develops despite the Fall

Cain knew his wife, and she **conceived and bore** Enoch. When he **built** a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. 19 And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. 20 Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who **dwell in tents and have livestock**. 21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who **play the lyre and pipe**. 22 Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the **forger of all instruments of bronze and iron**. (Gen 4:17-22)

# Vocation of humanity under Redemption

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:18-20)

# Vocation of humanity as Consummated

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.** 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” (Rev 21:1-5)

# Consummate humanity is new, but continuous

And I saw **no temple** in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be **no night there**. 26 They will bring into it **the glory and the honor of the nations**. (Rev 21:22–26)

# Humanity's ultimate goal

To live in communion with God

- The temple of the Garden becomes the temple city.
- Human beings are renewed as the image of God.
- Consummated life is communal: New Jerusalem is a city where God's people live together. The Father's house has many rooms. (But we don't stay in them!)
- Consummated life is not immaterial, any more than our Lord's resurrected body is.
- Consummated life is adorned with "the glory and honor of the nations." Everything that has been glorious and honorable in human life will be there.

# Humans: a Unity of Soul and Body

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- Our bodies are not the “prisons” of our souls—Scripture everywhere testifies that our material existence is good
- But we are not merely bodies. Our souls persist even through death

We are destined for embodied existence

But the Fall causes temporary "intermediate" state

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And he [the penitent thief] said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)

# We are destined for embodied existence

But the Fall causes temporary "intermediate" state

And he [the penitent thief] said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven... (Heb 12:22-24)

The Creator has made humans a psycho-somatic unity

How is that under attack in our culture?

# Humanity as male and female

- Here especially we must be guided by Scripture:
  - Scripture judges traditional culture
  - Scripture judges current, Western culture
- Beware of cultural assumptions!
- In any discussion of the sexes is a danger of stereotypes!
- Persons of each sex fall on a continuum.

# Humanity as male and female is repeated

This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died. (Gen 5:1-5)

# Sexual identity is essential

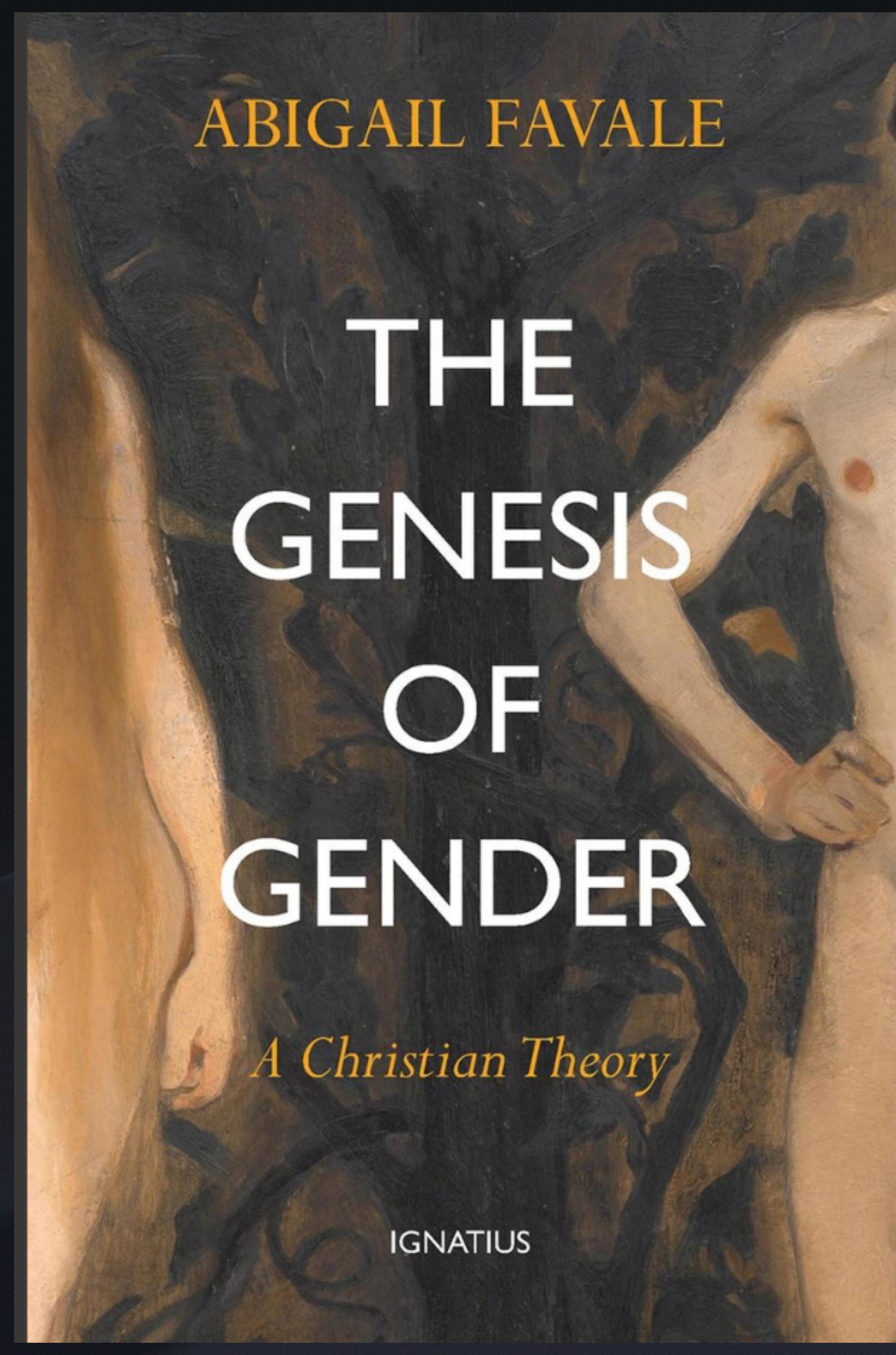
...but not ultimate

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- Our development of identity should be guided by Scriptural norms, not cultural stereotypes
- Favale's book is helpful in the current debates about gender

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# The Fall complicated marriage

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Cor 7:1-5)

# Within marriage, spouses have differing roles

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ... 21 **submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit to your **own husbands**, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the **head** of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25 Husbands, **love your wives**, as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her**, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"...

# Final end of marriage: Christ and the Church

... “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph 5:18–33)

# Purposes of marriage

- From Creation:
  - Companionship (not good that the man is alone)
  - Offspring
- After the Fall:
  - Preservation from sexual sin
  - A sign of union with Christ

God made them male and female

How is that under attack in our culture?

While the kingdom of God is first planted spiritually in human hearts, the future blessedness is not to be spiritualized. Biblical hope, rooted in incarnation and resurrection, is creational, this-worldly, visible, physical, bodily hope. The rebirth of human beings is completed in the glorious rebirth of all creation, the new Jerusalem, whose architect and builder is God himself. The salvation of the kingdom of God, including communion with God as well as the communion of the saints, is both a present blessing and a future, consummated, rich glory. The kingdom of God has come and is coming. The scope of God's mercy is wide.

-Herman Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics, vol 4