

The Path to Happiness

Divine Principle Lecture Series

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Lecture 8

The Root of Sin

SLIDE 1

Welcome back to our series on the Unification Principles. I'm your host, Dr. Tyler Hendricks. What we have talked about thus far is God's ideal, and it is very idealistic. But human beings live in a reality of grief and loneliness. Every day countless events which ought not to occur are occurring around us and we can easily witness others suffering due to such circumstances. We want to live a life where we receive plenty of good vitality elements and life elements, and lead a genuine life in this world and the next. But it is not so easy.

SLIDE 2

The daily news inundates us with stories of scams and brutal crimes, political corruption, and the suffering of dying patients. There are also many who suffer from physical handicaps, psychological problems and sexual perversions beyond their control, who then inflict suffering upon others. In our daily lives we are bound to experience the existence of evil.

SLIDE 3

In reality, humans possess an innate desire to choose good over evil. However, as we can see from St. Paul's confession in Rom 7:22-23, all humans are swayed by the influence of some evil force beyond their control, so that they carry out the evil which their original mind rejects.

SLIDE 4

According to Christianity, the root of human suffering lies in the fall of Adam and Eve, the progenitors of all humanity. According to Buddhism, all people inherently possess a "Buddha-nature," though they often fall into despair and suffering due to ignorance and attachment. Concerning this state of human affairs, Xunzi (Augustine) insisted that humans were born inherently evil, whereas Mencius (Rousseau) argued that humans are born good and only become evil when seduced by external influences.

SLIDE 5

The reason humans have yet to eliminate the existence of evil and subdue its influence lies in the fact that they have yet to comprehend the identity of

→ the subject partner of evil, which is Satan, and the manner by which he came to assume this position. Thus, it is necessary for us to first uncover

→ the motivation and path by which Satan became, as his title implies, "the adversary," thereby opening the path for humanity to finally eradicate evil and create a new history of goodness.

→ The Divine Principle deals with this subject in the section entitled "The Human Fall". Let us first investigate the source of human suffering, "The Root of Evil".

SLIDE 6

In Gen 2, the Bible records an account of the fall. Gen 2:17 states, "But of the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil though shall not partake. For in the day that you do you shall surely die" and explains that

→ the breaking of this commandment and partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the root of all evil.

SLIDE 7

Some have ventured to interpret this fruit to be of a literal variety, perhaps an apple or peach. Could this actually be the case?

SLIDE 8

→ What reason would the Parent of humanity, God, have to create such an enticing but deadly piece of fruit?

→ Jesus professed that food alone does not make a person unclean (Matt 15:11).

→ Also, it is impossible for the effect of literal fruit to be passed on and inherited, generation after generation.

SLIDE 9

If we intend to clearly understand the nature of this “fruit” then we must first understand the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, there are only two references in the Bible to this tree, Gen 2, verses 9 and 17. Thus, we will discover the significance of its fruit by comparison

→ with its counterpart, the tree of life.

→ References to the tree of life are found throughout the Bible.

SLIDE 10

→ From Prov 13:12 we can deduce that the Old Testament Israelites desired to attain this Tree of Life.

→ From Rev 22:14 we can further deduce that attaining to the Tree of Life remained the desire of those living even after the time of Christ.

SLIDE 11

Since the ultimate desire of fallen man is to attain to the Tree of Life, we can also assume that

→ this must have been Adam’s desire as well, even before the fall.

SLIDE 12

Gen 3:24 reveals that after the Fall, God placed a pair of cherubim with flaming swords to guard the way to the Tree of Life. Thus, we can deduce that Adam’s desire before the fall was to attain to the Tree of Life.

SLIDE 13

So what must have been the desire of immature Adam?

→ It was assuredly to become a complete man having achieved

→ God’s ideal of creation.

→ Thus, the Tree of Life represents a man who has achieved the purpose of creation.

SLIDE 14

Therefore, the

→ Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which resided at the center of the Garden of Eden along with the Tree of Life,

→ must represent a completed woman, namely Eve.

SLIDE 15

Consequently, the “fruit” of that tree

→ represented Eve's fruit, namely Eve's love.

Eve, according to the nature of her love, possessed the potential to bring forth either good or

→ bad fruit, and so the tree was referred to as "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."

SLIDE 16

Therefore, the fact that they partook of the fruit is a coded reference to

→ the consummation of a love relationship. However, the reason this was considered sinful was due to the fact that

→ it was a love relationship that God had not sanctioned.

→ It signifies that Eve consummated a love relationship with Satan, represented as a serpent.

SLIDE 17

Then, what is the exact identity of this serpent who became Satan?

→ According to the Bible, this serpent could converse with human beings.

→ He knew the express command of God against partaking of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

→ Rev 12:9 reveals that his abode was once Heaven.

→ He also possesses the ability to transcend time and space in order to dominate the human spirit. What sort of being could possibly possess such characteristics? Besides God, Adam, and Eve, what being stood in such a position?

→ There are no beings like this other than the angels.

SLIDE 18:

2 Peter 2:4 reveals that the identity of this serpent who ensnared humanity in sin is none other than an angel.

In particular, Jude verses 6 and 7 reveal that the angels fell due to fornication. "And the angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire."

SLIDE 19

Fornication is an act that cannot be committed alone. Then who was the angel's object partner of fornication?

SLIDE 20

Gen 2:25 tells us that before the fall,

→ Adam and Eve were "naked and unashamed."

→ However, Gen 3:7 reveals that after partaking of the fruit they felt great shame and covered their lower parts with fig leaves. This fact indicates that their lower parts were the objects of their shame.

→ Job 31:33-34 leads us to infer that their lower parts were sinful. In other words, they sinned with their lower parts.

SLIDE 21

Due to the first human ancestors' fornication with the angel, all humanity is born to Satan's lineage.

SLIDE 22

In Matt 3:7 John the Baptist reproached the people, referring to them as a “brood of vipers,” that is children of Satan.

Likewise in Matt 23:33 Jesus rebuked the people, saying, “You serpents, you generation of vipers”.

SLIDE 23

Why then must the fall be of a sexual nature?

Typically in Christianity, the fall (Gen 3:5) is interpreted as the result of man’s ambition and disobedience in seeking to become like God. However, when viewing the Bible as a whole, it is apparent that the fall must in fact be of a sexual nature.

SLIDE 24

The story of the fall as recorded in the Bible in Gen 2:4~3:24 is said to belong to the J (Yahwist) tradition (931 BC~). The author was most likely a prophet during the reign of King Solomon (972-932 B.C.).

SLIDE 25

At the time, Solomon utilized the geopolitical position of Israel as a trading hub to accumulate vast wealth. In order to avoid war and stabilize the government, he engaged in a foreign policy of contractual marriages with the relatives of foreign regents.

SLIDE 26

For this purpose, Solomon managed to obtain, in addition to his official wife (pharaoh’s daughter), a harem of 700 consorts and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1-13).

Solomon went on to embrace the various idols that these 1,000 wives brought with them from their own cultures and even built altars for them where they could burn incense and make offerings to these idols.

SLIDE 27

Thus, the nation of Israel, which had foresworn to attend YHWH alone, soon became a religious hodgepodge.

SLIDE 28

Fertility cults worshipping Ashera or Anat, the goddess of sex and fertility, soon became prevalent. Fertility cults conducted fertility rites in which the high priest would engage in sex with a temple prostitute to represent sexual unity with the deity.

SLIDE 29

Particularly in the near-east, people began to revere the snake as a symbol of sexual pleasure, health, knowledge and fertility. Many Israelites as well abandoned their commitment to YHWH and began to revere such deities, thereby falling into sexual promiscuity.

SLIDE 30

So, it appears that the Yahwist author intended to reveal that the serpent which many had come to revere was not in fact a deity of grace, but a seducer and a deceiver; that this sexual deity, the serpent, was the one who brought about the human fall, causing Adam and Eve to commit the original sin and be expelled from the garden.

SLIDE 31

We should come away from this with the assured knowledge that the origin of human suffering and the root of sin is none other than the sexual transgression of our first ancestors Adam and Eve.

In our next session we will explore in greater depth the motivation and process of the fall. This will reveal how the fall works in our lives and our society, and how we can reverse it and free ourselves from it. I look forward to sharing it with you.

The Root of Sin

The background of the slide features a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The bottom half of the slide is a grey and white checkered floor that recedes into the distance, creating a sense of perspective. A thin blue rectangular border frames the text area.

**A video on crime, political
corruption, etc.
will be shown on this slide**

We carry out the evil that our original
mind rejects.

**For I delight in the law of God in
my inmost self, but I see in my
members another law at war with
the law of my mind, making me
captive to the law of sin that dwells
in my members.**

Romans 7:22~23

The Cause of Human Suffering

Christianity



The Fall of
Adam and Eve

Buddhism



Ignorance, undue
attachment
and wrong desire

Xunzi



Evil is inherent
from birth

Mencius



Society makes
us evil

Satan, the subject partner of evil

The motivation and process
by which Satan appeared

The path to eradicate evil

and create a history
of goodness

Answer
II

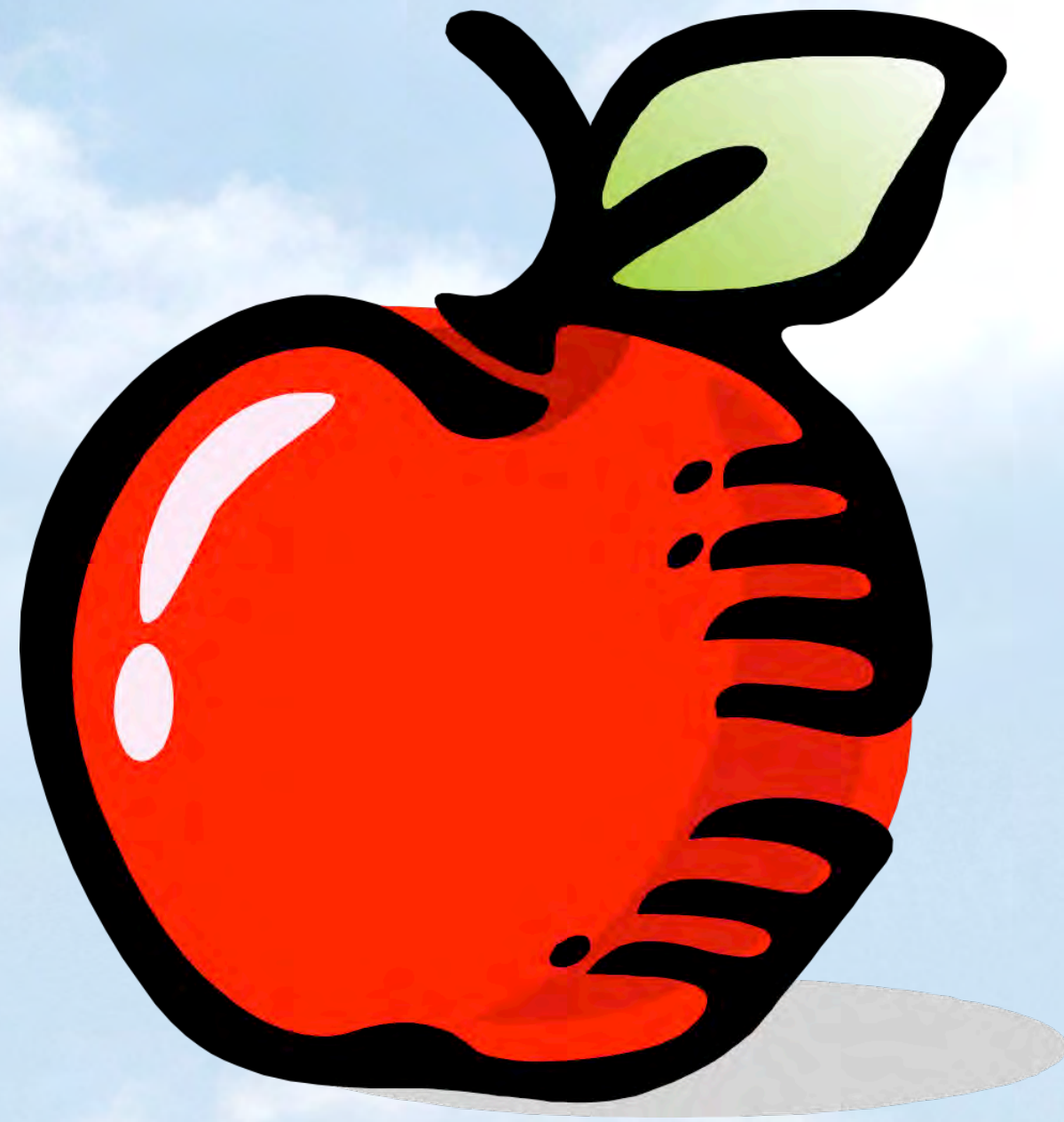
The Human Fall

“But of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil though shall not partake. For in the day that you do you shall surely die.”

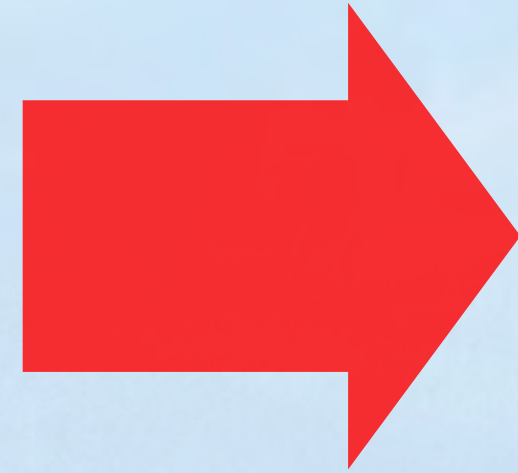
Gen. 2:17



*Breaking the commandment
by eating the fruit
was the root of all evil.*



Literal ? ?



Why would a Parent
create an enticing but
deadly fruit?



**“It is not what goes into the mouth
that defiles a person, but what
comes out of the mouth.”**

Matt. 15:11





The tree of knowledge
Genesis 2 only



The tree of life
Throughout the Bible

The hope of the people of Israel

**Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.**

Proverbs 13:12

The hope of Christian believers

**Blessed are those who wash their robes, so
that they will have the right to the tree of life
and may enter the city by the gates.**

Revelation 22:14



The Tree of Life

||

The hope of fallen humankind
The hope of Adam before the Fall

“He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.”

Gen 3:24

Fulfill the
purpose
of
creation

Desire



The Tree
of Life

Immature
Adam

Mature
Adam



Mature
Adam



T / L



T / K-G-E



Mature
Eve



Mature
Adam



T / L

Eve's love

T / K-G-E



Mature
Eve

A love relationship
that God had not
sanctioned



Satan
The Serpent

Love
relationship

Immature
Eve

What is the nature of the serpent?



Angel

1. Could converse with human beings
2. Knew God's commandment
3. Lived in heaven (Rev 12:9)
4. Could transcend time and space, a spiritual being

2 Peter 2:4

Reveals the identity of this serpent who tempted Adam and Eve to sin.

And the angels who did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgment of the great day. Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Jude 6-7

Fornication is an act that cannot
be committed alone.

Who was the angel's object partner of
fornication?

The Sin in the Garden



And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Gen 2:25

Sinned with their lower parts

The Sin in the Garden



Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Gen 3:7

Sinned with their lower parts

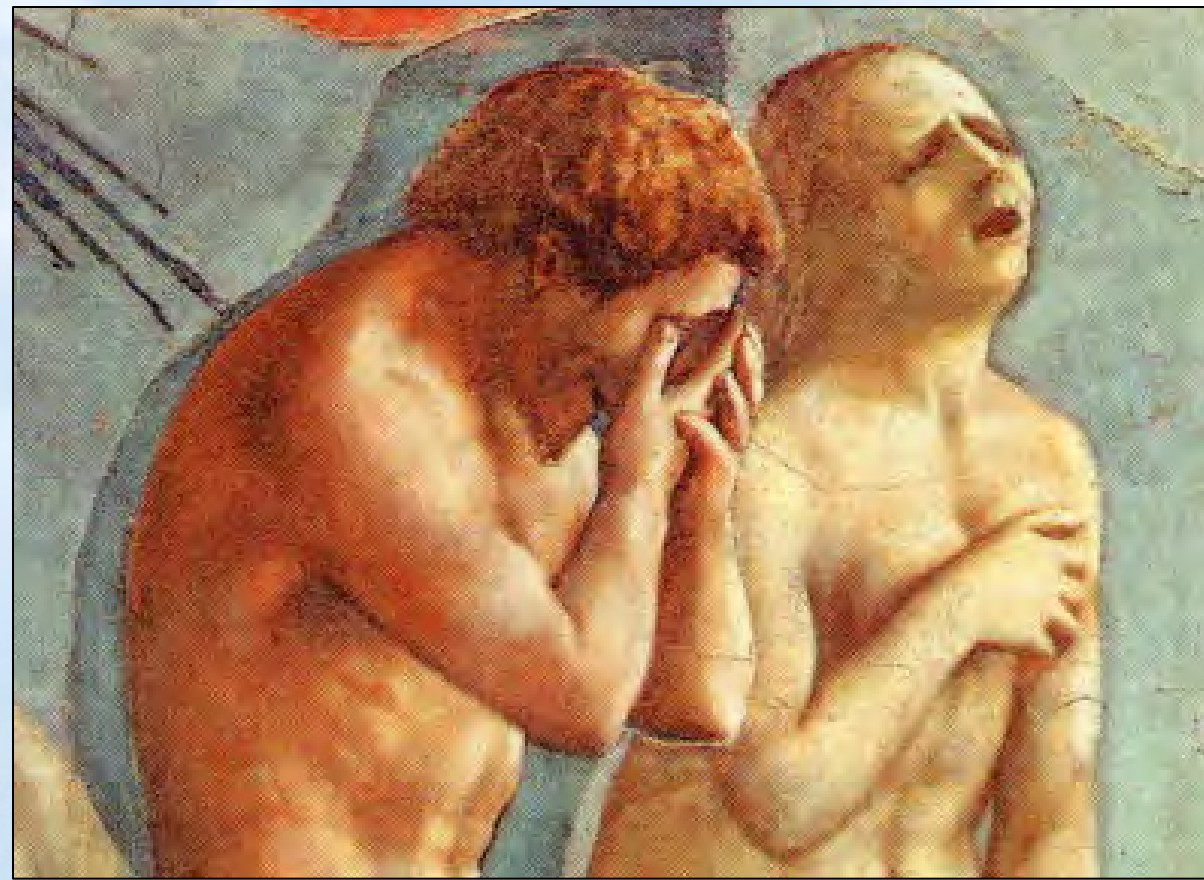
The Sin in the Garden



If I have concealed my transgressions as Adam did, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom

Job 31:33~34

Sinned with their lower parts



First Human
Ancestors



Angel



Fornication of the first ancestors with the angel



Multiplication of Satan's lineage



John the Baptist reproached the people, referring to them as “brood of vipers,” that is children of Satan.

Matt 3:7

Jesus said, You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell?

Matt 23:33

Why then must the Fall be
of a **sexual nature**?

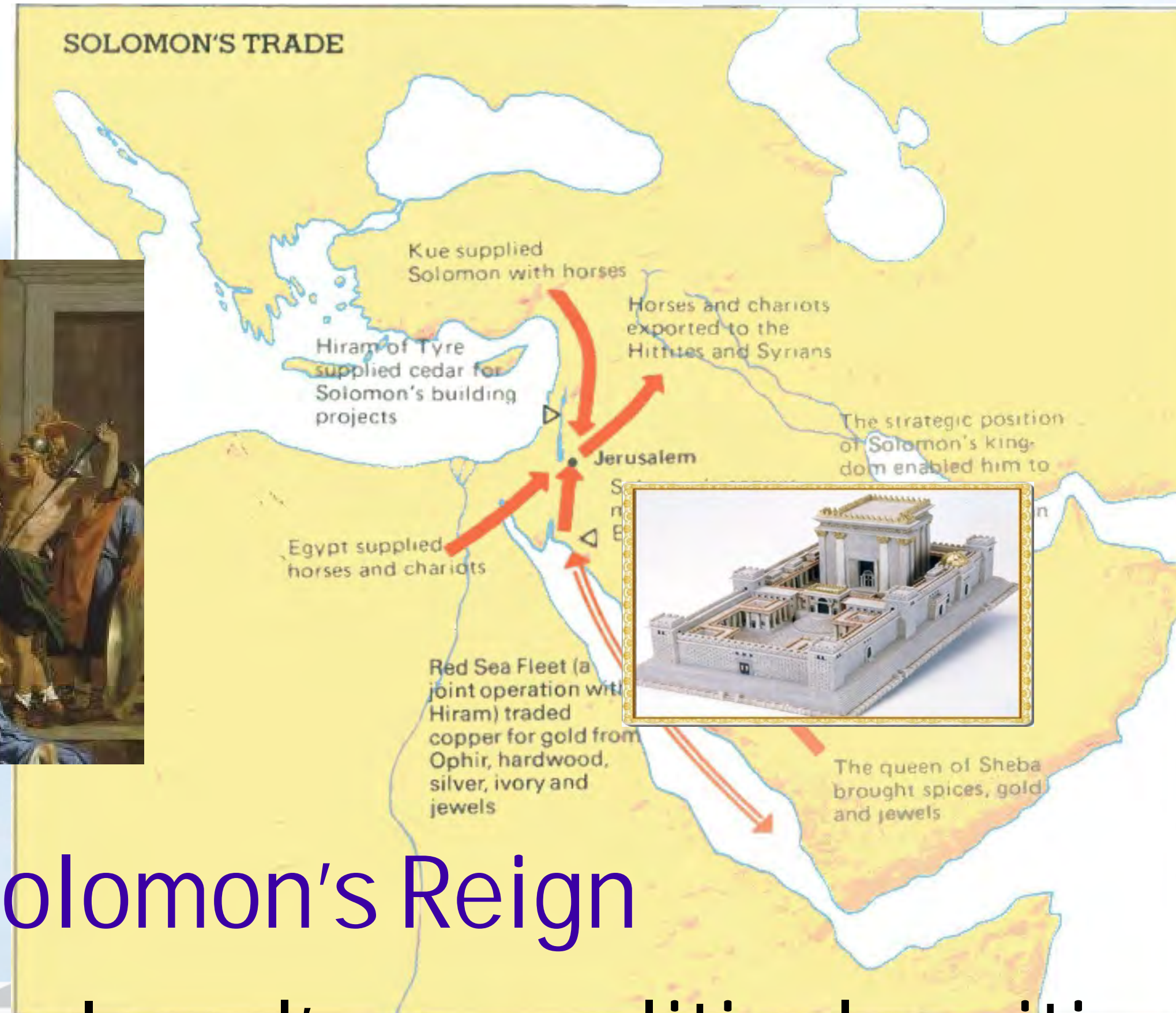
Traditionally the story is interpreted in terms
of human ambition and disobedience.

The sexual dimension of the fall provides
the complete picture .

How did God reveal this?



Genesis 2:4 - 3:24 is of the J (Yawhist) tradition. The author was a prophet during the reign of King Solomon.



The Era of King Solomon's Reign

Wealthy by utilizing Israel's geo-political position.
Foreign policy of contractual marriages to secure commercial benefits.

King Solomon

- 700 consorts
- 300 concubines
- Embraced the idols of his wives
- Built altars for their gods in the Temple



The nation of Israel
became a religious hodgepodge

Worshipped goddesses of sex and fertility
Fertility cults in which the high priest engaged
in sex with temple prostitutes.





- Worshipped snake gods and other gods
- King Solomon and the people of Israel fell into sexual promiscuity



The Yawhist realized that
“the snake” brought about the human fall.
John’s Revelation reveals the same.

The Fall of Man

The Fall of Angels



Adulterous
Relationship



The Root of
Sin

