



GLOBAL REBELLION AND THE PATRIARCHS

Lesson 3



Genesis tells stories of deception and broken relationships since the fall. During that period of time, the cosmic conflict spread throughout the Earth.



Cain's sin.



The rebellion of the Antediluvian.



Abraham's experience.



Jacob's conflict.



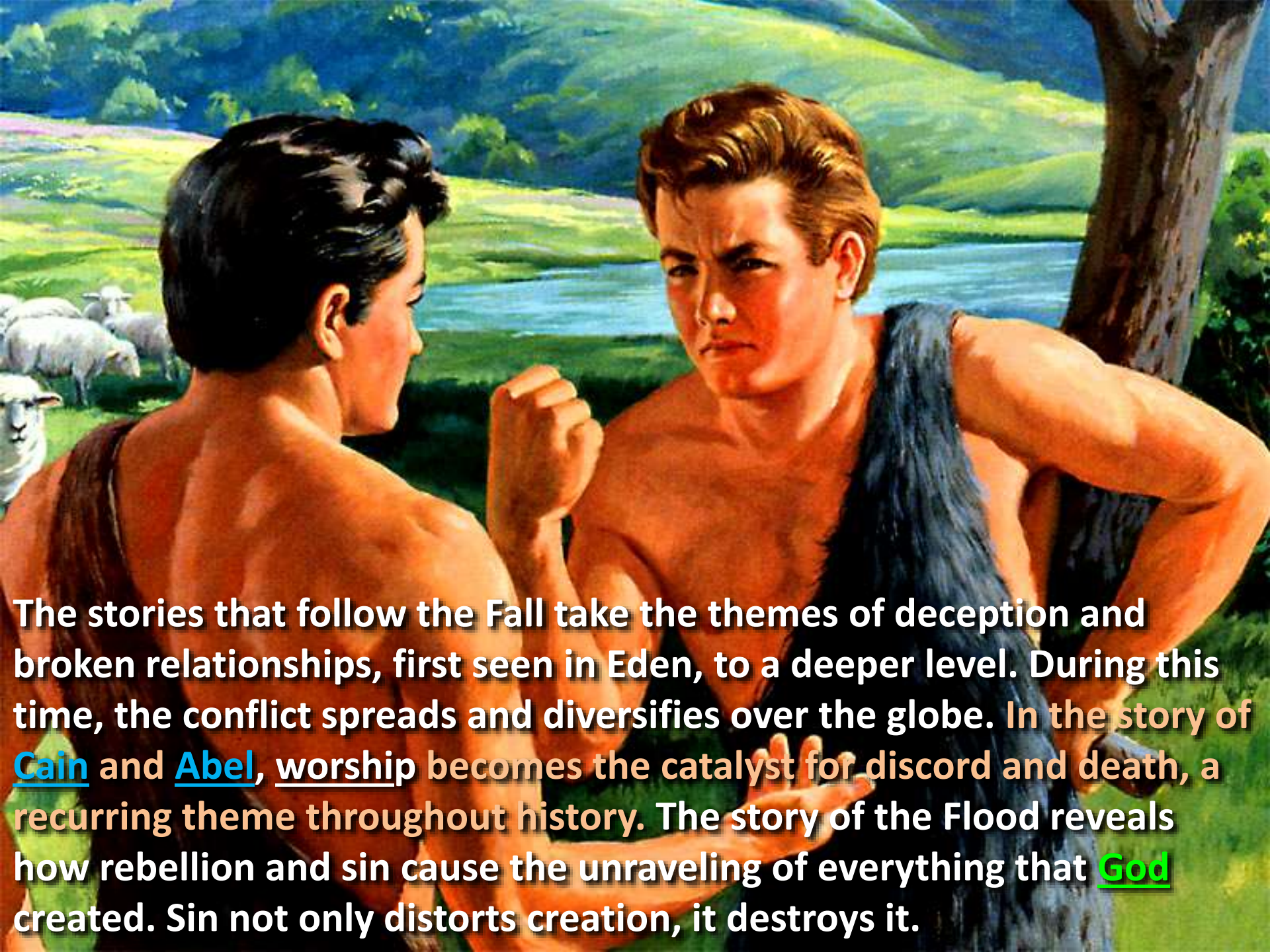
Joseph's vision.

Key Text:

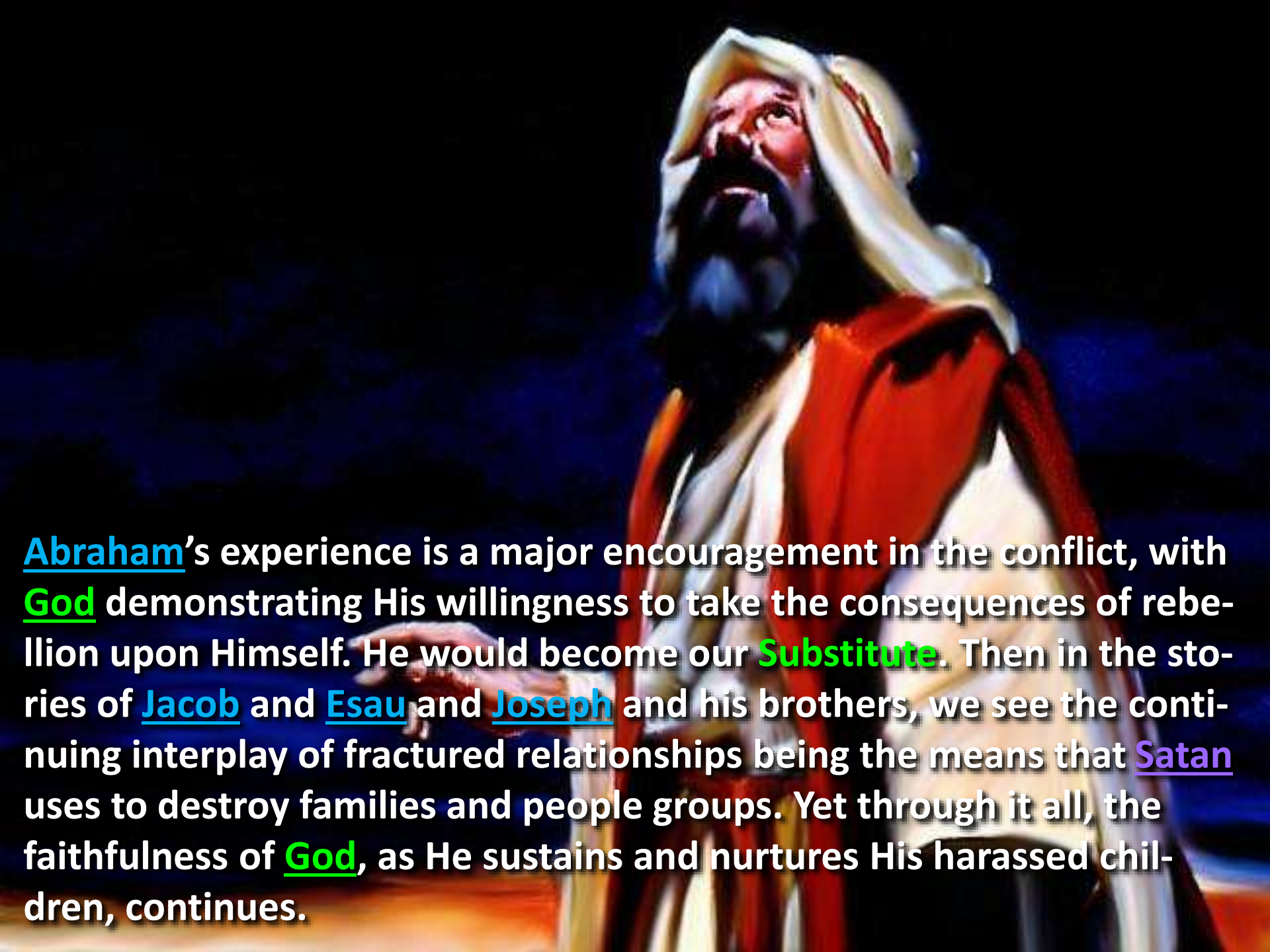
“Behold, *I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you*”

(Genesis 28:15, NKJV).





The stories that follow the Fall take the themes of deception and broken relationships, first seen in Eden, to a deeper level. During this time, the conflict spreads and diversifies over the globe. In the story of [Cain](#) and [Abel](#), [worship](#) becomes the catalyst for discord and death, a recurring theme throughout history. The story of the Flood reveals how rebellion and sin cause the unraveling of everything that [God](#) created. Sin not only distorts creation, it destroys it.



Abraham's experience is a major encouragement in the conflict, with **God** demonstrating His willingness to take the consequences of rebellion upon Himself. He would become our **Substitute**. Then in the stories of **Jacob** and **Esau** and **Joseph** and his brothers, we see the continuing interplay of fractured relationships being the means that **Satan** uses to destroy families and people groups. Yet through it all, the faithfulness of **God**, as He sustains and nurtures His harassed children, continues.

CAIN'S SIN

"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?'" (Genesis 4:9)

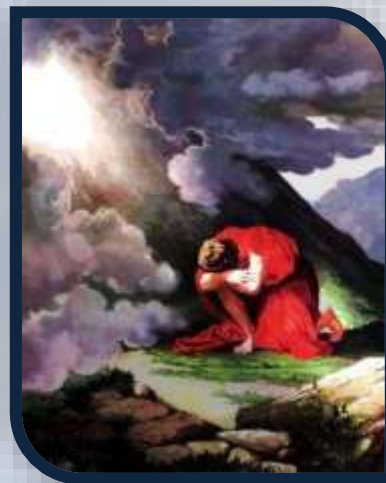
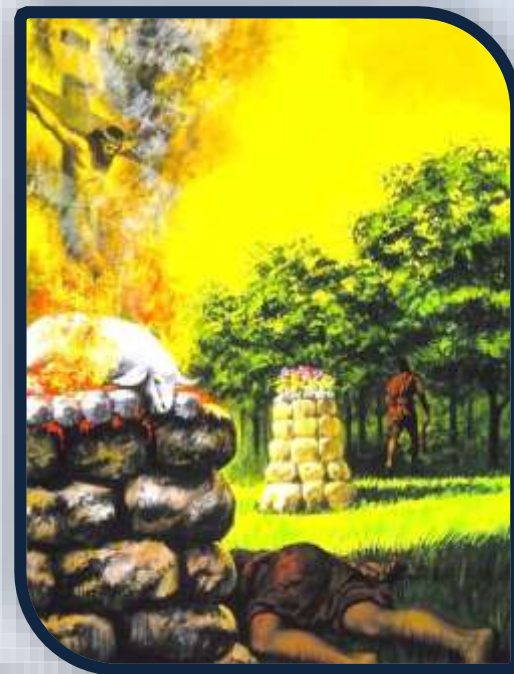
When Cain was born, Eve thought he was the promised Messiah who would redeem them. But he wasn't.

Cain's offering was rejected, but Abel's was accepted. Cain got angry with his brother Abel instead of thinking over why his worship was rejected.

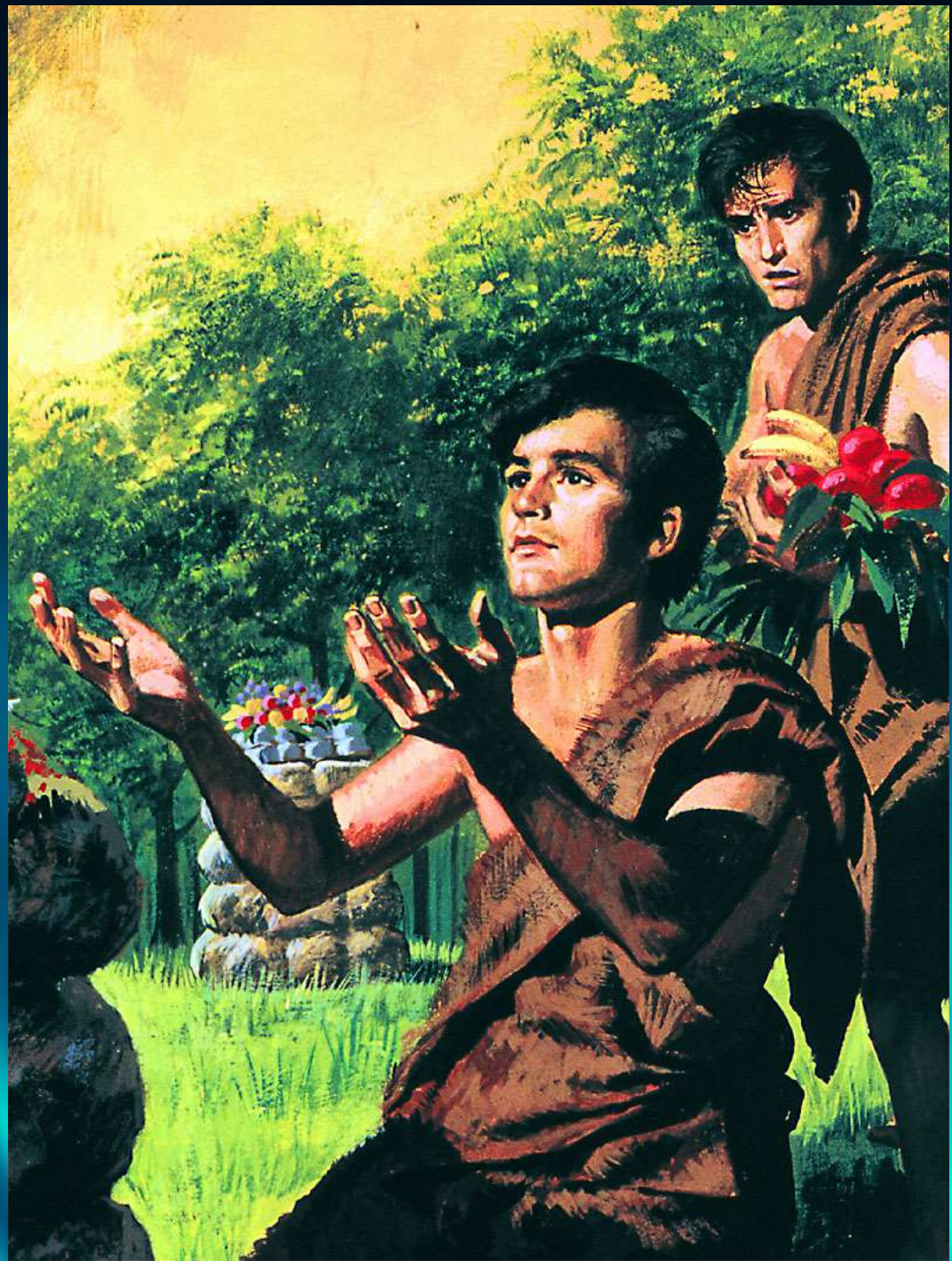
The father of lies induced him to commit murder. Cain killed his brother and then lied to hide his sin ("I do not know.")

Cain answered God in a defiant way, showing no repentance.

The birth of Seth brought hope back, since the promised Messiah would be his descendant.



Nothing is said of the joy of Cain's boyhood years and the novelty of new parents proudly enjoying the development of their first baby. The narrative jumps quickly to a second birth and then to the two young men worshipping. However, as we so often see, differences over worship lead to tragedy.

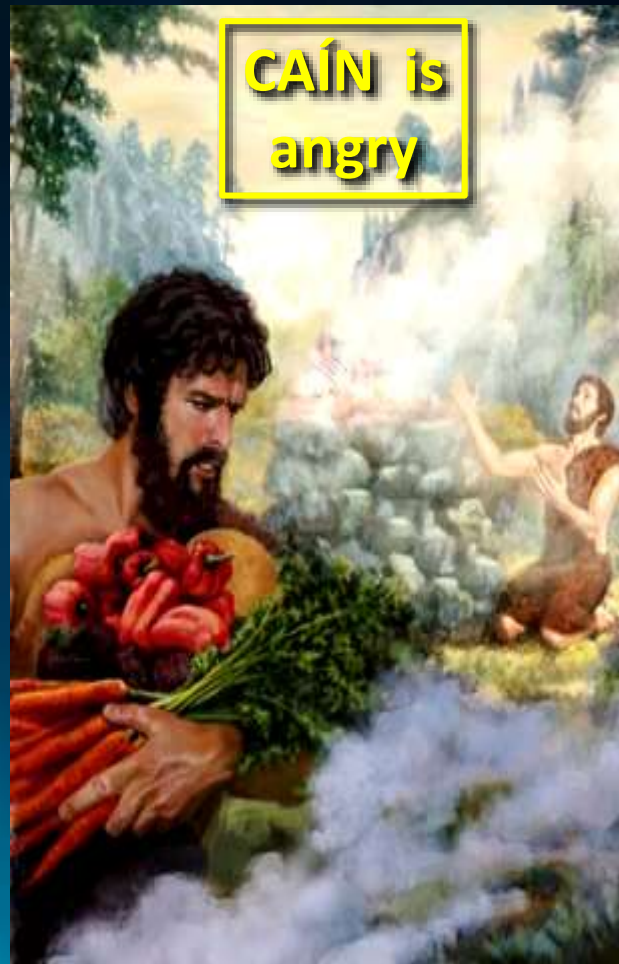


Read *Genesis*
3:9, 10; 4:9.

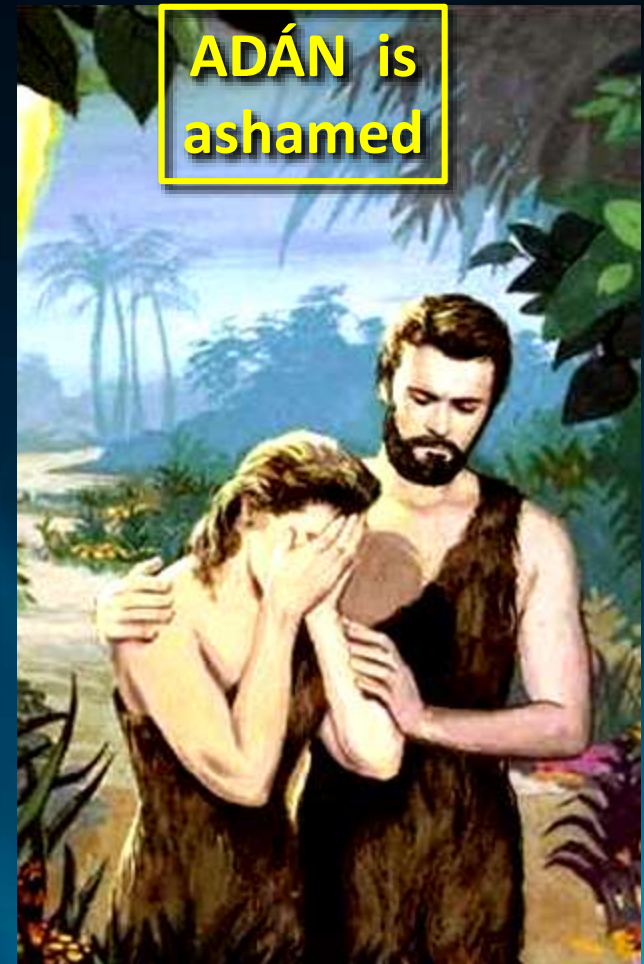
Compare
Adam's reaction
with Cain's
reaction when
God questioned
them after each
one sinned.

What is similar?

*What is
different?*



**CAÍN is
angry**



**ADÁN is
ashamed**

Note the differences in Adam's emotions as compared with Cain's. Adam appears **confused**, **frightened**, and **ashamed** (*Gen. 3:10*), but Cain is angry (*Gen. 4:5*), **cynical**, and **rebellious** (*Gen. 4:9*). Instead of offering a weak excuse as Adam did, Cain tells a blatant untruth.

However, out of the despair came a measure of hope and optimism. With the birth of [Seth](#), [Eve](#) again thinks she has delivered the [Promised One](#) ([Gen. 4:25](#)). The name "[Seth](#)" is from the word that means "[to place or to put](#)," the same word used in [Genesis 3:15](#) for a [Deliverer](#) who would be put in place to challenge the [serpent](#) and crush its head. In a further parallel to [Genesis 3:15](#), [Eve](#) describes her new son as "[the seed](#)" to replace [Abel](#). Thus, even amid so much despair and tragedy, and as [the great controversy between good and evil](#) continued to spread, people still clung to the hope of redemption. Without it, what do we have?



THE REBELLION OF THE ANTEDILUVIAN

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Genesis 6:5)



Cain's descendants got swept up in sin very quickly.

Seth's descendants remained faithful to God for some time, but the whole mankind eventually rebelled against God.

God decided to radically stop the rebellion, turning the Earth back to its first state; “without form and void.” (Genesis 1:2). “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (Genesis 6:8).

That was a new beginning, but problems arose again. Noah got drunk and Cam acted in a shameful way.

Nevertheless, hope remained thanks the faithful descendants of Sem.

ABRAHAM'S EXPERIENCE

"Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son." (Genesis 22:13)



God promised Abraham a child; in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 22:18). God confirmed that promise to Isaac (Genesis 26:4) and Jacob (Genesis 28:14).

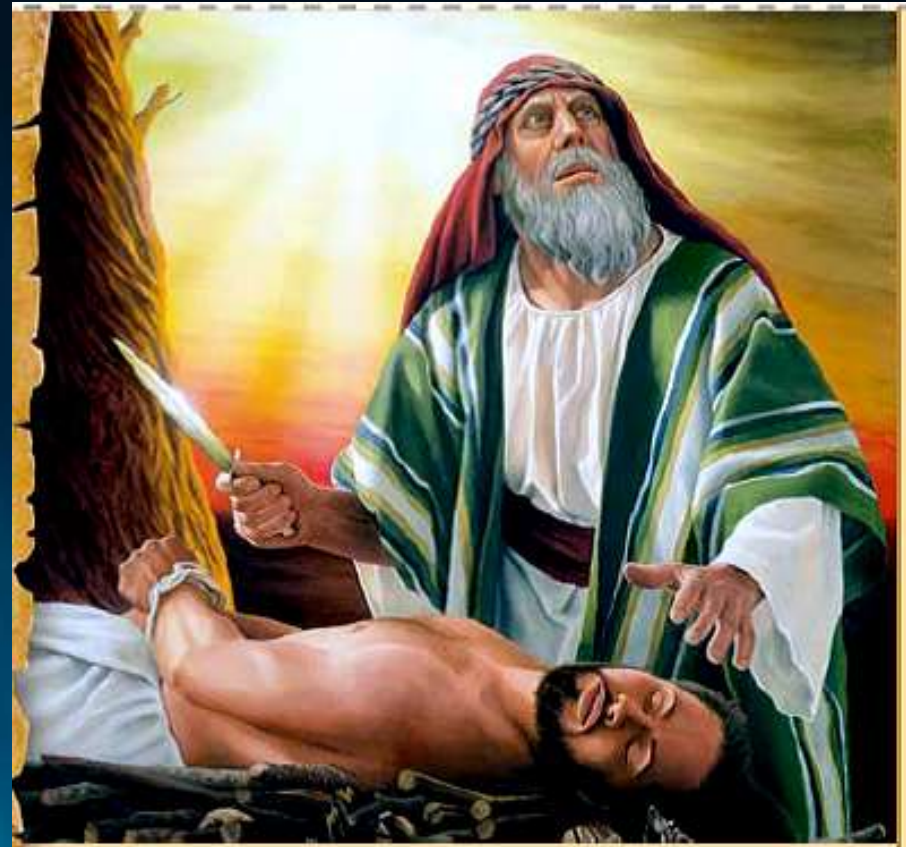
How is having to kill the son of the promise related to the cosmic conflict between good and evil?



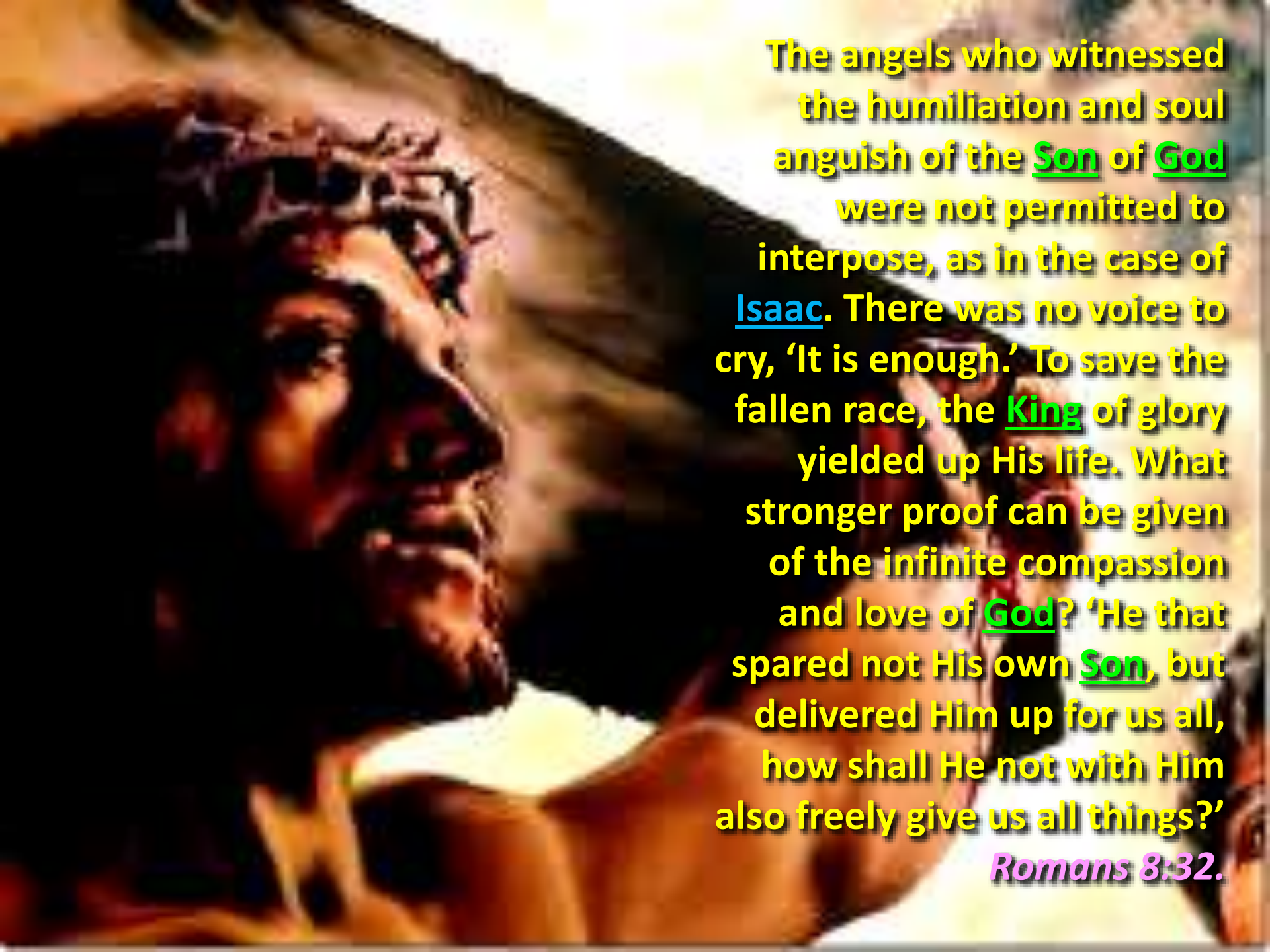
"Because Abraham had shown a lack of faith in God's promises, Satan had accused him before the angels and before God of having failed to comply with the conditions of the covenant, and as unworthy of its blessings. God desired to prove the loyalty of His servant before all heaven, to demonstrate that nothing less than perfect obedience can be accepted, and to open more fully before them the plan of salvation."

Read *Genesis 22:1–19*. What hope is revealed here in regard to the whole great controversy?

“It was to impress Abraham’s mind with the reality of the gospel, as well as to test his faith, that God commanded him to slay his son.



The agony which he endured during the dark days of that fearful trial was permitted that he might understand from his own experience something of the greatness of the sacrifice made by the infinite God for man’s redemption. No other test could have caused Abraham such torture of soul as did the offering of his son. God gave His Son to a death of agony and shame.



The angels who witnessed the humiliation and soul anguish of the Son of God were not permitted to interpose, as in the case of Isaac. There was no voice to cry, 'It is enough.' To save the fallen race, the King of glory yielded up His life. What stronger proof can be given of the infinite compassion and love of God? 'He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?'

Romans 8:32.

“The sacrifice required of Abraham was not alone for his own good, nor solely for the benefit of succeeding generations; but it was also for the instruction of the sinless intelligences of heaven and of other worlds.



The field of the controversy between Christ and Satan—the field on which the plan of redemption is wrought out—is the lesson book of the universe. Because Abraham had shown a lack of faith in God’s promises, Satan had accused him before the angels and before God of having failed to comply with the conditions of the covenant, and as unworthy of its blessings. God desired to prove the loyalty of His servant before all heaven, to demonstrate that nothing less than perfect obedience can be accepted, and to open more fully before them the plan of salvation.”—EGW. , PP. pp. 154, 155.

JACOB'S CONFLICT (I)

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.” (Genesis 28:15)

Jacob forced his brother to sell him the birthright. Then he deceived his father to steal the blessing from Esau.



Esau's reaction was emphatic; he would kill his brother. Rebeca sent Jacob far from home to save him. God met him and bless him in the midst of his desperation. Despite all his mistakes, God didn't see him as Jacob—the deceiver—but as Israel who would cling tightly to God.



JACOB'S CONFLICT (II)

"Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children." (Genesis 32:11)

Jacob decided to return home after being deceived by his father-in-law for 20 years.

He was chased by Laban and God freed him (Genesis 31:29). He finally lost heart when his brother came to him with 400 armed men.

He prayed all night long and he fought against God and clung to Him. Jacob ended lame and helpless after that fight.

When Esau saw Jacob like that, he thought he was no longer a danger, so he decided to forgive him.

If want to overcome this conflict, we must cling tightly to God like Jacob did. He will defeat Satan and He will guide us to the Promised Land.



JOSEPH'S VISION

"But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life." (Genesis 45:5)



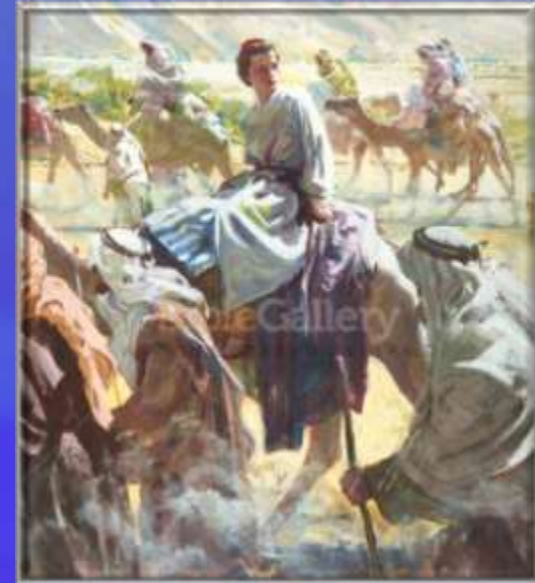
A coat of many colors, two dreams and a father that sends his youngest son to spy his brothers. That was a tragic story.

Joseph made a pact with God; he chose to serve Him no matter the circumstances. And the circumstances were harsh for many years.



Joseph became the second-in-command in Egypt, so he could've taken revenge on his brothers. Nevertheless, he didn't focus on their evil, but on God's guidance in his life, his family and every person on Earth.

We need Joseph's vision. We must see beyond people and circumstances. We must see God guiding our way, fulfilling His purpose in this world, in our family and in us.



THE JOSEPH DREAMS AND HIS BROTHERS *Genesis 37*

Then, when Joseph told his brothers about his dreams (*Gen. 37:5–11*), he incited even more hatred and envy against himself.



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So, at the first opportunity, they plotted to get rid of him (*Gen. 37:19, 20*). The brothers must have congratulated themselves on how easy it was to remove him from their lives. None, though, had any idea how God would use this situation to save them years later.

Read *Genesis 45:4–11*. What was the bigger picture that Joseph saw? What was his main focus?



Think of what might have gone through [Joseph's](#) mind as a boy in chains, walking behind a camel and looking toward the hills of his boyhood home as they disappeared into the distance. *Then being put on the auction block and having inquisitive buyers prodding him and humiliating him in their close inspection before bidding for him. Many have given up their faith for less humiliation and suffering than this.*

Joseph could have chosen to become bitter and anti-**God**, but he chose instead to maintain his faith amid this harrowing struggle, the great controversy being played out in his own life in a dramatic way.



He soon adjusted to the household of one of the most important military men in the country, and under the blessing of **God** he soon gained his trust (*Gen. 39:1–4*). *Eventually, the slave became a leader in Egypt.*

“It is thus that God’s purpose in calling His people, from Abraham on the plains of Mesopotamia to us in this age, is to reach its fulfillment. He says, ‘I will bless thee, ... and thou shalt be a blessing.’ Genesis 12:2. The words of Christ through the gospel prophet, which are but re-echoed in the Sermon on the Mount, are for us in this last generation: ‘Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.’ Isaiah 60:1. If upon your spirit the glory of the Lord is risen, if you have beheld His beauty who is ‘the chiefest among ten thousand’ and the One ‘altogether lovely,’ if your soul has become radiant in the presence of His glory, to you is this word from the Master sent. Have you stood with Christ on the mount of transfiguration? Down in the plain there are souls enslaved by Satan; they are waiting for the word of faith and prayer to set them free.”

E.G.W. (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, cp. 2, pg. 43)

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□ Rebellion

Redemption



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