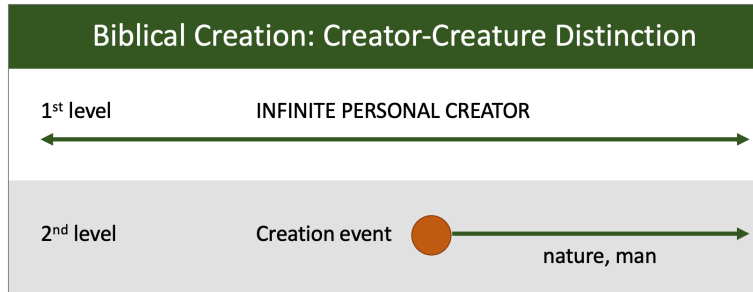


# 3. Why There is Evil in the World – Part 1

## Previously...

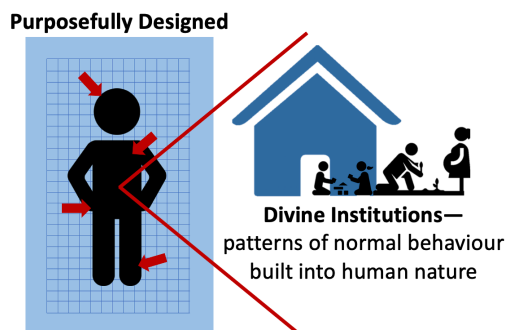
We saw that the Bible says the world was created by Yahweh, the Creator-God. He is a Person and He is separate and at a totally different level from what He has created.



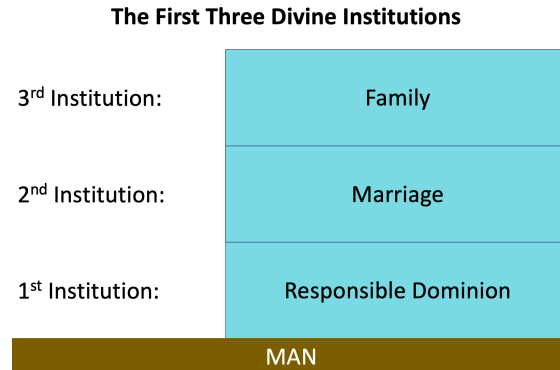
Yahweh created the world and all that is in it by just speaking, but He personally made mankind. Mankind is especially valuable, important and special to God because only mankind is made in His image. No other creature in all of creation is made in His image.

Creator-Creature Distinction					
1 <sup>st</sup> level CREATOR (Yahweh)	Infinite	All-loving	All-knowing	All-Powerful	Holy
2 <sup>nd</sup> level creature (man)	finite	limited in love	incomplete, imperfect knowledge and understanding	limited in ability	conscience must be tied to the Creator-God

Yahweh also purposefully designed mankind’s physical features, minds, emotions as well as the patterns of behaviour to enable them to live well.



Mankind were to be under-lords, representing their Creator-Owner. He gave them divine institutions so that they could look after the world responsibly. Man and woman were to marry, have children and fill the earth with people responsible for taking care of the world. In this way, society and the world would thrive.

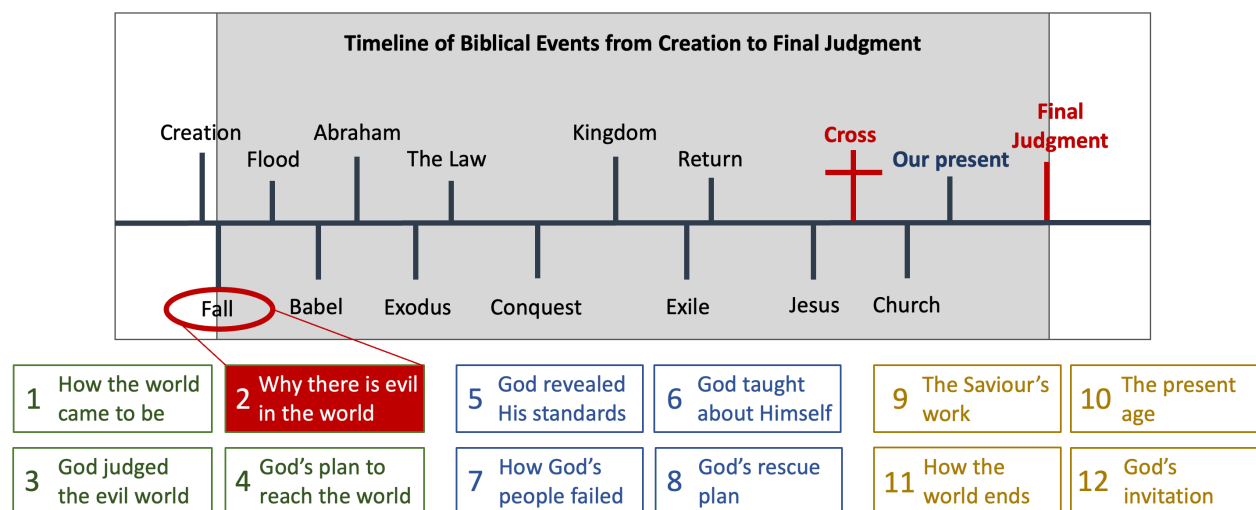


When creation was first completed, God said that it was very good. There was nothing wrong with it. There was no death, no evil and no sin. It was very different from the world we now know.

Today, when we look around us, most people would not call this world “very good”. There are disasters like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and hurricanes; people suffer from all kinds of health problems, diseases and even terminal illnesses; there are accidents and tragedies, and we have to live with all kinds of evil like murder, theft, abuse and exploitation. Many people live lives filled with much pain, suffering and brokenness.

What happened?

We will see what the Bible says about what happened to the perfect world that God had created.



But before we go into that, there is some background information that we need to know.

## THE SPIRIT BEINGS

The Bible tells us that before Yahweh created mankind, He created spirit beings. In fact, these spirit beings were watching when Yahweh created the world! This is what God said to a man named Job as He described the creation of the world.

### Job 38:4–7

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell me, if you know so much.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its dimensions  
and stretched out the surveying line?

<sup>6</sup> What supports its foundations,  
and who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup> as the morning stars sang together  
and all the angels shouted for joy?

Yahweh said that while no human being was present when He was creating the world, morning stars and angels were there. They are examples of the spirit beings God had earlier created.



**Who are they?** God created these spirit beings as His messengers or servants.

### Hebrews 1:14a

Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent...

**What are they like?** As we study the details given in different parts of the Bible, we see that they are invisible. They have no physical bodies. They never die. They neither marry nor give birth to angel children. Even though they have no physical bodies, they can appear to people in physical form and speak in a language that the person can understand. God created them perfect, and with great intelligence and power.

There are many of them and they are everywhere. Once, God allowed a man called John to look into His throne room, and this is what John recorded.

### Revelation 5:11a

Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne...

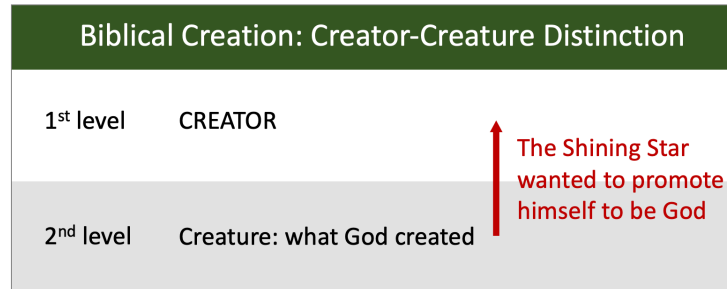
Importantly, even though they are Yahweh’s servants, God did not create them as robots, programmed to do only what He wants. No, Yahweh created them with the ability to think and feel and with freedom of choice. This means they can decide if they want to obey or disobey God. They are never forced into anything against their will.

However, as powerful and intelligent as they are, angels were not created in the image of God. In all of creation, only man and woman are made in God’s image. That’s how special mankind is to Yahweh.

## The Shining Star

The most powerful, most intelligent and most beautiful spirit being ever created was an angel named “Shining Star”. Some Bible translations use a Latin version of his name: Lucifer. Yahweh gave Shining Star a special job that kept him close to God.

But Shining Star grew proud and decided he did not want to be a servant of Yahweh anymore. In fact, he would rather be God. He rebelled against God’s created order. He rejected the Creator-creature distinction. The “creature” (the created being) wanted to be the “creator” (the sovereign God of the universe). He deceived himself that this was possible.



A prophet named Ezekiel recorded what happened to Shining Star.

### Ezekiel 28:12b–17a

<sup>12</sup> “You were the model of perfection,  
full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty.

<sup>13</sup> You were in Eden,  
the garden of God.

Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone—  
red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone,  
blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper,  
blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald—  
all beautifully crafted for you  
and set in the finest gold.

They were given to you  
on the day you were created.

<sup>14</sup> I ordained and anointed you  
as the mighty angelic guardian.  
You had access to the holy mountain of God  
and walked among the stones of fire.

<sup>15</sup> “You were blameless in all you did  
from the day you were created  
until the day evil was found in you.

- 16 Your rich commerce led you to violence,  
and you sinned.  
So I banished you in disgrace  
from the mountain of God.  
I expelled you, O mighty guardian,  
from your place among the stones of fire.
- 17 Your heart was filled with pride  
because of all your beauty.  
Your wisdom was corrupted  
by your love of splendor.

As a creature, Shining Star was created perfect. But he made a decision to rebel against his Creator-God and the role that he had been given. Instead of living righteously (that is, living the way that God instructed), he exercised his God-given free will and chose to be evil.

Another prophet, Isaiah, recorded the attitude of Shining Star's heart.

**Isaiah 14:12–14**

- 12 "How you are fallen from heaven,  
O shining star, son of the morning!  
You have been thrown down to the earth,  
you who destroyed the nations of the world.
- 13 For you said to yourself,  
'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars.  
I will preside on the mountain of the gods  
far away in the north.
- 14 I will climb to the highest heavens  
and be like the Most High.'

Shining Star was not satisfied with his high position as one of the leading angels of God. Instead, he ambitiously plotted evil in his heart. He deceived himself that it was possible for him to become the Creator, to become the Most High God. He lusted after the power and position of not just any created being, but of the Creator-God Himself. He chose to make Yahweh his enemy.

But Shining Star did not keep this prideful ambition to himself. He convinced other angels to join him in his rebellion against Yahweh. And many of them did.

Yahweh called Shining Star's attitude of pride, sin.

Because Yahweh is infinitely righteous and infinitely just, He could not ignore Shining Star's rebellion. Shining Star had to take responsibility for his thoughts, attitudes and actions. Choices always come with consequences, whether good or bad. And God demands accountability from all His creatures for the choices that they make. So in this sense, when God gave His creatures "free will", a better term would actually be "responsible choice", because creatures are not "free" from responsibility for the good or bad choices they make. They are responsible for their choices.

Because of Shining Star's evil choice to lead a rebellion against the Creator-God, Yahweh will one day permanently cast him away to a place of eternal fire where he will be punished for all eternity.

In the Bible, this “eternal fire” is also known as the lake of fire. It is a place which had God created specially for rebellious created beings.



**Matthew 25:41b**

the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.

The “devil” is one of the names that Shining Star came to be known as after he rebelled against Yahweh. The word “devil” comes from the Greek word that means “false accuser”. As the devil, Shining Star accuses both God and mankind of all kinds of evil. Another name the Bible uses for him is “Satan”. This comes from the Hebrew word which also means “accuser”.

The “demons” are the rebellious angels who followed Shining Star. They are also known as evil spirits.



**Original Name**

- Shining Star
- Also known as “Lucifer” in Latin

**Shining Star Falls**



**Now known as:**

- Satan or Devil (which means accuser and adversary)
- Ruler
- Prince of demons

After Shining Star’s sin, God removed him from his job and position, but did not immediately confine him and the demons to the eternal fire. So Satan and his demons have been roaming the earth since, full of pride and rebellion against God, trying to go against everything that God has done and is doing.

Then Satan intentionally went to look for Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, disguised as a serpent.

## THE FALL OF MANKIND

Now let’s take a look at an event that has come to be known as “the Fall”.



**Let’s turn to our Bibles and read Genesis 3:1–24.**

(The leader reads aloud. For reference, the verses are also here.)

**Genesis 3:1–24**

<sup>1</sup> The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

<sup>2</sup> “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. <sup>3</sup> “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup> “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup> At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

<sup>8</sup> When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

<sup>11</sup> “Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup> The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, you are cursed  
more than all animals, domestic and wild.  
You will crawl on your belly,  
groveling in the dust as long as you live.

<sup>15</sup> And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring.  
He will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> Then he said to the woman,

“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy,  
and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband,  
but he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And to the man he said,

“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree  
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,  
the ground is cursed because of you.  
All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

<sup>18</sup> It will grow thorns and thistles for you,  
though you will eat of its grains.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow  
will you have food to eat  
until you return to the ground  
from which you were made.  
For you were made from dust,  
and to dust you will return.”

<sup>20</sup> Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all  
who live. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both  
good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they  
will live forever!” <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he  
sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. <sup>24</sup> After sending  
them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And  
he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

## Satan, the serpent

Who is this serpent that showed up in the garden of Eden?

### Genesis 3:1

<sup>1</sup> The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day  
he asked the woman...

The Bible tells us that this serpent was none other than Satan himself, in disguise.

### Revelation 20:2b

the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—

Notice that the woman did not scream or run away when the serpent started speaking to her.  
Everything about creation was still new to her and she didn't know what she would discover  
each day about the world that God had created. Perhaps she simply thought that this was an  
animal that could communicate with her. In any case, we see that the world that Adam and Eve  
lived in was very different from the one we live in now.



## Satan, the deceiver

In talking to the woman, Satan immediately started his plan to trick both of mankind. What did he want them to do? He wanted the woman and the man to rebel against Yahweh by going against the one warning that He had given them.

Recall that God had planted a beautiful garden in Eden and filled it with all kinds of trees that had all kinds of good food for mankind to eat. There were also two special trees. One tree was called the “tree of life”. And the other was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”.

### **Genesis 2:8–9, 15–17**

<sup>8</sup> Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. <sup>9</sup> The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. <sup>16</sup> But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—

<sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

Yahweh was not stingy with Adam and Eve. The entire garden was filled with good food. So it was not as if Adam and Eve were starving. There was just one tree that they had to be aware of. God had told them that if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die. If they trusted Yahweh, they would believe what He said and not eat from that one tree.

But that was exactly what Satan wanted Adam and Eve to do. Why? Because by eating from that tree, Adam and Eve would be rebelling against God. Their actions would show that they did not trust God and His warning that eating from it would lead to death. Just as Satan convinced other spirit beings to join in his rebellion against Yahweh, Satan was now trying to get mankind to also rebel against Yahweh.

So Satan approached Adam and Eve with evil intentions and lies.

### **Genesis 3:1b–5**

<sup>1</sup> One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

<sup>2</sup> “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. <sup>3</sup> “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup> “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

## “Did God really say”

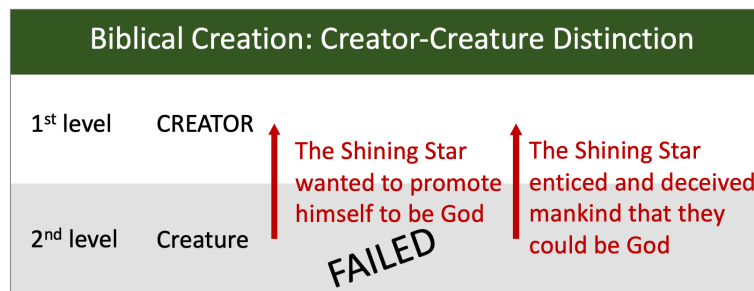
Satan started by questioning Eve about what Yahweh had said to them. He was trying to put the idea into their minds that God did not sound reasonable at all. In fact, he twisted what God had really said and asked if God had told them they could not eat from **any** of the trees in the garden.

## “You won’t die” ... “you will be like God”

Then Satan outright called God a liar. He told Eve that instead of dying, if she and Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would become like God.



Satan knew full well that it would be impossible for any created being to become the Creator. In fact, he had tried it and failed. Despite Satan’s rebellion and lust after power, the Creator-God remained the Creator-God. And Satan remained a created being.



Yahweh did not create a world where nature, animals and people could become something other than what He had created them to be. For example, mankind can never become God, animals can never become mankind and rocks and trees can never turn into animals.

When Yahweh created the entire world, He had set clear boundaries between mankind, animals and plants, so that they would each procreate according to their own kinds. One will never become another. This is what the Bible says about how God created.

### Genesis 1:11 (Plants)

Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened.

### Genesis 1:21 (Sea creatures, birds)

So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Genesis 1:24 (Animals)**

Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened.

**Genesis 1:27 (Man)**

So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

Plants and animals were all created to reproduce more of their same kinds. Likewise, mankind would only produce more people. This means a person can never become a god. Satan was lying to Adam and Eve and he knew it. But Adam and Eve believed his lies.

## Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan over Yahweh

Adam and Eve were both together when Satan started talking to Eve. How did they both respond to Satan’s lies? Here are the choices they could have made:

**Choice 1:** Eve could have ignored the serpent and chosen to trust Yahweh’s words. After all, the serpent was a stranger to her whereas Yahweh was her Creator and she had a personal relationship with Him.

**Choice 2:** She could have waited to speak to Yahweh about it. He was intimately involved in their lives and she could have just checked with Him.

**Choice 3:** She could listen to Satan, trusting his words over Yahweh’s. If she did that, she would actually be judging both Yahweh and Satan and deciding that Yahweh was lying while Satan was telling the truth. In other words, she would be making herself the ultimate authority on who was right and who was wrong.

Eve chose choice 3.

**Genesis 3:6**

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

Adam and Eve had a relationship with Yahweh, yet when a strange serpent they had not spoken to before approached them, they decided to immediately believe him over the Creator-God whom they knew.

Surprisingly, neither of them thought to check with Yahweh about who the serpent was and if what he said was true. This is especially surprising since what the serpent said was totally different from what God had told them.

Just like Satan, Adam and Eve started to think that they could become wise like God. They lusted after the beautiful fruit of the forbidden tree and they made the decision to reach out for the fruit, put it in their mouths, chew and swallow it.

No one forced them to make this decision. God had given them responsible choice. But with the options they had, the Bible tells us that for Eve, “she saw”, “she wanted”, “she took” and she “ate it”. That was her personal choice.

As for Adam, he was standing beside Eve the whole time, but he did not remind her of what God had instructed. He did not enter into the conversation with the serpent. He stood by quietly and when he finally made a decision, he took the fruit from Eve and “he ate it, too”. Again, no one forced Adam to make that choice. He did it all by himself.

Choices all come with consequences. Good choices result in good consequences. Bad choices result in bad consequences. And God holds people responsible for all their choices.

Yahweh calls this lack of trust and act of rebellion against Him, sin. This one bad choice would lead to bad consequences not just for Adam and Eve but for all their descendants and the entire world.

## What happened next?

In the next lesson, we will examine exactly what these consequences were and how they affect us today.

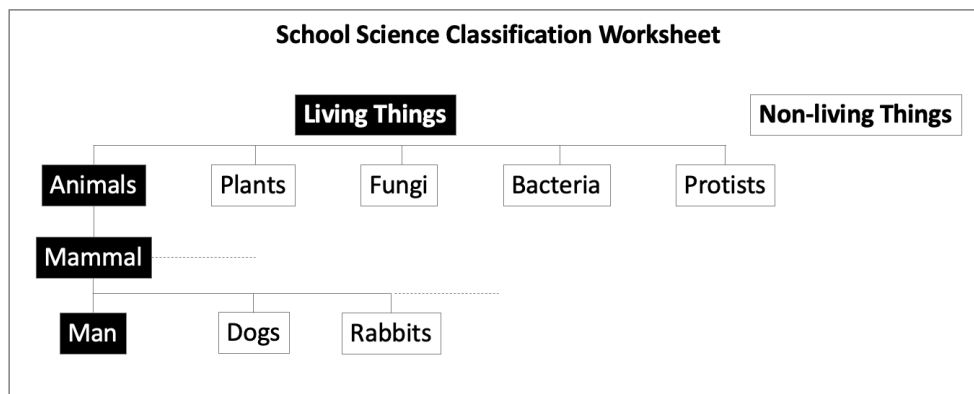


**Bible reading for review**  
Genesis 3:1–24.

## Is mankind an animal?

In school, one of the first things that students learn in science is the classification of animals. Children are first taught to categorise things into what is living and what is non-living. Then living things are categorised into five kingdoms: animals, plants, fungi, bacteria and protists (both bacteria and protists are single-celled organisms).

Focusing on the animals, students learn how these are grouped together based on common characteristics. Students then learn that man is classified as a mammal. In other words, man is regarded as just another animal of the animal kingdom.



This idea is very different from what the Bible says.

The Bible says that man and woman are made totally differently from animals and are way more valuable to God than animals.

- God handmade man and breathed His breath into him.
- God handmade woman by making her from man.
- God made both man and woman in His own image.
- God created mankind last, after the world had been created because mankind is the climax of His creation.
- God gave mankind the special role of being under-lords; mankind represents God on earth.
- When Adam and Eve rebelled, God immediately promised a rescue plan. He did not do the same when Satan and the evil spirits rebelled. Mankind is more valuable, important and precious to Yahweh than the spirit beings.

Mankind has inherent value. Each and every person is seen by God as being far more important than the animals and even spirit beings.

**YAHWEH** says that mankind is:

- Made in the image of God
- Unique, not like any other creature
- Given the role of under-lord over creation