


Session 2

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with text, and the spine is visible in the center. The background is dark and textured.

**WHAT IS THE
GOSPEL?**

GOOD NEWS!

THE SERPENT & THE SKULL CRUSHER



A green rectangular sign with rounded corners and a white border, mounted on a wooden post. The sign features the text "The Beginning" in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The sign is tilted slightly to the right.

The Beginning

The Kingdom of the Image Bearers

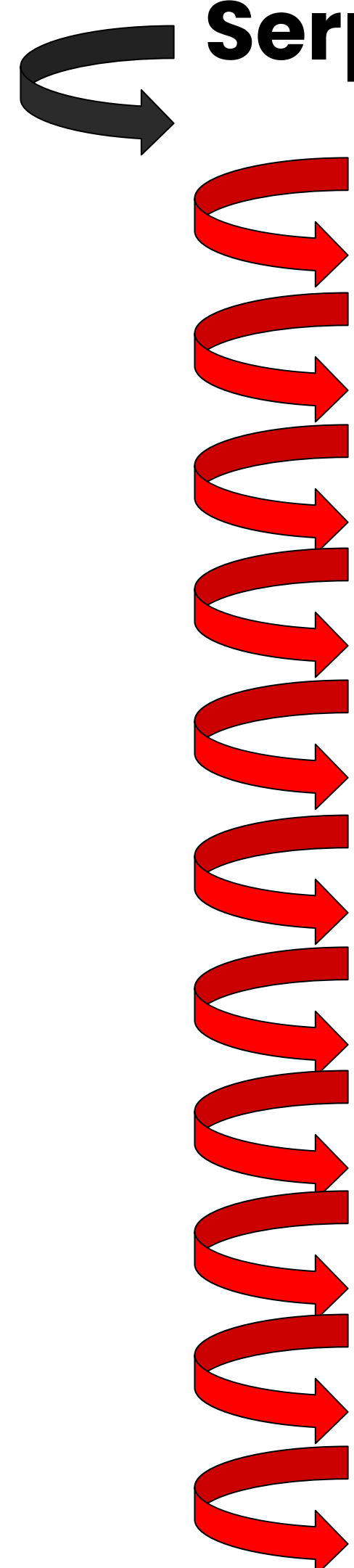
Genesis 1:27,28 “**God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them;** and God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply,** and fill the earth, and **subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**”

1. Image bearers are created in **God's image**
2. Image bearers are **blessed** by God
3. Image bearers are given ability to **procreate**
4. Image bearers are given **power** over all creation
5. Image bearers are given **authority** as representative rulers

How the Conflict Started



Genesis 3

- 
- Serpent deceives the Woman** (Genesis 3:4,5,13)
 - The Man flagrantly disobeys God** (v.6)
 - Sin, transgression, enters Creation** (v.6; cf. *Romans 5:12*)
 - Man & Woman acquire the knowledge of Good & Evil** (v.22)
 - Shame, blame, guilt, separation, fear** (vv. 7-10)
 - Serpent cursed** (v.14)
 - Serpent condemned to eat dust from which Adam was created** (v.14)
 - Enmity between Seed of the Woman & the Seed of the Serpent** (v.15)
 - The Seed of the Woman will be bruised, but the Serpent Crushed** (v.15)
 - Pain increased in childbirth** (v.16)
 - Change in Divine Order: Man now rules over Woman in Family** (v.16)
 - Ground cursed** (vv. 17-18)
 - Physical death** (v.19)
 - Exile** (vv. 23,24)

The Corruption from the First Sin

1. **Criminal** – deception, transgression, sin
 - a. Serpent deceives the Woman
 - b. Man flagrantly disobeys God
 - c. Loss of righteousness as sin enters creation
2. **Epistemological** – Knowledge of Good & Evil
3. **Psychological** – shame, guilt, fear
4. **Sociological** – blame-shifting, hiding, human alienation
5. **Eschatological**: Enmity between Seed of Woman & Serpent
 - a. Seed of Serpent will bruise Woman's Offspring
 - b. Seed of Woman will crush Serpent's Head
6. **Ecological** – ground is cursed, thorns and thistles
7. **Familial** – inequality between the sexes in the marriage union
8. **Spiritual** – separation from God, enmity between Seed of Woman & Serpent
9. **Physiological** – death, decay, sickness, suffering

The Fall of Mankind

Serpent deceives the Woman (Genesis 3:4, 13)

The Man flagrantly disobeys God (v.6)

Sin, transgression, entered Creation (v.6, cf. Romans 5:12)

Adam & Eve acquire the knowledge of Good & Evil (v.22)

Shame, blame, guilt, punishment, fear (vv.7-9)

Serpent cursed (v.14)

Serpent condemned to eat dust from which Adam was created (v.14)

Enmity between Seed of the Woman & the Seed of the Serpent (v.15)

The Seed of the Woman will be bruised, but the Serpent Crushed (v.15)

Pain increased in childbirth (v.16)

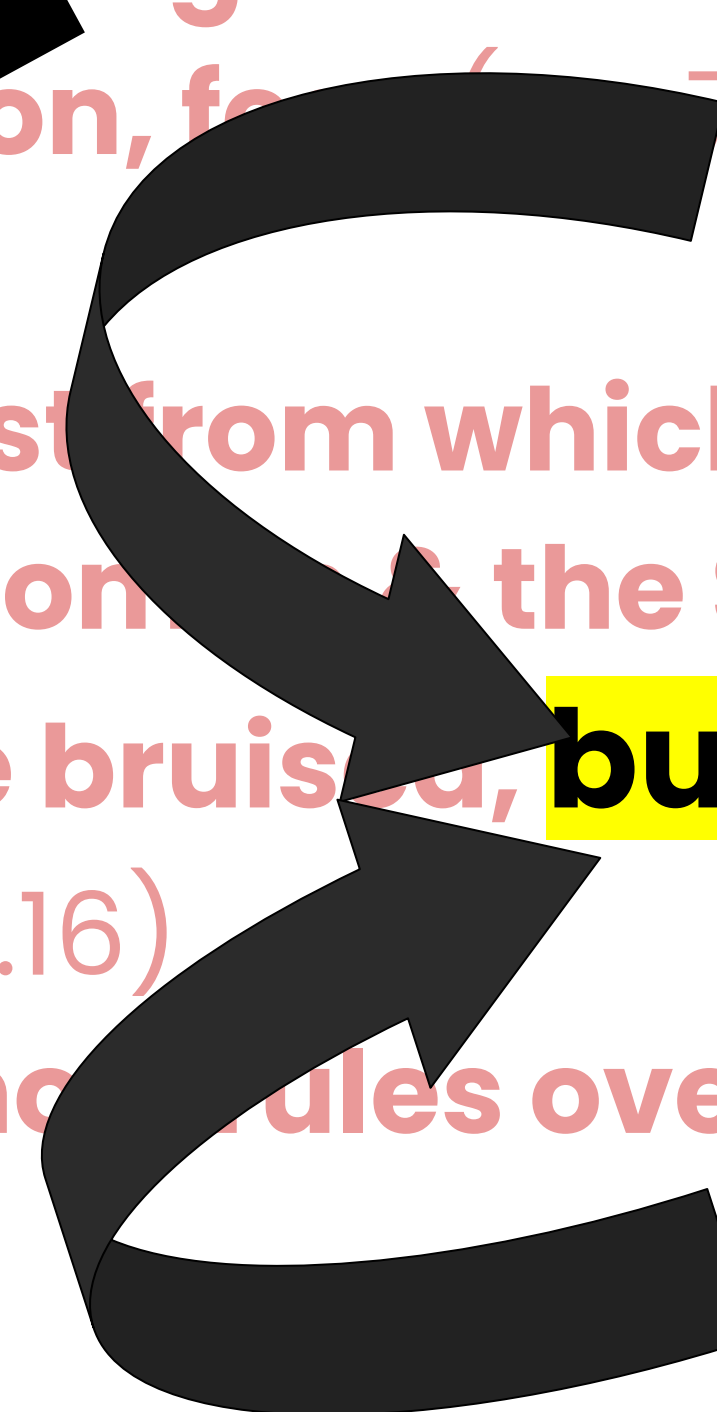
Change in Divine Order: Man no longer rules over the animals (v.19)

Ground cursed (vv. 17-18)

Physical death (v.19)

Exile (vv.23,24)

BAD NEWS



GOOD NEWS

but the Serpent Crushed (v.15)

"Protoevangelium"

Seed Conflict Will Be Inevitable...

Genesis 3:14,15 “The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, **cursed are you** more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field. On your belly you will go, **and dust you will eat all the days of your life.** **15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.** He shall strike you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

...But Final Victory Is Assured!

Genesis 3:14,15 “The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, **cursed are you** more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field. On your belly you will go, **and dust you will eat all the days of your life.** 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. **He shall strike you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”**

Good News in the Garden

WHAT is the **GOOD NEWS**?

- Seed of Woman Will Crush the Serpent's Head

WHO gives the **GOOD NEWS**?

- God Himself

WHOM is given the **GOOD NEWS**?

- The Man, the Woman, *and even the Serpent*

WHERE is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

- In the Garden of Eden

WHEN is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

- Immediately following the first transgression

WHY is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

- To encourage/give hope to Man & Woman/debase the Serpent

HOW is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

- God Speaks Directly

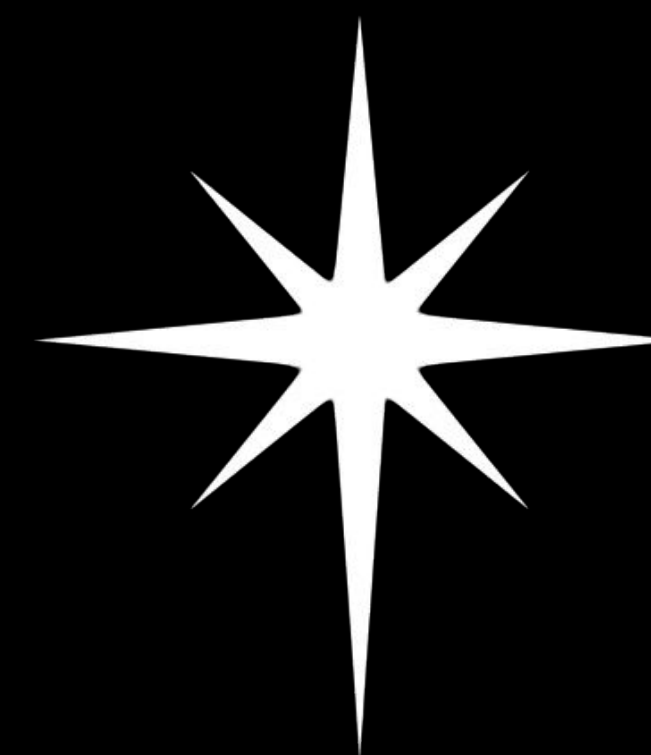
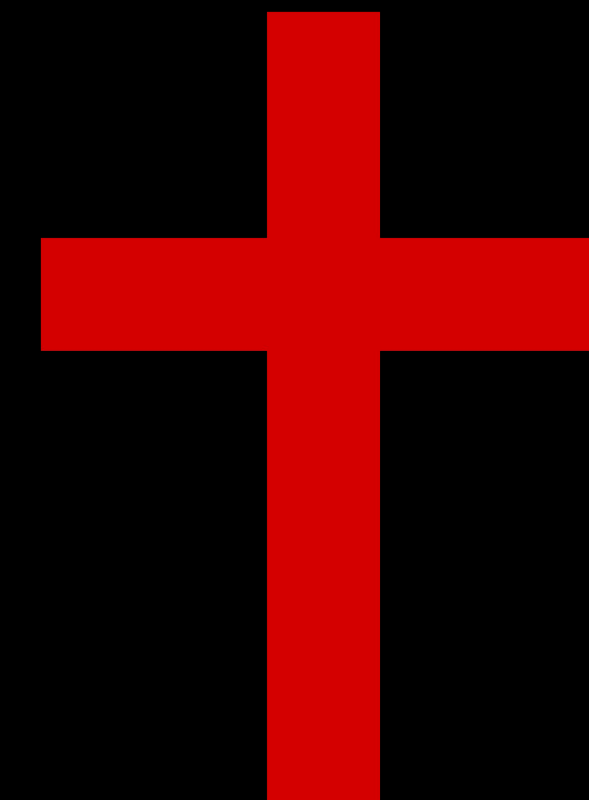
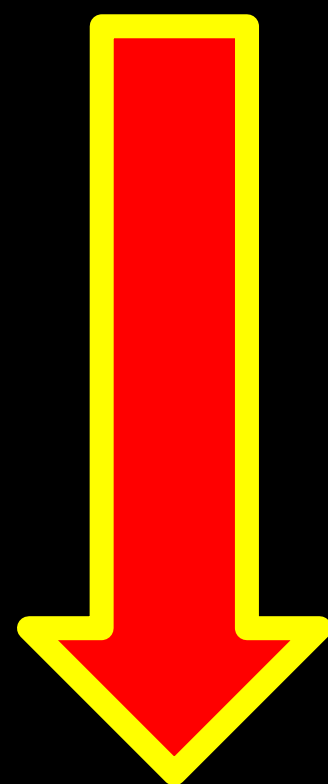


**Seed Conflict is a major theme throughout
Scripture and it originates from **the SIN of
rejecting God by accepting another
authority over our lives****

***(It's not about St. Patrick driving the snakes
out of Ireland,
nor stepping on rattlesnakes on a hike)***

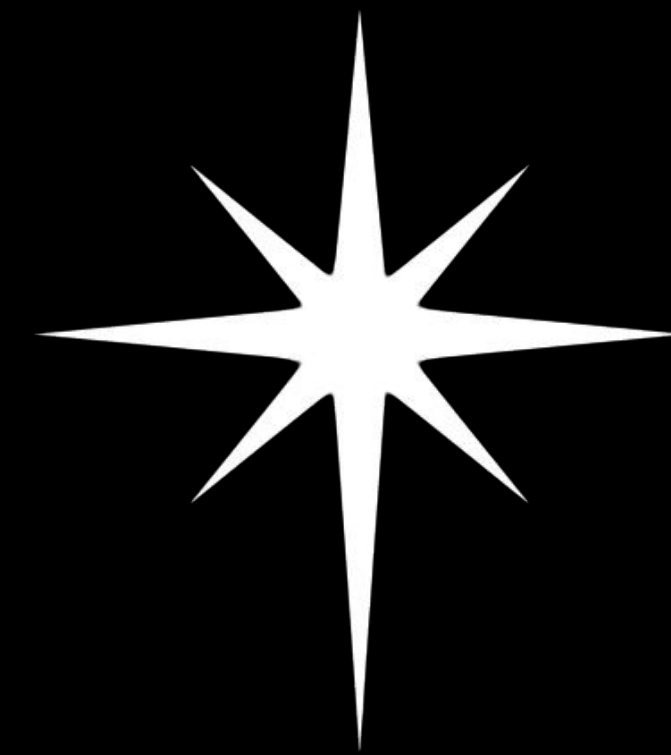
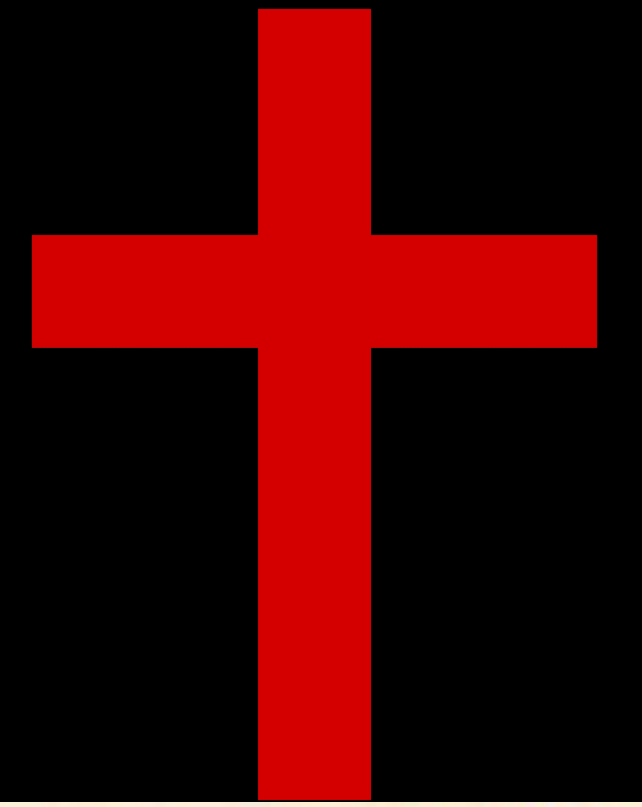
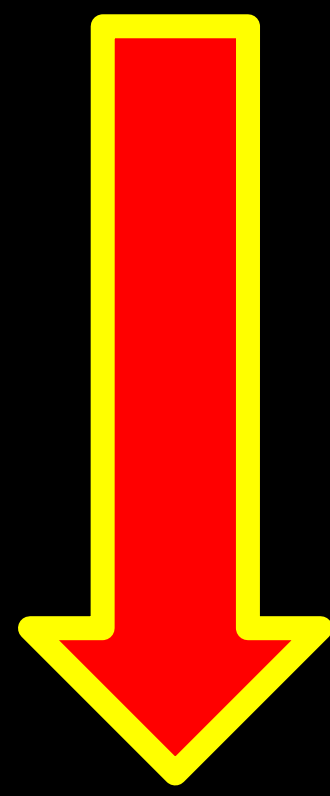
Some Famous Biblical “Seed” Battles

- 1. Cain/Abel (Gen. 4)**
2. Daughters of Men/Sons of God (Gen. 6:1)
3. Ishmael/Isaac (Ps. 83:1-6)
4. Esau/Jacob (Ps. 83:1-6)
- 5. Egypt/Israel (Ex. 4:23)**
6. Moab/Messiah (Numbers 24)
7. Sistera /Jael (Judges 4:21-Judges 5)
8. Abimelech/Woman (Judges 9)
9. Philistines/Israel (1 Sam. 5:3-4)
10. Goliath/David (1 Samuel 17)
- 11. Saul/David (1 Sam. 20:31)**
10. Wicked/Messiah (Jeremiah 23:19, 30:23)
11. Wicked/Messiah (Habakkuk 3:12,13)
12. Haman/Esther (Esther)
- 13. LORD’s enemies/Messiah (Psalm 2, 68, 72, 89, 110)**
14. Assyria/God (Isaiah 14, Kings/Israel 49, Wicked/God 63)
- 15. Kingdoms/Messiah (Daniel 2)**
16. Nations/Yahweh (Micah 7)



Skull Crushing in Numbers [Law]

Numbers 24:15-19 “**The oracle of Balaam** the son of Beor, and the oracle of the man whose eye is opened. **16** The oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High. Who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered. **17** ‘I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. **A star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab,** and tear down all the sons of Sheth. **18** Edom shall be a possession, Seir, its enemies, also will be a possession, while Israel performs valiantly. **19 One from Jacob shall have dominion,** and will destroy the remnant from the city.’”





Skull Crushing in Joshua [History]

Joshua 10:22-25 “Then Joshua said, ‘Open the mouth of the cave and bring these five [Amorite] kings out to me from the cave.’ **23** They did so, and brought these **five kings out to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.** **24** When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, **‘Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.’ So they came near and put their feet on their necks.** **25** Joshua then said to them, **‘Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.’”**



Skull Crushing in Judges [History]

Judges 5:24-27 **“Most blessed of women is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite! Most blessed is she of women in the tent!**

25 “He asked for water and she gave him milk. In a magnificent bowl she brought him curds. **26** She reached out her hand for the tent peg, and her right hand for the workmen’s hammer. **Then she struck Sisera** [*the Canaanite army commander*]; **she smashed his head, and she shattered and pierced his temple.** **27** Between her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay. Between her feet he bowed, he fell; Where he bowed, there he fell dead.”



More Skull Crushing in Judges [History]

Judges 9:50-53 “Then Abimelech [*the Usurper King of Shechem*] went to Thebez, and he camped against Thebez and captured it. **51** But there was a strong tower in the center of the city, and all the men and women with all the leaders of the city fled there and shut themselves in; and they went up on the roof of the tower. **52** So Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it, and approached the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire. **53 But a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech’s head, crushing his skull.”**

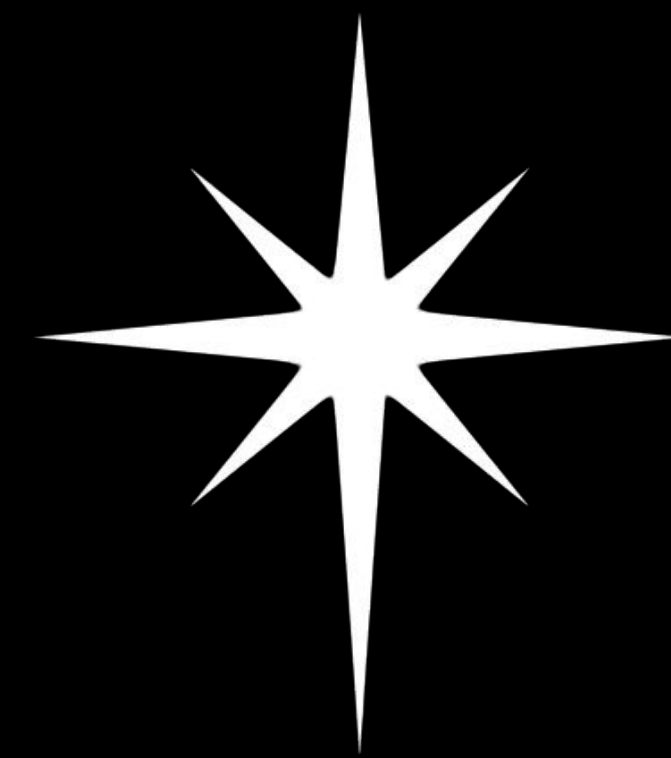
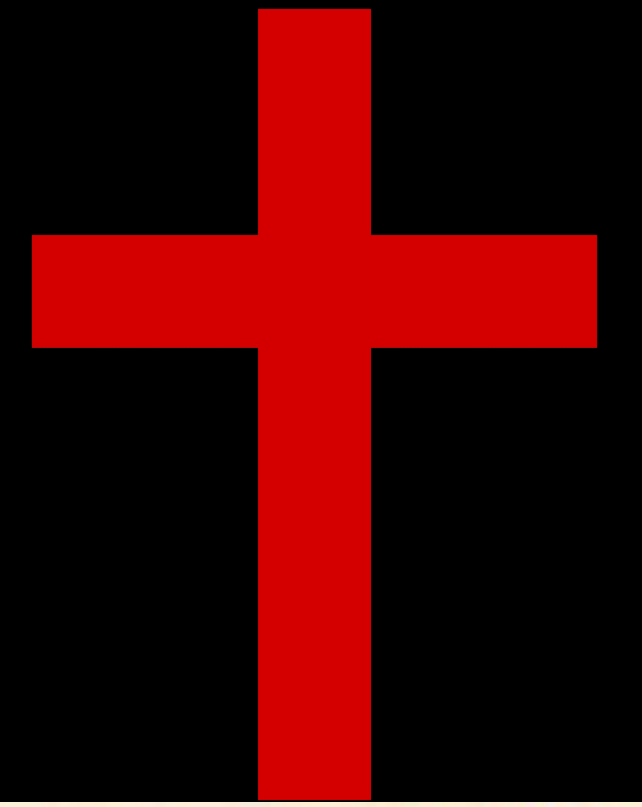
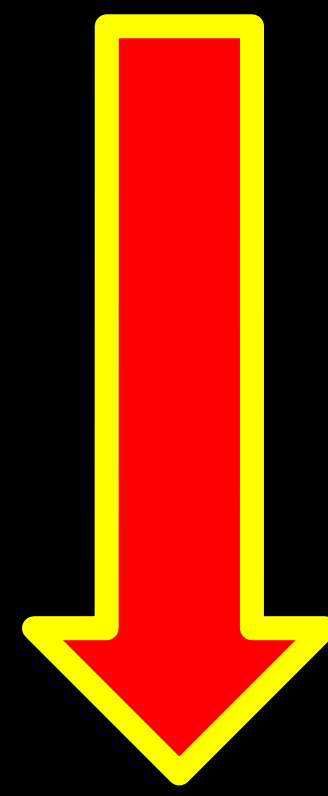


A Shepherd Skull Crusher in Samuel [History]

1 Samuel 17: 45-51 “Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, **but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts**, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. **46 This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you.** And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47** and that all this assembly may know that **the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD’s and He will give you into our hands.” 48** Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. **49** And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, **and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground. 50** Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David’s hand. **51** Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, **and cut off his head with it.** When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.”

A King Skull Crusher in Samuel [History]

2 Samuel 22:32-43 (song of David) “For who is God, besides the LORD? **And who is a rock,** besides our God? **33** God is my strong fortress, and **He sets the blameless in His way.** **34** He makes my feet like hinds’ feet, and sets me on my high places. **35** He trains my hands for battle so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. **36** **You have also given me the shield of Your salvation,** and Your help makes me great. **37** You enlarge my steps under me, and my feet have not slipped. **38** **I pursued my enemies and destroyed them, and I did not turn back until they were consumed.** **39** **And I have devoured them and shattered them, so that they did not rise; they fell under my feet.** **40** For You have girded me with strength for battle; **you have subdued under me those who rose up against me.** **41** You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, and **I destroyed those who hated me.** **42** They looked, but there was none to save; even to the LORD, but He did not answer them. **43** **Then I pulverized them as the dust of the earth; I crushed and stamped them as the mire of the streets.**”





Skull Crushing in Job [Wisdom]

Job 26:11-13 “The pillars of heaven tremble and are amazed at His rebuke. **12** He quieted the sea with His power, and by His understanding **He shattered Rahab***. **13** By His breath the heavens are cleared. **His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent.”**

**Rahab means “pride, arrogance”. Ancient rabbinic mythologies suggest that an evil serpent was in the primeval sea resisting creation, and that God killed the serpent and brought order to the world (Genesis 1:1-2)*

Skull Crushing in the Psalms [Lyric]

Psalm 68:18-21 *A Psalm of David* "You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives. You have received gifts among men, even among the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell there. **19** Blessed be the **LORD, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation! Selah.** **20** God is to us a **God of deliverances**, and to **God the Lord belong escapes from death.** **21** Surely God will shatter the head of His enemies, the hairy crown of him who goes on in his guilty deeds."

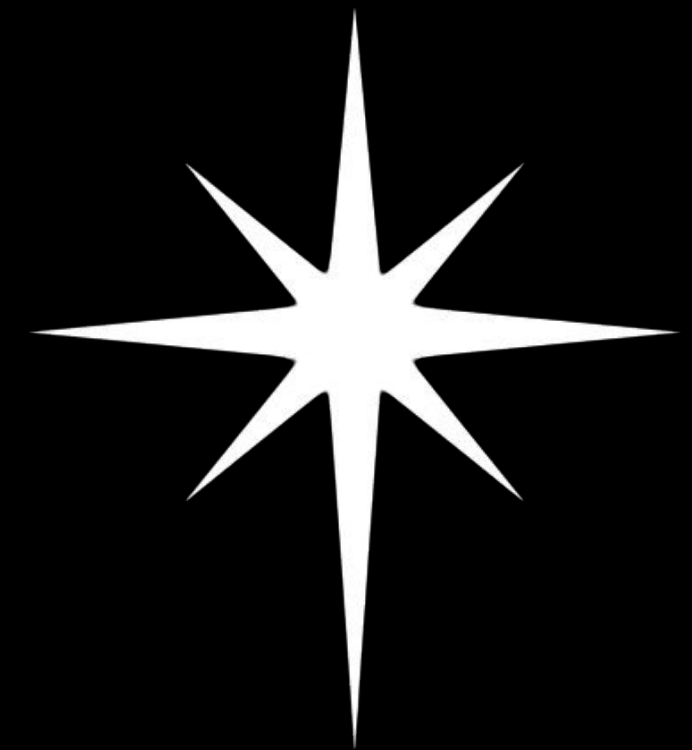
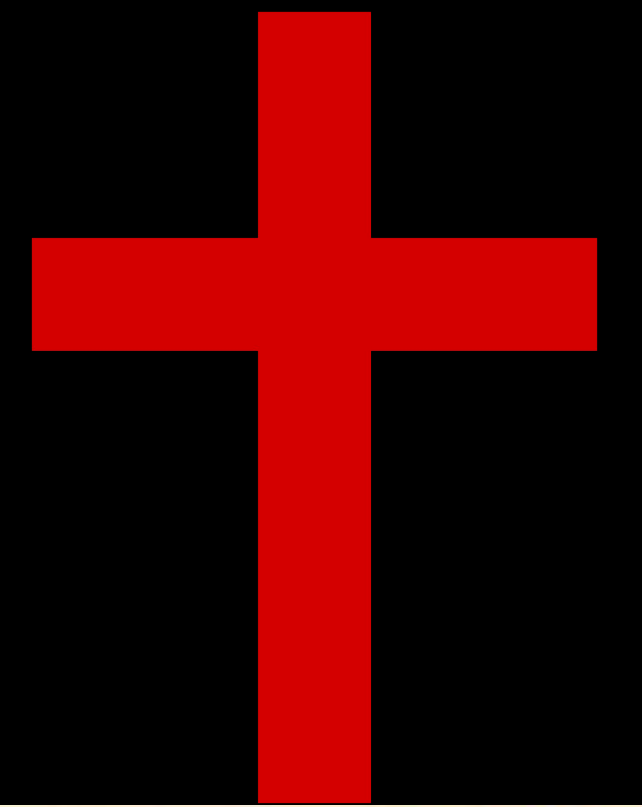
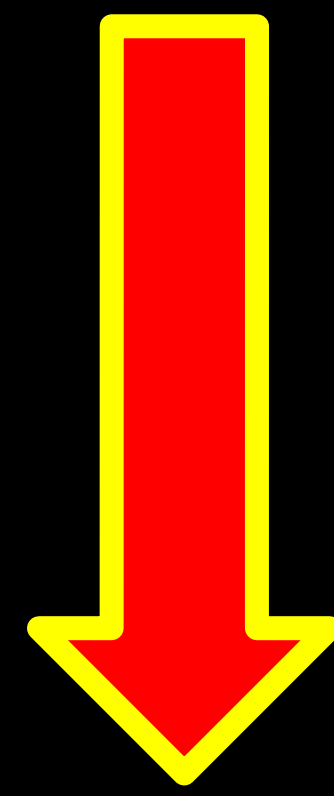
Skull Crushing in the Psalms [Lyric]

Psalm 74:12,13 “**Yet God is my king from of old, who works deeds of deliverance** in the midst of the earth. **13** You divided the sea by Your strength. **You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.”**

Psalm 58:3–6 “The wicked are estranged from the womb; these who speak lies go astray from birth. **4 They have venom like the venom of a serpent; Like a deaf cobra that stops up its ear,** **5** So that it does not hear the voice of charmers, or a skillful caster of spells. **6 O God, shatter their teeth in their mouth!** Break out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!”

More Skull Crushing in the Psalms [Lyric]

Psalm 110 *A Psalm of David* "The **LORD** says to **my Lord**: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' **2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies!"** **3** Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning's womb. **4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.'** ["King of Righteousness"] **5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.** **6** He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. **7** He will drink from a brook along the way, and so he will lift his head high."



Skull Crushing in Isaiah [Prophets]

Isaiah 14:22-27 “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, ‘and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,’ declares the LORD. **23** ‘I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,’ declares the LORD of hosts. **24 The LORD of hosts has sworn** saying, ‘Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand, **25 to break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him on My mountains. Then his yoke will be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder. 26 This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. 27** For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?’”

Skull Crushing in Isaiah [Prophets]

Isaiah 27:1-6 **“In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan* the fleeing serpent, with His fierce and great and mighty sword, even Leviathan the twisted serpent, and He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea. **2** **In that day, a vineyard of wine, sing of it!** **3** **‘I, the LORD, am its keeper. I water it every moment so that no one will damage it; I guard it night and day.** **4** **I have no wrath. Should someone give Me briars and thorns in battle, then I would step on them; I would burn them completely.** **5** **Or let him rely on My protection, let him make peace with Me, let him make peace with Me.** **6** **In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit.”****

**Leviathan, “coiled” sea monster often used symbolically for the wicked kings and nations of the earth who oppose God’s people*

Skull Crushing in Habakkuk [Prophets]

Habakkuk 3:12,13 “You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. **13** You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head of the house of the wicked, laying him open from thigh to neck. *Selah.*”

Gospel of the Skull Crushing Seed

1. A star and scepter shall rise from Jacob to shall crush the forehead of his enemy
2. The LORD will put his foot on the necks of all Israel's enemies
3. Blessed is the woman who crushed and shattered the skull of Israel's hated enemy
4. God's Anointed Shepherd strikes down the head of his enemy in the name of the LORD in order for all earth to witness that God is with Israel and that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear
5. There is no other God but the God of Israel, a strong fortress, a shield of salvation who establishes the way of the blameless who subdues usurpers and enemies by the hand of David, His Anointed King
6. The LORD has shattered and pierced the fleeing serpent, shattered the teeth of the wicked and has gone forth for the salvation of His People and Anointed One
7. The LORD has established an eternal Priest-King of Righteousness at the right hand of God who will crush kings on the day of His wrath
8. The LORD will make peace with those who rely upon Him for protection and so Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit

Gospel of the Skull Crushing Seed

1. **KING:** A king to come from lineage of Jacob
 - a. God's Anointed Shepherd to be a universal witness that God is in Israel
 - b. Upon David's throne an eternal Priest-King of Righteousness will sit at the right hand of God and who will crush kings on the day of His wrath
2. **KINGDOM:** The LORD fights for Israel against her enemies
 - a. The God of Israel is a strong fortress, a shield of salvation
 - b. All earth witnesses that God delivers His people without sword or spear
 - c. Israel will blossom and sprout and will fill the whole world with fruit
3. **KINDGOM SERVANTS:** The LORD establishes the way of the blameless
 - a. The LORD shatters the wicked, the proud, the rebellious, the mighty powers of the earth
 - b. Those at peace with the LORD rely upon Him for protection

Sibling Conflict

Cain

vs.

Abel

Clan Conflict

Israelites

vs.

Midianites

Nation Conflict

Israel

vs.

Assyria

Kingdom Conflict

Holy Seed of God

vs.

Wicked Seed of the Serpent

Seed Conflict
Clan Conflict
Nation Conflict
Kingdom Conflict

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



WARNING

A yellow diamond-shaped warning sign with a black border and the word "WARNING" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is mounted on a blue background with two visible screws at the top and bottom.

Israel had become the Seed of Evildoers!

Isaiah 1:4-6 “Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, **seed of evildoers, children who deal corruptly!** They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. **5 Why will you still be struck down?** Why will you continue to rebel? **The whole head is sick,** and the whole heart faint. **6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds;** they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.”

The Seed to Go Into Exile

Deuteronomy 4:25-27 **“When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD your God so as to provoke Him to anger, 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that **you will surely perish quickly from the land** where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 **The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you.**”**

But the LORD Will Regather the Repentant

Deuteronomy 30:1-5 “So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind **in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, 2 and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, 3 then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. 5 The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.”**

How the Conflict Started



A close-up photograph of a woman's foot wearing a blue suede sandal. The foot is stepping on a red snake with a scaly texture. The background is a blue and white striped surface.

GOOD NEWS!

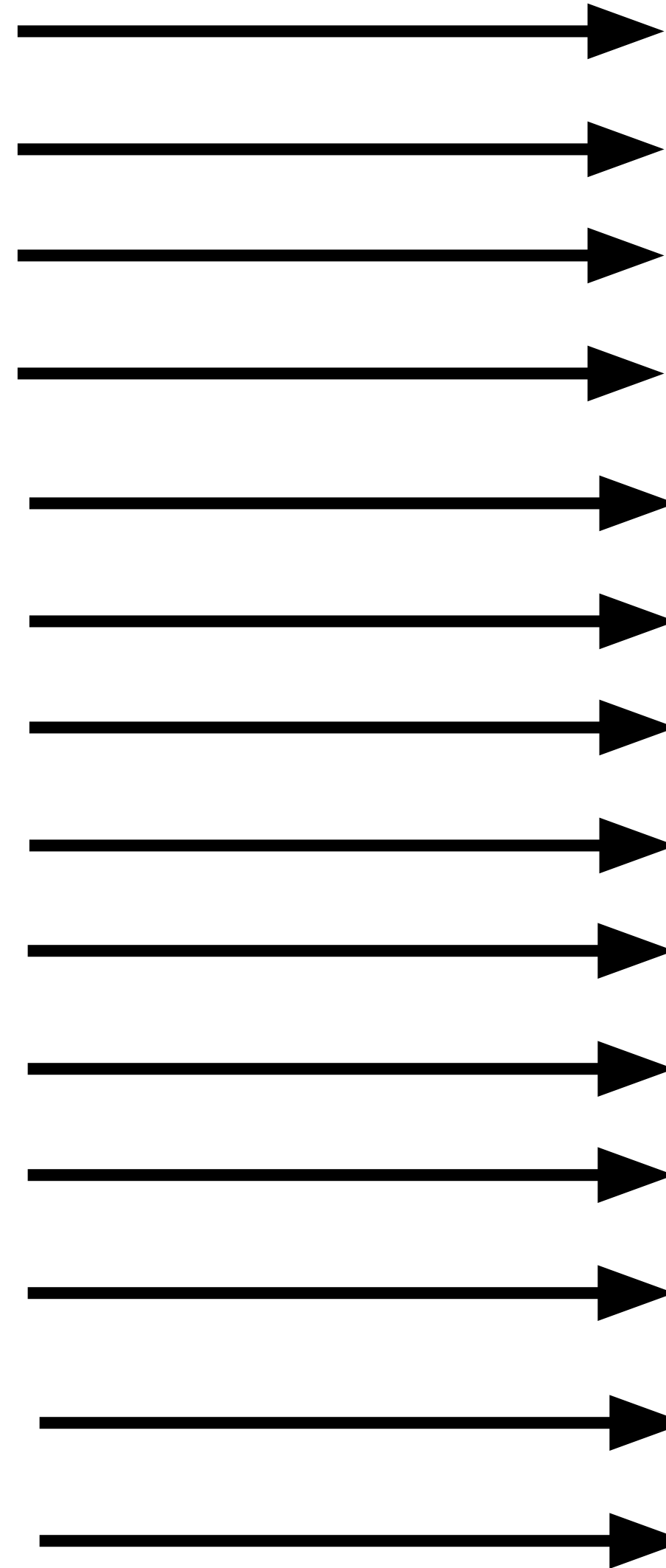
How the Conflict Ends



Fall

Restoration

1. Serpent deceives us
2. We willfully disobey God
3. Through Adam comes sin
4. Sinners spread sin
5. Sinners separated from God
6. Serpent cursed
7. Serpent debased & crushed
8. Serpent causes enmity
9. Offspring of Serpent bruises
10. Pain multiplied in childbirth
11. Creation Order broken
12. Ground cursed
13. Physical death
14. Exile



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Restoration

1. **Jesus** is truth, the Word of God
2. **Jesus** always does the will of Father
3. **Jesus** is the sinless justifier of the unjust
4. **Jesus** spreads righteousness
5. **Jesus** is God incarnate, reconciles sinners
6. **Jesus** is both author & heir of blessings
7. **Jesus** elevated & glorified
8. **Jesus** restores fellowship
9. **Jesus** crushes head of Satan
10. **Jesus** removes pain & suffering
11. **Jesus** restores Image of God in Man
12. **Jesus** removes the curse in a new creation
13. **Jesus** is eternal life
14. **Jesus** prepares permanent home

A green rectangular sign with rounded corners and a white border, mounted on two wooden posts. The sign features the text "The End" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is a bright blue sky filled with numerous white, fluffy clouds.

The End