

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Jeff Hopkins (*Sandy Hopkins*) – *Jeff is scheduled for back surgery in about two weeks.*

Ongoing Health Concerns — *Chad Mansfield; Bill Himes; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Scarlett Siner; Jan McKesson; Bill Harrell; Joe Shattuck; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.*

Door for the Word — *Ongoing Bible studies & effective means for spreading the gospel in and around Durango this year.*

Additions: _____

*This article is an adaptation using AI (Chat GPT). The full essay is published at <https://theopolisinstitute.com/three-falls-and-three-heroes/>.

Announcements

February Potluck Our February potluck fellowship is today following morning worship. Please plan to stay!

Health Screening Event Life Line Screening is offering a low cost service in our area soon. They will provide screening for stroke and cardiovascular issues March 4th and 5th. See the flier in the foyer for details.

The church of Christ in Durango

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www.churchofchristdurango.org | (970) 247-0865

Service Times

Bible Study
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 7p.m.

Worship
Sunday 10:20 a.m.



February 22, 2026

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Three Falls and Three Heroes

By James B. Jordan*

The early chapters of Genesis do more than recount humanity's first sin. They establish a pattern that reverberates through Scripture and through our own lives. The story of the world's unraveling unfolds in three distinct "falls," each corresponding to a fundamental sphere of human existence: our relationship with God, with one another, and with the world. Yet alongside these three falls, Genesis also presents three heroic figures who model faithful life in a fallen creation.

The first fall is Adam's expulsion from Eden. Adam was placed in a garden-sanctuary, commissioned to guard and cultivate it, and permitted to eat freely—save from one tree. His transgression was not mere dietary disobedience; it was a refusal to wait upon the Lord. The result was exile. Humanity's primary relationship—the God-man bond—was fractured.

The second fall appears in Cain's murder of Abel. Here the rupture moves outward. The first sin brought alienation from God; the second brings violence between brothers. Cain, driven from the land, becomes a wanderer. Fratricide marks the corruption of the brother-brother relationship and introduces

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Three Falls and Three Heroes

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bloodshed into human society.

The third fall concerns the line of Seth in Genesis 5–6. The “sons of God” abandon their calling to faithful witness and intermarry indiscriminately with the daughters of men. The distinction between covenantal faithfulness and unbelief collapses. This corruption culminates in the Flood—a judgment upon compromised communion between believer and world.

Yet Genesis does not leave us only with collapse. It gives us Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph—three heroes who answer the three falls.

Abraham restores the God-man relationship through obedient faith. He leaves country and kin at the Lord’s command and waits for promises that seem delayed beyond reason. Where Adam grasped prematurely, Abraham learns patience. His life teaches that communion with God is sustained by trustful obedience.

Jacob embodies the struggle of brotherhood. From the womb he contends with Esau; throughout his life he navigates rivalry, deception, and reconciliation. At Peniel he wrestles with God and emerges transformed. Jacob’s story demonstrates that conflict among brothers need not end in murder; it can become the crucible of sanctification.

Joseph models faithful engagement with the unbelieving world. Betrayed by his brothers and exiled to Egypt, he resists temptation, serves diligently, and rises to rule without bitterness. In a pagan court he remains steadfast. Joseph shows that believers may live and labor in foreign settings without surrendering covenant fidelity.

These three patriarchs form a pattern for Christian life: patience before God, perseverance among brothers, and integrity in the world. Their stories anticipate the greater Son who perfectly restores all three relationships.

This reflection, originally articulated through the ministry of the Theopolis Institute, reminds us that Genesis is not distant history. It is a map of our own calling in a world still marked by three ancient falls—and still sustained by God’s redemptive purposes.

Sermon Notes

Shine the Light in Their Faces
Luke 2:22-38

1. Chosen for _____
2. Bear the _____ of Salvation.
3. Sign of _____ Encounter
4. Love _____

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

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|--------|------|-----------------|
| Feb 23 | Mon | Numbers 8 – 11 |
| Feb 24 | Tue | Numbers 12 – 15 |
| Feb 25 | Wed | Numbers 16 – 19 |
| Feb 26 | Thur | Numbers 20 – 23 |
| Feb 27 | Fri | Numbers 24 – 27 |