

GOD'S PLAN FOR WORK

IT IS GOOD!



In the beginning...

GOD

- worked
- *created mankind in his image*
- gave mankind work to do

THE CULTURAL MANDATE

Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. (Gen 1:28)



”In the six day process of development God had formed it and filled it - but not completely. People must now carry on the work of development: by being fruitful they **fill** it even more by subduing it they **form** it even more.”

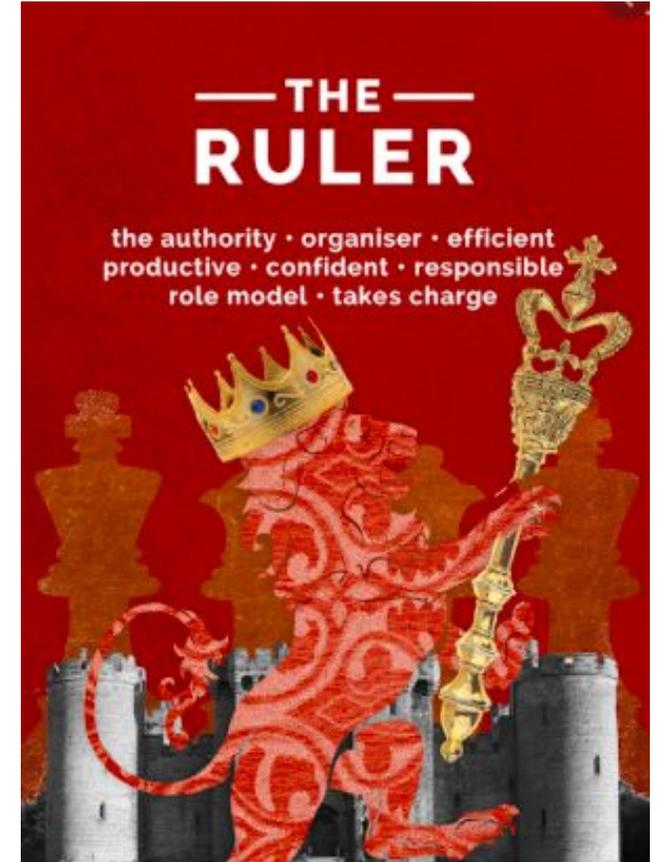
Al Wolters, Creation Re-gained

Be FRUITFUL and SUBDUE it



CREATOR / INNOVATOR

HAVE DOMINION / RULE



THE CREATION MANDATE

FILL

Cultivate

- Create and invent
- Plant
- Grow
- Harvest

Create (Please the eye)

- Design
- Paint
- Sing
- Flower garden

SUBDUE

Rule (Steward)

- Lead and manage
- Serve
- Resolve conflicts
- Reconcile
- Heal

Form (Make order out of chaos)

- Name
- Organize
- Clean
- Solve problems

SECOND EDITION

Albert M. Wolters

CREATION REGAINED

Biblical Basics
for a Reformational
Worldview

with a Postscript coauthored by Michael W. Goheen

“The whole vast range of human civilization is neither the spectacle of the arbitrary aberrations of an evolutionary freak nor the inspiring panorama of the creative achievements of the autonomous Self; it is rather a display of the marvelous wisdom of God in creation and the profound meaningfulness of our task in the world.”

GENESIS 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

v3 light

v7 sky

v9 dry land and seas

v11 vegetation

v14 light - sun, moon and stars

v20 living creatures - in the sea and air

v24 living creatures - on land

v26 human beings

UNFOLDING OF CREATION

FORMING			FILLING
Day	Verses	First Triad	
1	3-5	Light	
2		Firmament Sky Seas	
3	9-10, 11-13	Dry land & Vegetation	

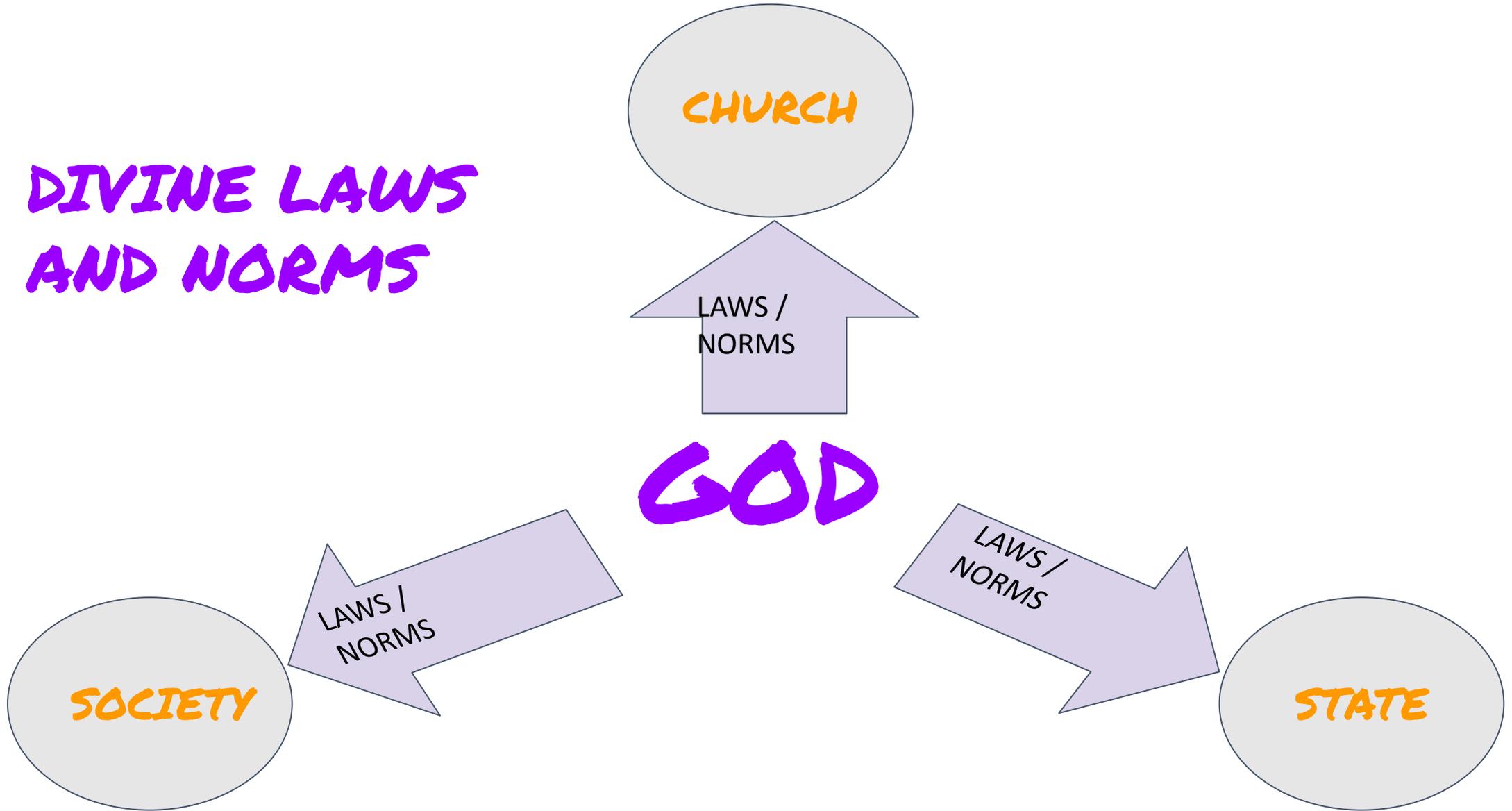
UNFOLDING OF CREATION

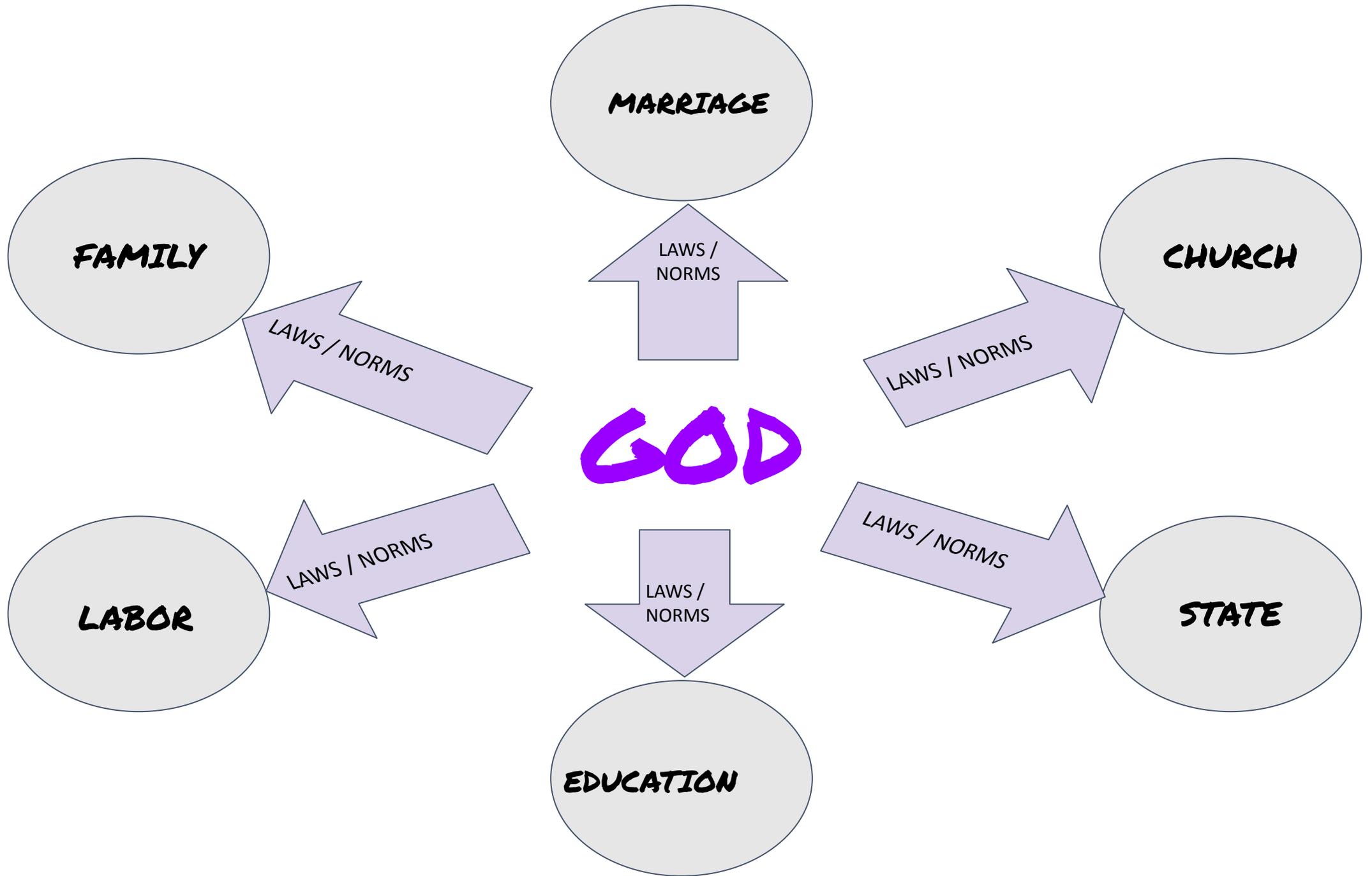
FORMING	FILLING		
	Second Triad	Verses	Days
	Light Bearers (Sun, Moon...)	14-19	4
	Inhabitants Birds Fish		5
	Land animals Man	24-25 26-31	6

UNFOLDING OF CREATION

FORMING		FILLING	
Days	First Triad	Second Triad	Days
1	Light	Light Bearers (Sun, Moon...)	4
2	Firmament Sky Sea	Land Inhabitants Birds Fish	5
3	Dry land & Vegetation	Land animals & Man	6
Day 7—God's Blessing & Rest			

DIVINE LAWS AND NORMS







God has entrusted humans with the inordinate privilege of continuing his work of creation “to be God’s helper in executing to the end the blueprint for his masterpiece.”

Al Wolters, *Creation Re-gained*



“Work is so foundational to our makeup, in fact, that it is one of the few things that we can take in significant doses without harm.”

Tim Keller



Limits to Work

*Genesis 2:2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day **he rested** from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it **he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.***



RATIO
OF
6 TO 1

HEALTHY RHYTHMS

*“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the Seventh is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work... **For** in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all this is in them, and rested on the seventh day. **Therefore** the Lord blessed the Sabbath and made it holy.”*

BREAKOUT

(8 min)

How does your work fit into one of the fill and/or subdue categories in the Creation Mandate?

Is your rhythm of work and rest working for you (and those around you?)

FILL

Cultivate

- Create and invent
- Plant
- Grow
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SUBDUE

Rule (Steward)

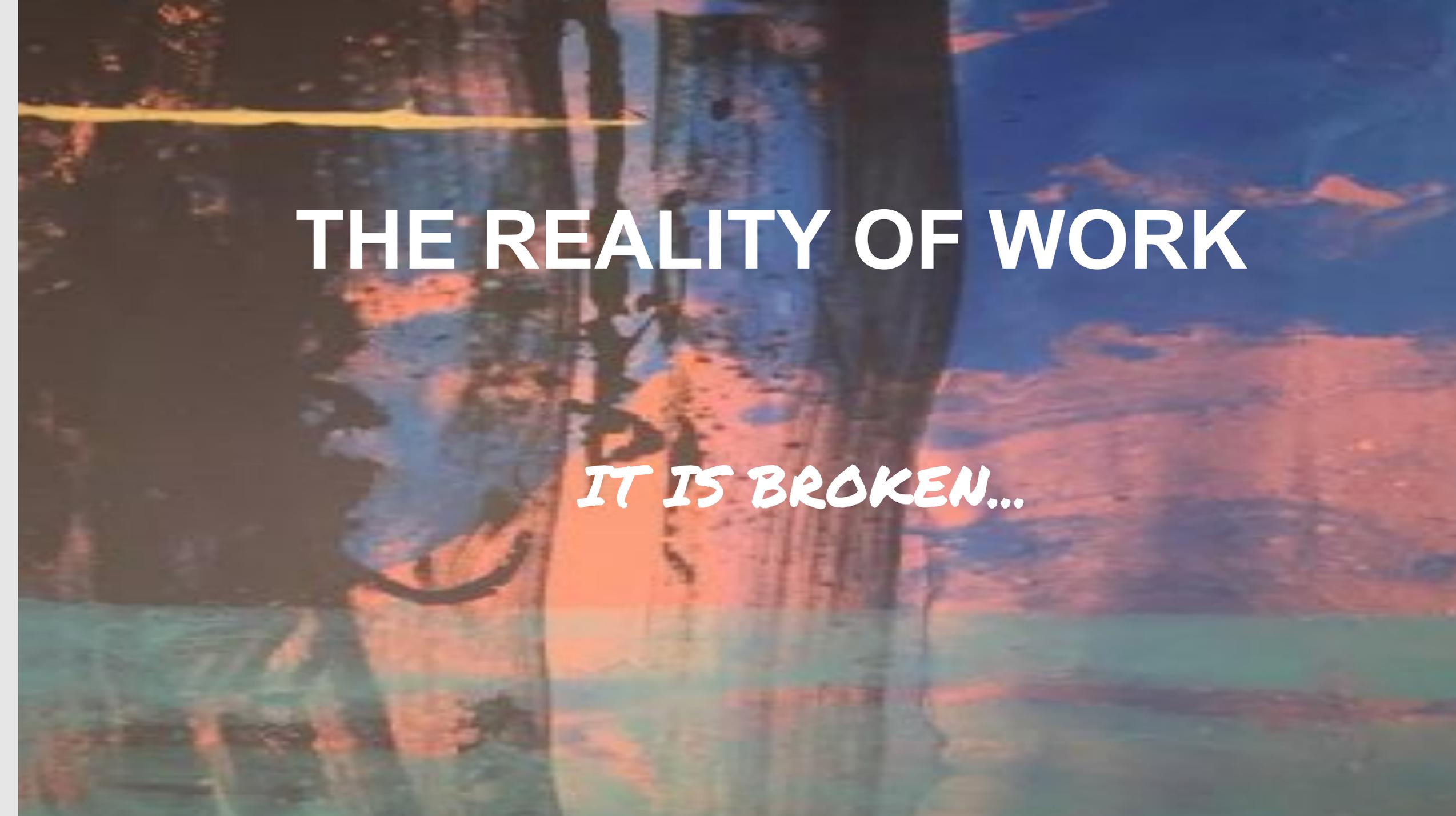
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The background is a painting of a landscape. On the left, a large, dark tree trunk stands in the foreground. The middle ground shows a body of water reflecting the sky and the tree. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall style is impressionistic with visible brushstrokes.

THE REALITY OF WORK

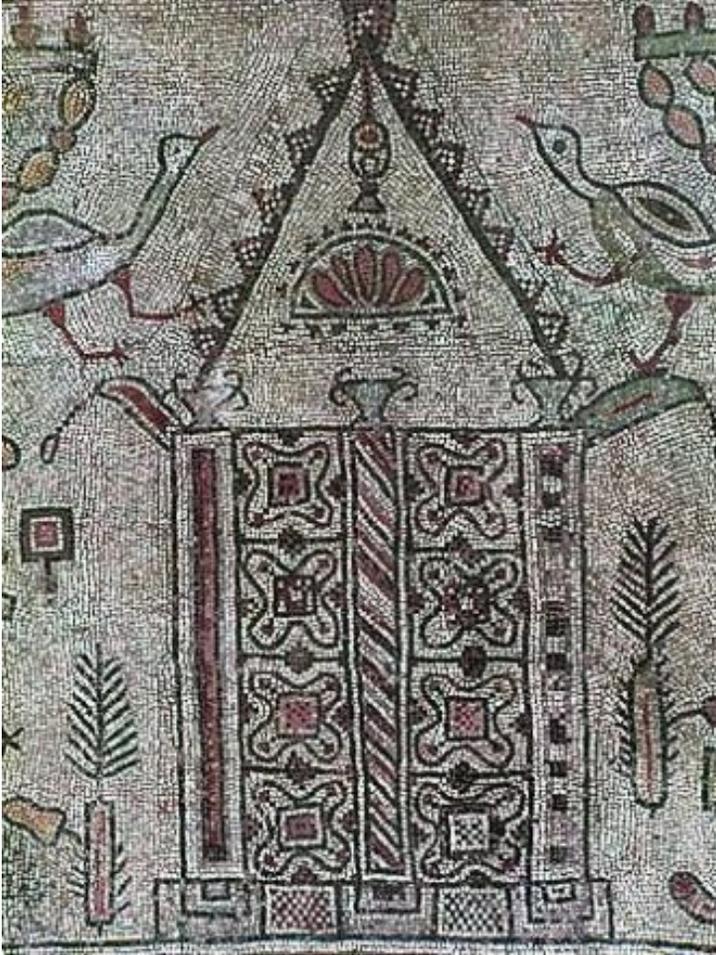
IT IS BROKEN...



The FALL:

The
Covenant is
Broken

Inherently Covenantal



Painting by Granger

The image of God (imago dei) is not something in us that is semi divine but something between us and God that constitutes a covenantal relationship.

We are made to be fully engaged:

- with God,*
- with each other, and*
- with non-human creation.*

The Broken Covenant



[Satan] said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

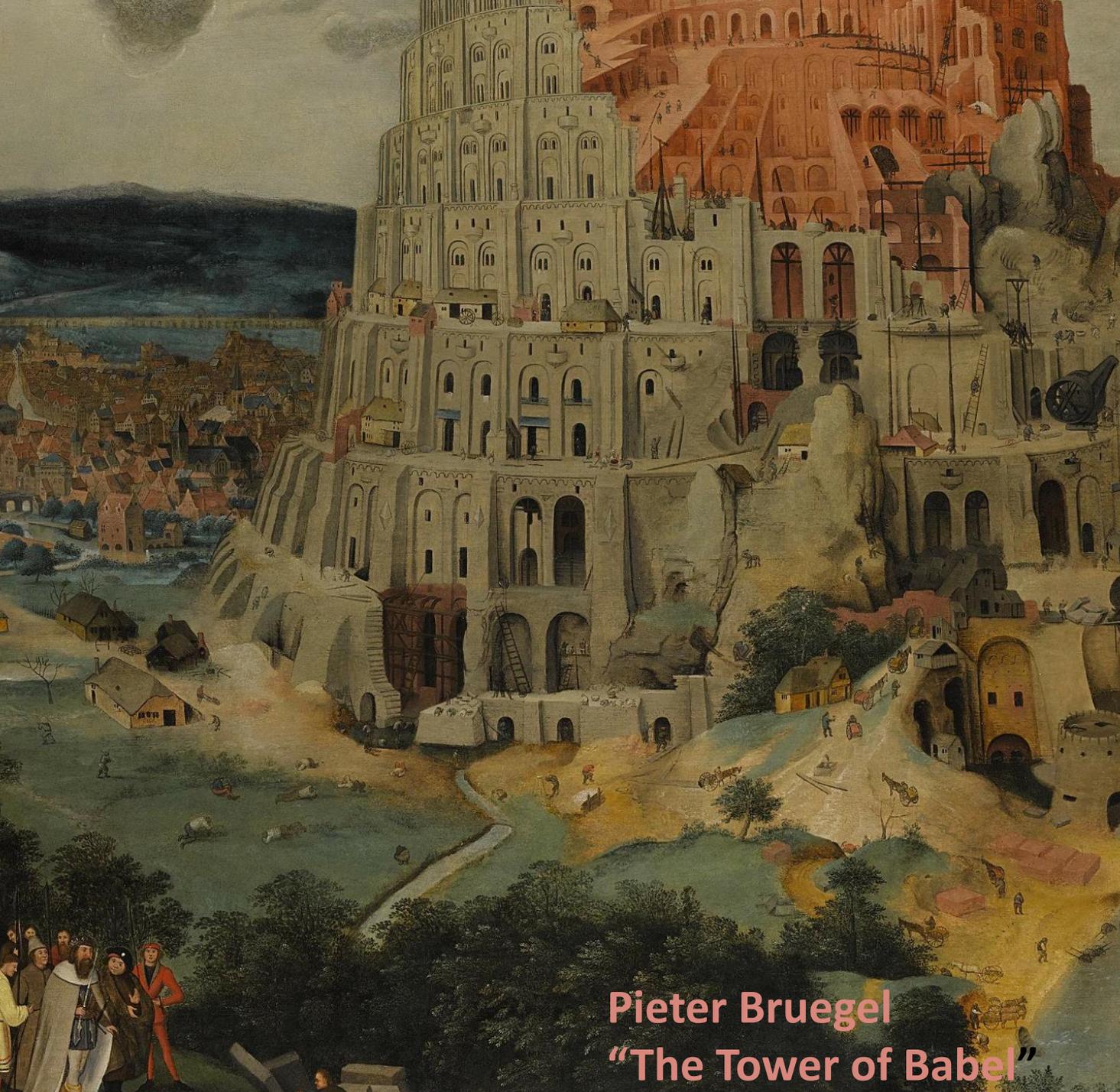


CURSED WORK

*”cursed is the ground because of you; through **painful toil** you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce **thorns and thistles** for you... By the **sweat of your brow** you will eat your food until you return to the ground...”*

THE PROMISE

*I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.***



Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth. Gen 11:4

Pieter Bruegel
"The Tower of Babel"

DIFFERENT WORLD STORIES

MODERN ANTHROPOLOGY

*a sense of selfhood that is **inward** and independent not only of God but of the world in which it lives*

individualism and the self as sovereign: knower, moral legislator, constructor of reality, feeler, chooser

BIBLICAL: Covenantal Narrative

*draws us **outward**, where we find ourselves responsible to God and our neighbors*

human beings are members of a creation to which we're called to lead toward God's everlasting shalom - with all of creation and with God

THE PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD

MODERN ANTHROPOLOGY

Ignorance and belief in things that can't be proven

Traditional and religious limits on behavior interfere with freedom

BIBLICAL: Covenantal Narrative

Human choice to live away from God ushered in sin and brokenness

The whole world is subject to bondage and sin, but for God himself to save us.



The FALL:

The World is Broken

I am Broken

ALL CREATION GROANS

*We know that **the whole of creation** has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

Romans 8:22

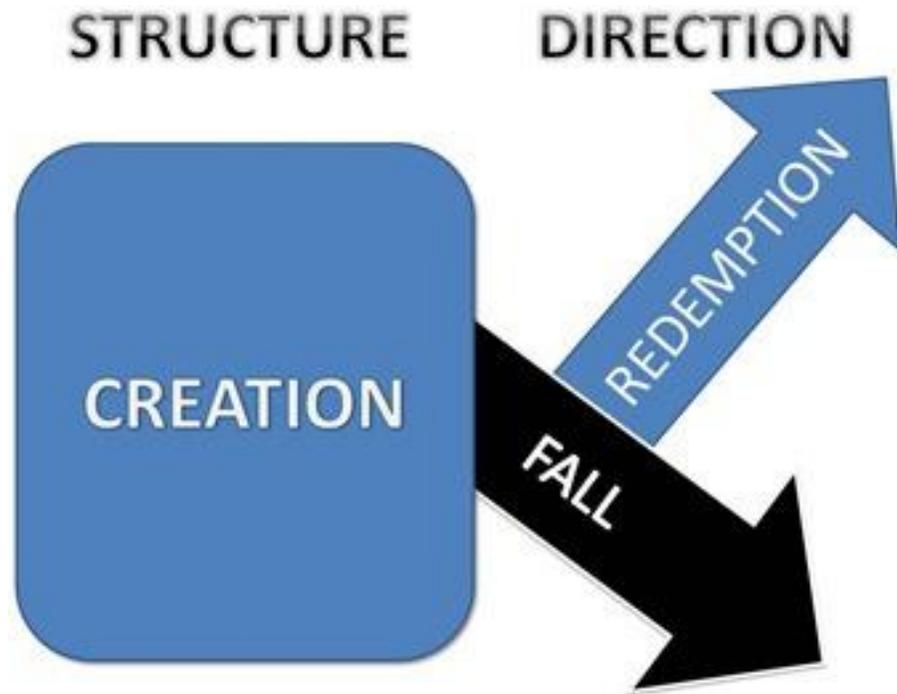




*”Things fall apart; the centre cannot
hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the
world.”*

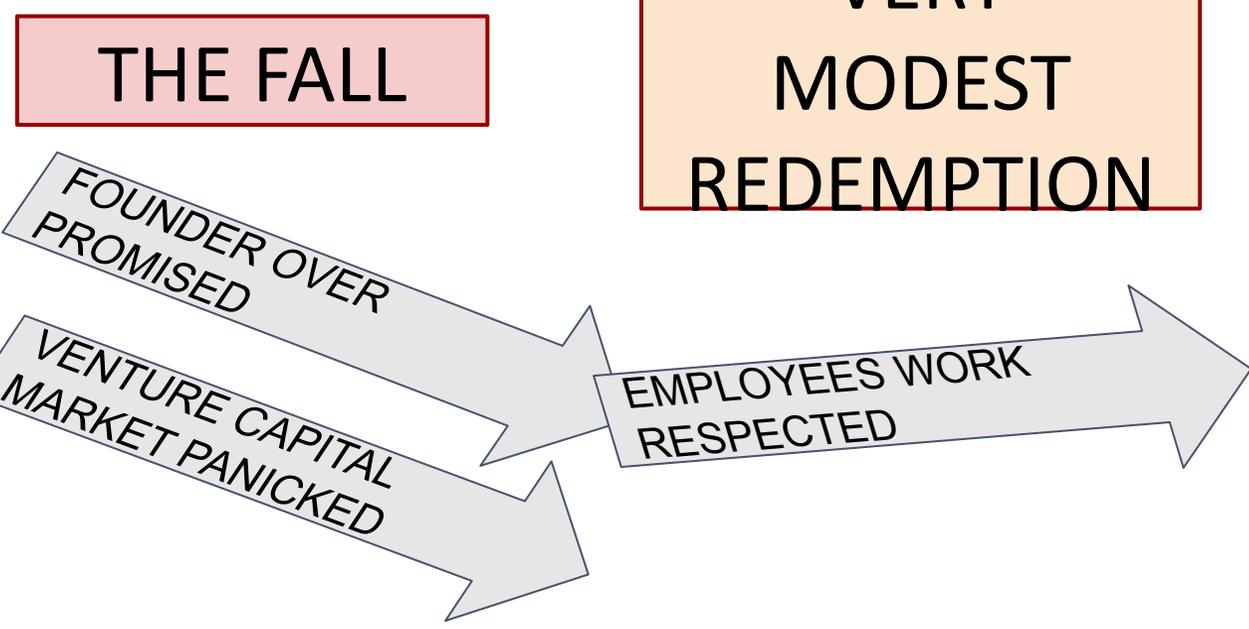
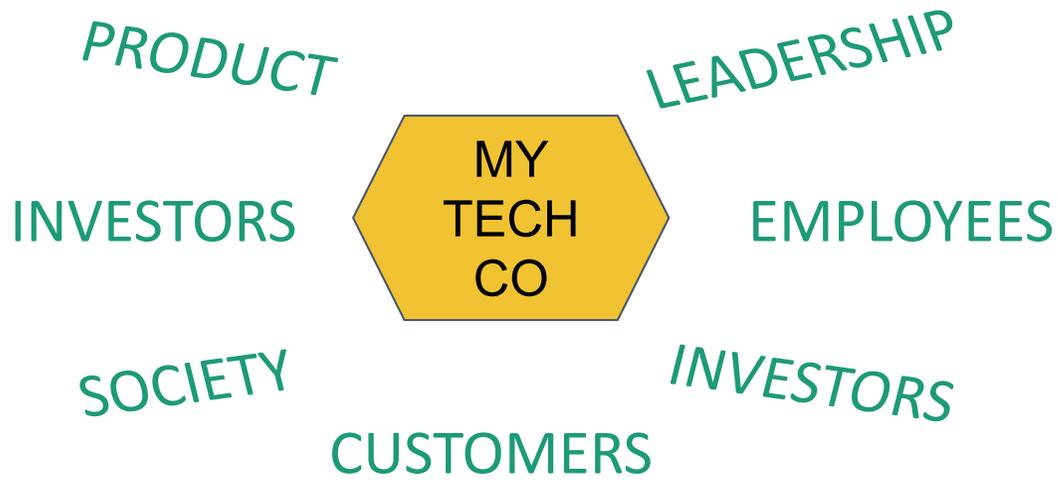
W.B. Yeats

PERVERSION OF GOD'S GOOD PLAN



...back toward
God's intended

... away from
God's intended



STRUCTURE

- EVERY STAKEHOLDER HAD IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY
- VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTED IN INNOVATION
- TECHNOLOGY PRODUCT BENEFITED LARGE ORGANIZATIONS

DIRECTION

- FALL: FOUNDER COULDN'T DELIVER PRODUCT
- FALL: INTERNET BUBBLE BURST; FUNDING DRIED UP
- REDEMPTION: MOST EMPLOYEES GAVE THEIR ALL TO THE END

Despite The Fall -

“Nothing in the world ought to be despaired of. Hope is grounded in the constant availability and the insistent presence of the **good creation**, even in those situations in which it is being terribly violated.”

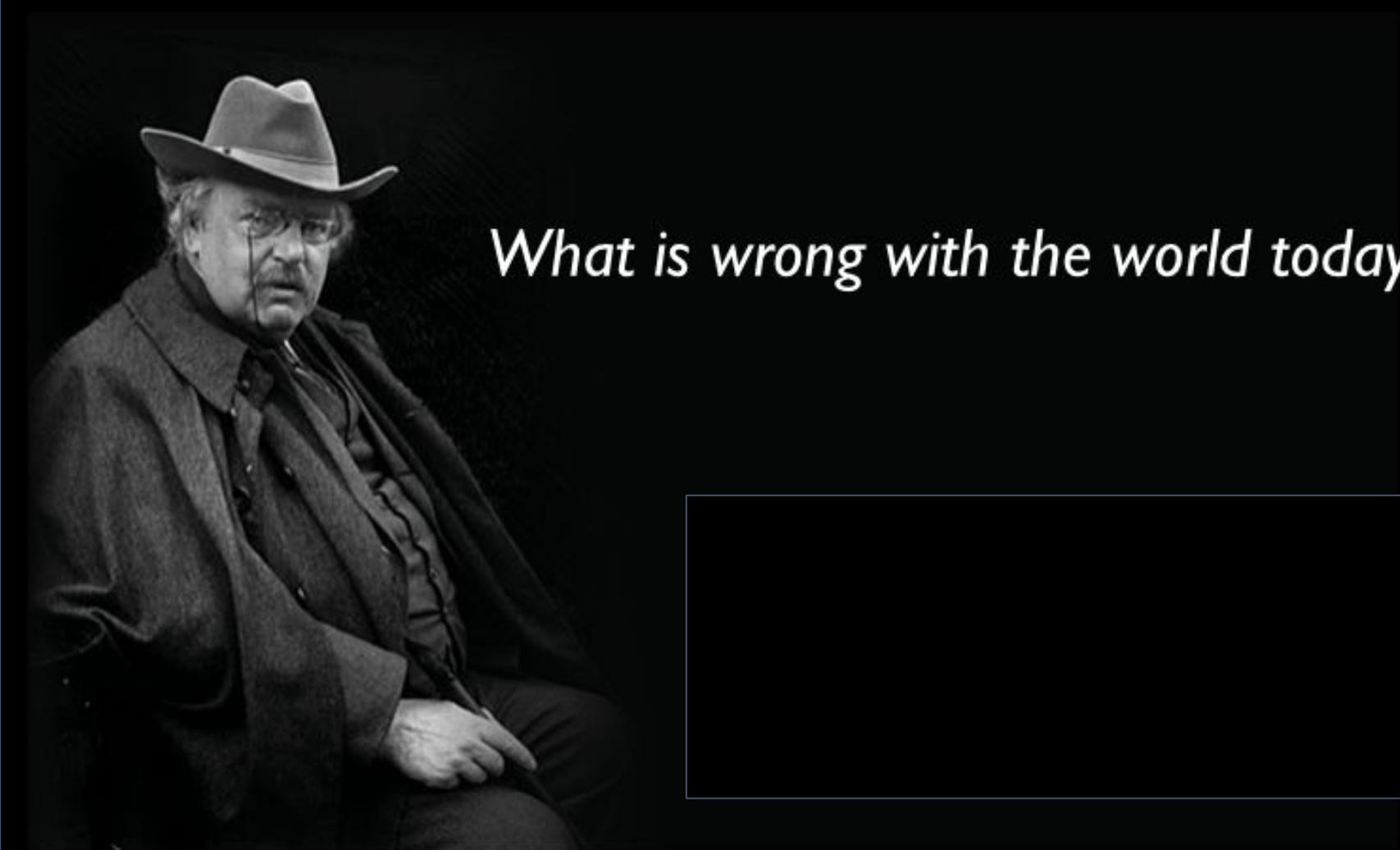
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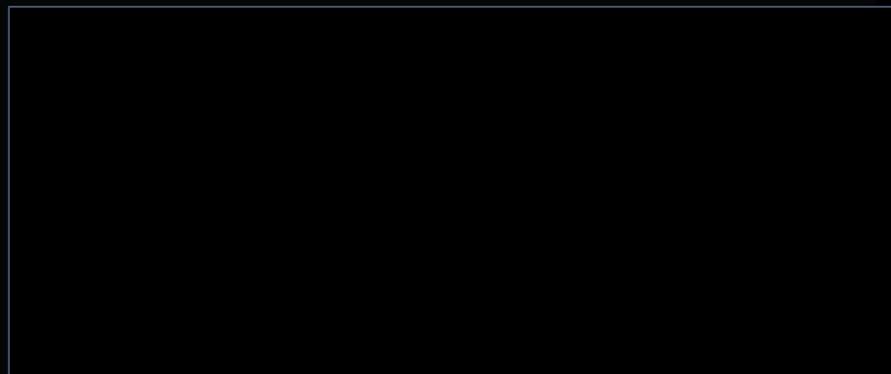


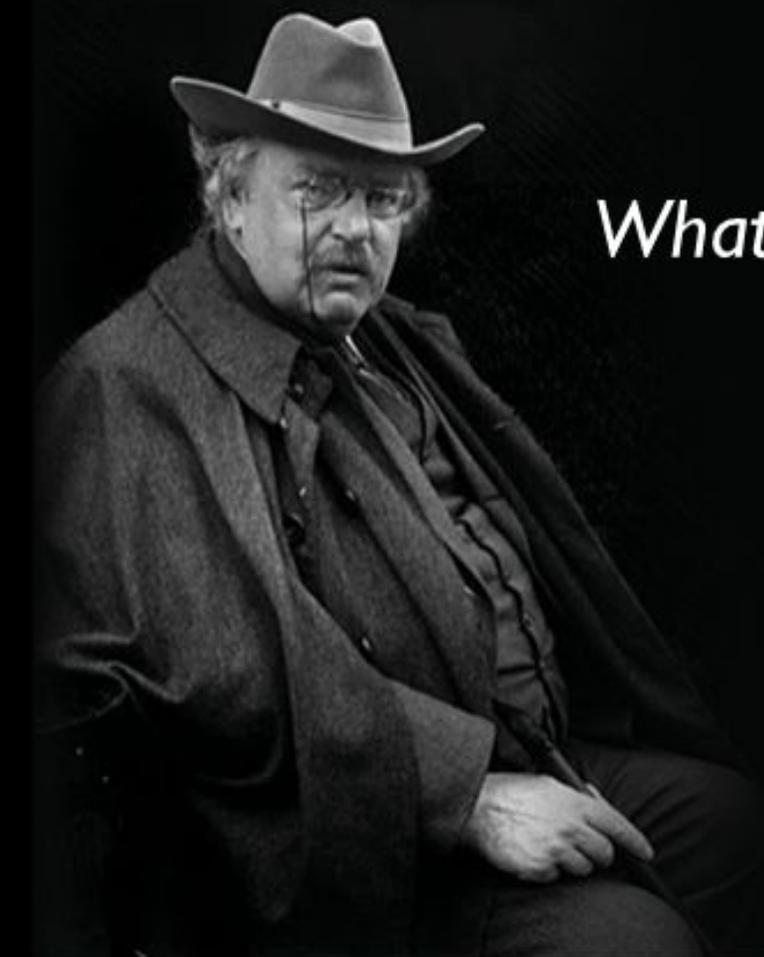
The FALL:

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What is wrong with the world today?





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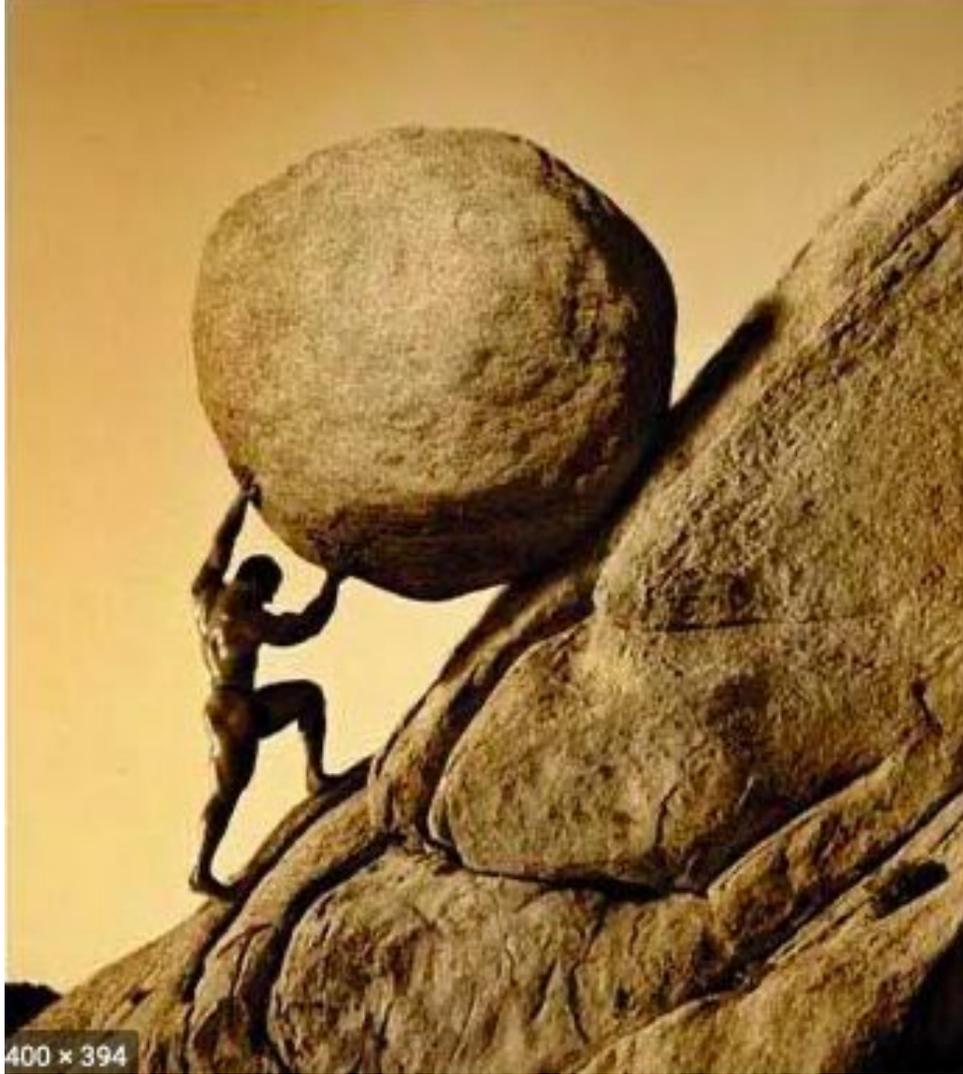
Dear Sir,
I am.

Yours, G.K. Chesterton

WORK
BECOMES
SELFISH



Pieter Bruegel
"The Tower of Babel"



Work Becomes Fruitless

Work Seems Meaningless
Decreasing ROI
Mistrust / fear of others



Work
Is a
Pandora's Box
of
Idolatry



IDOL, by Georgia O'Keeffe

An idol is...

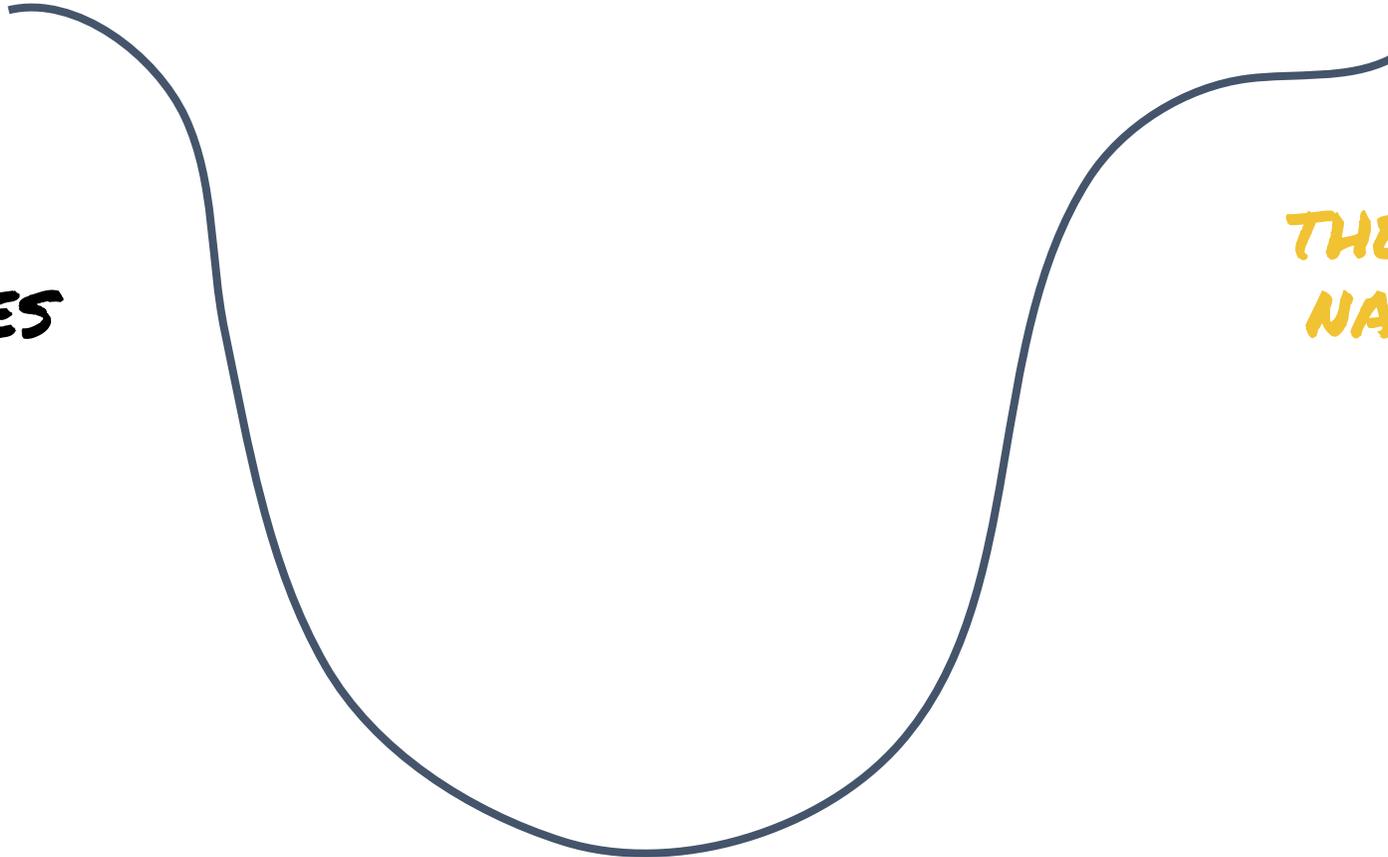
.

a good thing
turned into
an ultimate thing

GOSPEL GAP

OTHER
NARRATIVES

THE GOSPEL
NARRATIVE



*Without the gospel we hate ourselves
instead of our sin.*

Tim Keller