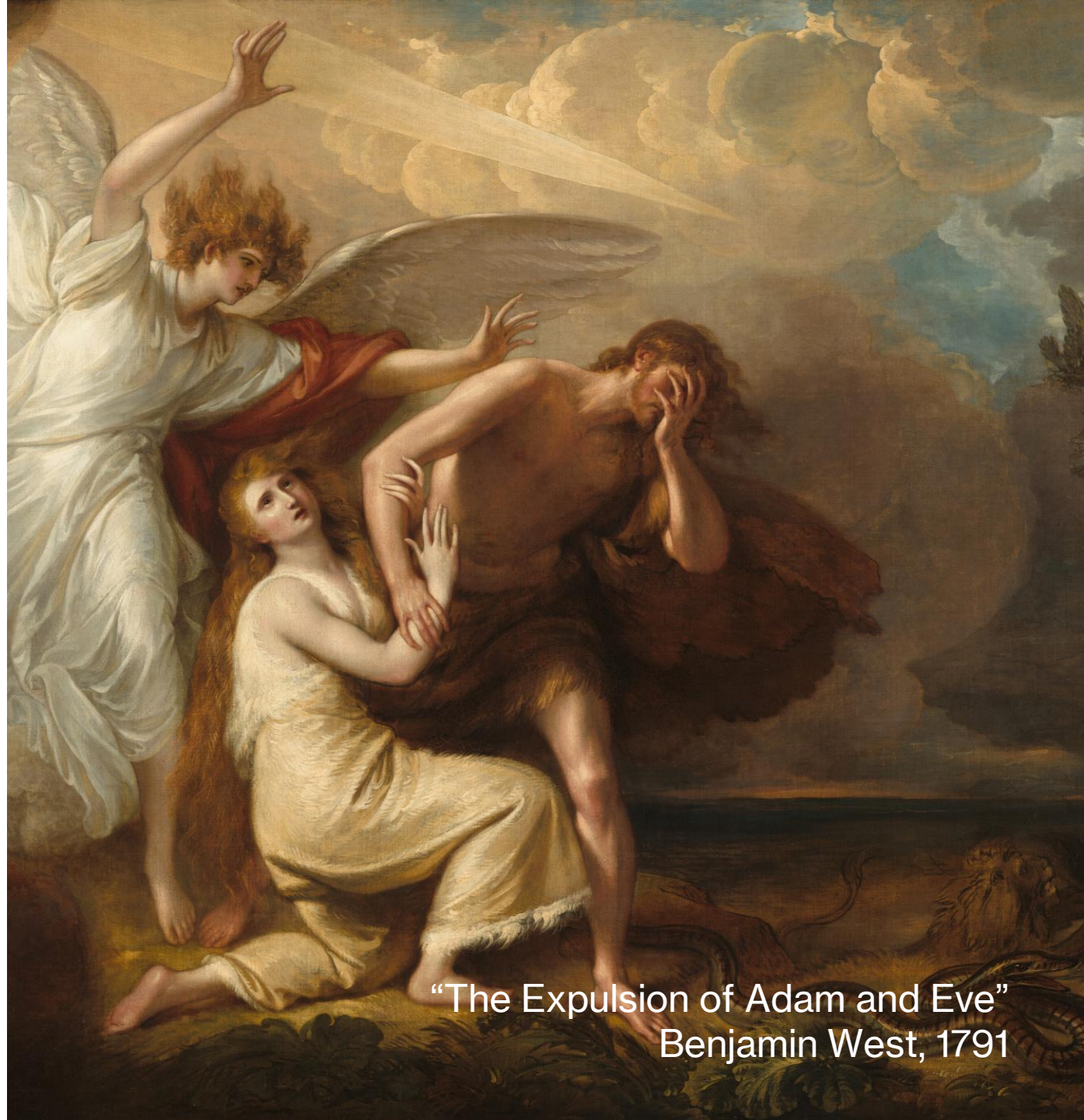


God's Covenant with Adam

BT1210



“The Expulsion of Adam and Eve”
Benjamin West, 1791

Outline

1. Is there a Covenant of Works in Gen 1-3?
2. The Covenant of Works Established
3. The Covenant of Works Broken
4. The Covenant of Grace Announced

Definitions

Covenant

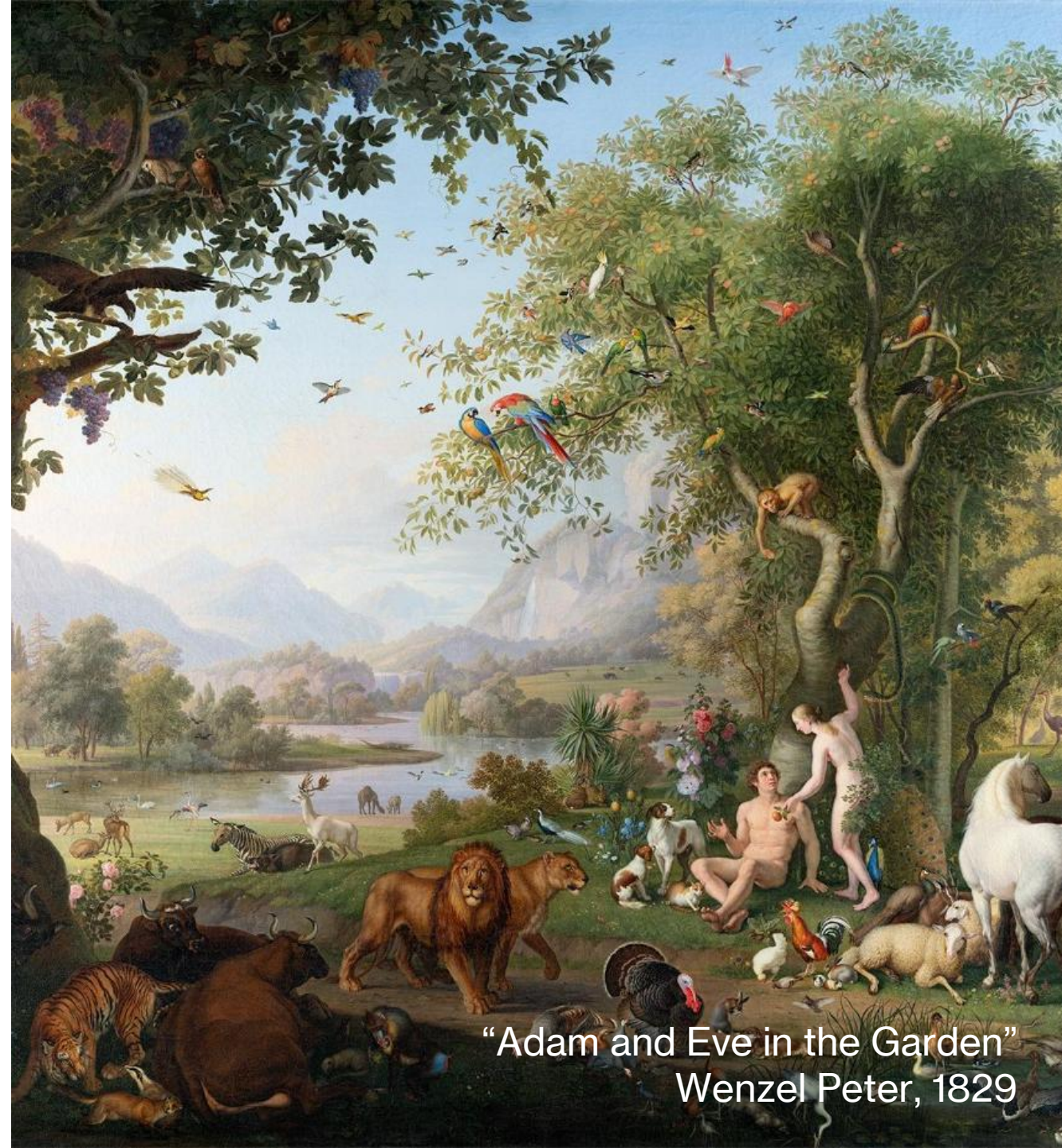
“A legal agreement between two parties that is ratified by certain rituals that emphasize the binding nature of the agreement” (Belcher)

The Covenant of Works

Refers to that covenant God made with Adam and Eve in their pristine condition before the Fall, in which God promised them blessedness that was contingent on their obedience

The Covenant of Grace

Refers to that covenant God *announced* to Adam after the Fall, whereby he promised redemption through faith in the Seed of the Woman



“Adam and Eve in the Garden”
Wenzel Peter, 1829

I. Is there a Covenant of Works in Gen 1-3?

Elements of a Covenant in Gen 1-3



1) The parties involved

God and Adam; the uniqueness of the relationship that God establishes with Adam

2) Stipulations or conditions

The creation ordinances, the Law written on man's heart, the prohibition

3) Blessings or rewards

The promise of eternal life

4) Curses or punishment

Covenant curses for the covenant head and his progeny



Gen 2:5-9

5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up – for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground – 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.



Gen 2:5-9

8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

“The first breath that humanity drew
was the very exhalation of God.”

– Stephen G. Myers

WCF 7.2

2. The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, ***upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.***

WCF 7.1

1. *The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator*, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.



Gen 2:16-17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, ***for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.***”

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II. The Covenant of Works Established



Gen 2:15-17

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of ***the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*** you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

The Tree of Knowledge

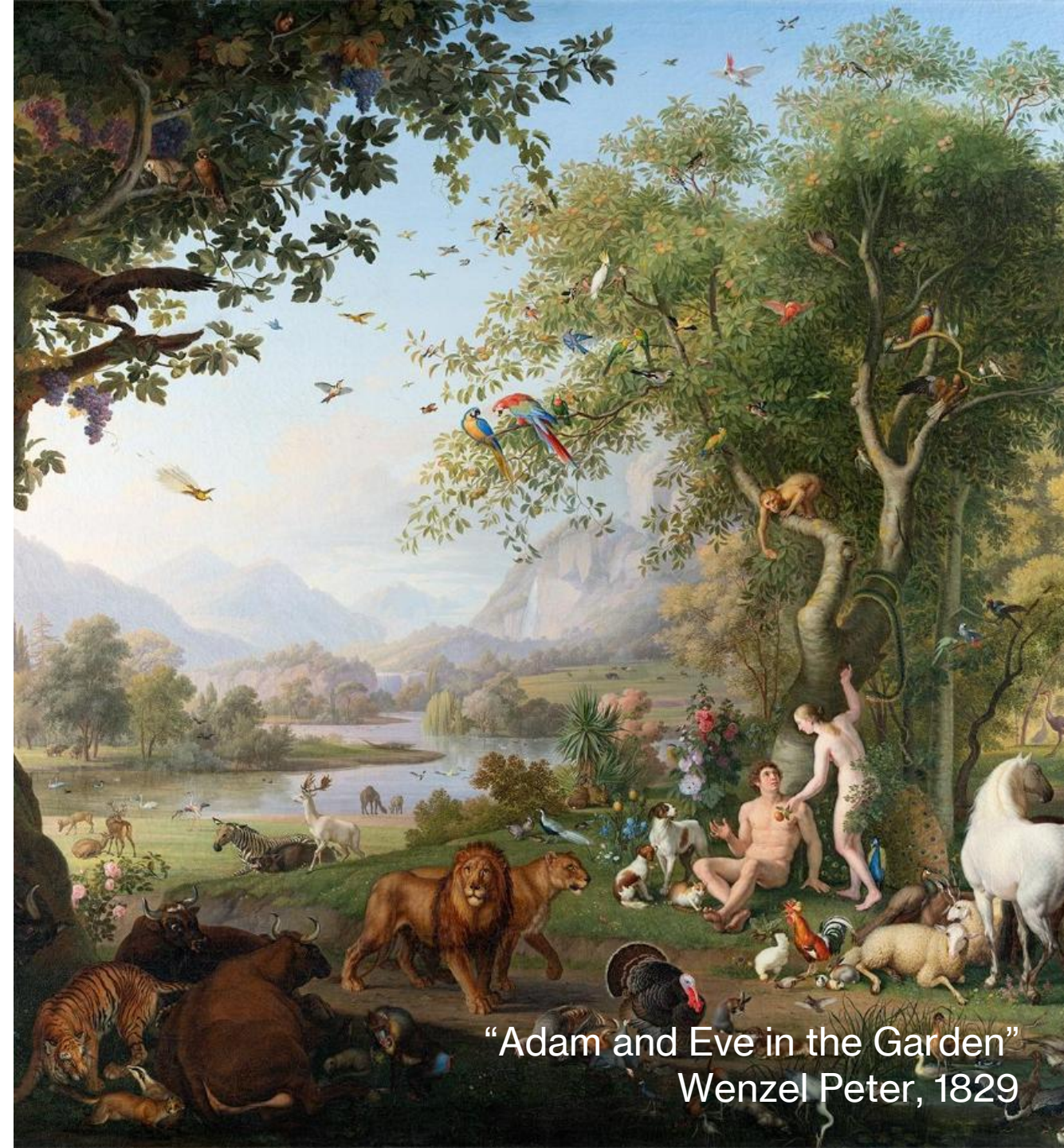
The mythical interpretation

The instrument of probation

The neutrality of the name

Good-and-evil

The arbitrary nature of the tree



"Adam and Eve in the Garden"
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“In order to create a moment of testing, so that Adam’s period of perpetual probation would have a decisive ending.”

– Harrison Perkins

“For the simple practical purpose of this first fundamental lesson it was necessary only to stake everything upon the unreasoned will of God ... If the inherent nature of good and evil had been drawn into the scope of the test, then it would have resulted in a choice from instinct alone rather than in a choice of a deliberate character. But it was precisely the purpose of the probation to raise man for a moment from the influence of his own ethical inclination to the point of a choosing for the sake of personal attachment to God alone.”

– **Geerhardus Vos**

“To do the good and reject the evil from a reasoned insight into their respective natures is a noble thing, but it is a still nobler thing to do so out of regard for the nature of God, and the noblest thing of all is the ethical strength, which, when required, will act from personal attachment to God, without for the moment enquiring into these more abstruse reasons. ***The pure delight in obedience adds to the ethical value of a choice.***”

– Geerhardus Vos

“The entirety of the Law was at stake
in this one command.”

– Tertullian



Gen 3:22-24

22 Then the Lord God said, “***Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—***” 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

“He was destined to reach a higher degree of perfection in the way of obedience. He was, something like a child, perfect in parts, but not yet in degree.”

– Louis Berkhof



Rev 2:7

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ***To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life,*** which is in the paradise of God.'

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III. The Covenant of Works Broken



Gen 3:1-7

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



Gen 3:1-7

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, ***and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*** 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

“It has been strikingly observed that the woman in yielding to this thought virtually put the tempter in the place of God. It was God who had beneficent purposes for man, the serpent had malicious designs. The woman acts on the supposition that God’s intent is unfriendly, whilst Satan is animated with the desire to promote her well-being.”

– **Geerhardus Vos**

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IV. The Covenant of Grace Announced

WCF 7.3

3. *Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace*; wherein he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.



Gen 3:14-15

14 ***The Lord God said to the serpent,*** “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

“Having arrogantly aggrandized itself in a challenge to God, [the serpent] is now permanently doomed to a posture of abject humiliation.”

– Nahum M. Sarna



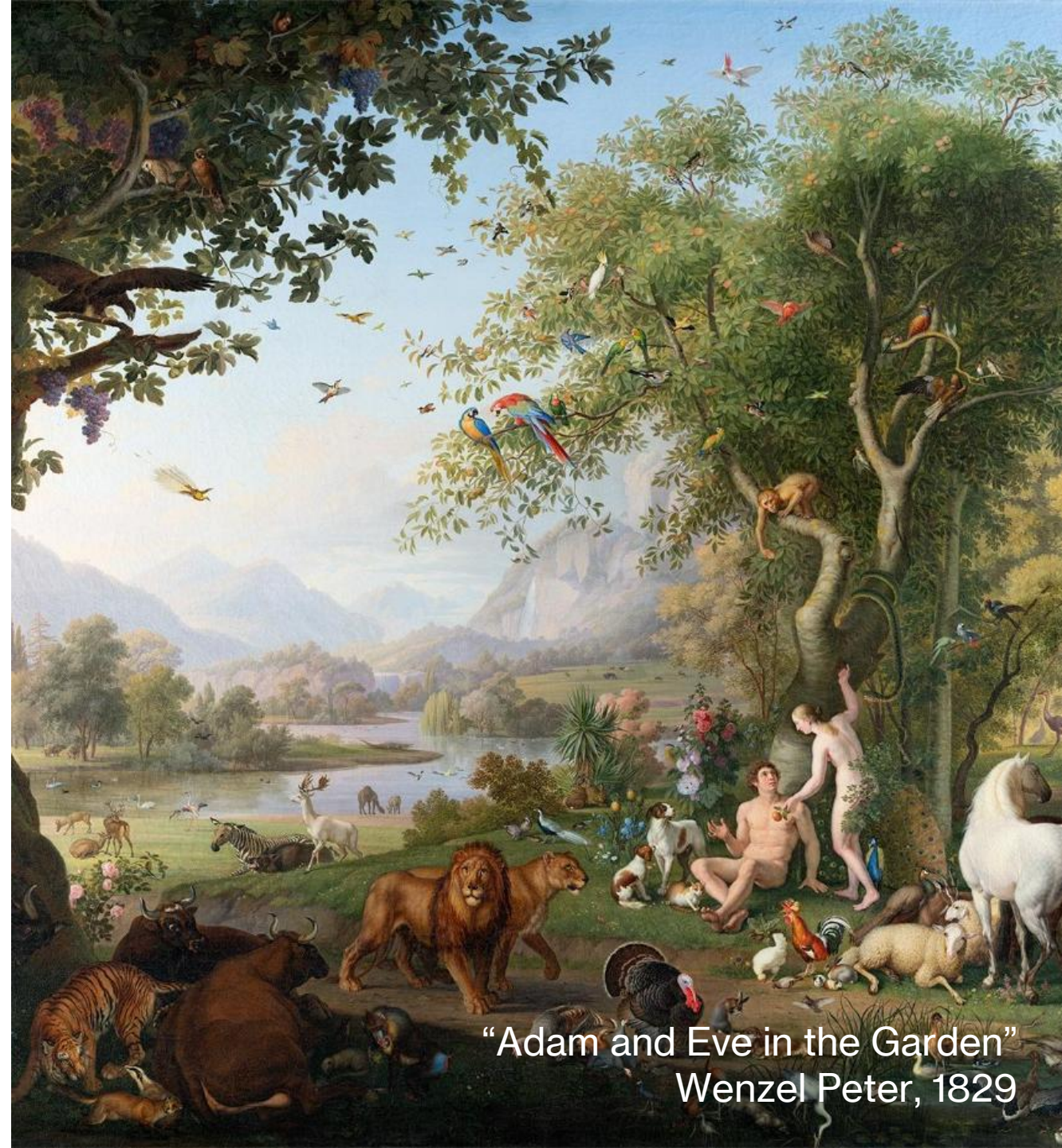
Gen 3:14-15

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Gen 3:15

Enmity – *evah*

God promises to sovereignly
perpetuate a war



“Adam and Eve in the Garden”
Wenzel Peter, 1829

“Here is not primarily an appeal to man but ***a divine promise***. Nor does God merely instigate or promote enmity; He sovereignly puts it.”

– Geerhardus Vos

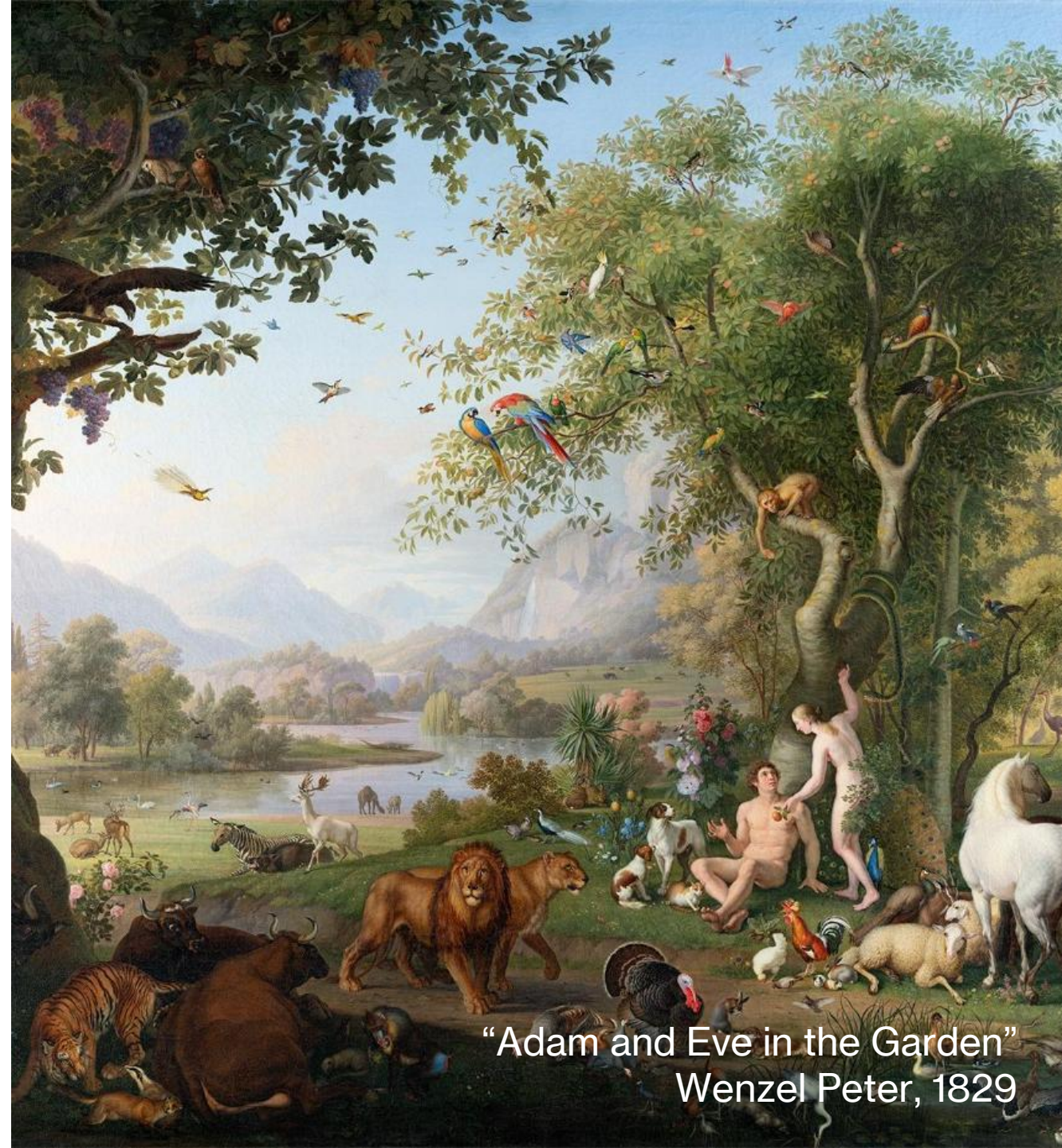
Gen 3:15

Enmity – *evah*

God promises to sovereignly perpetuate a war

Seed – *zera*

This war extends to the spiritual offspring of serpent and the spiritual offspring of the woman



"Adam and Eve in the Garden"
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The Seed of the Serpent



1 Jn 3:12

We should not be like Cain, who was ***of the evil one*** and murdered his brother.

Lk 3:7

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “***You brood of vipers!*** Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Jn 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

Gen 3:15

Enmity – *evah*

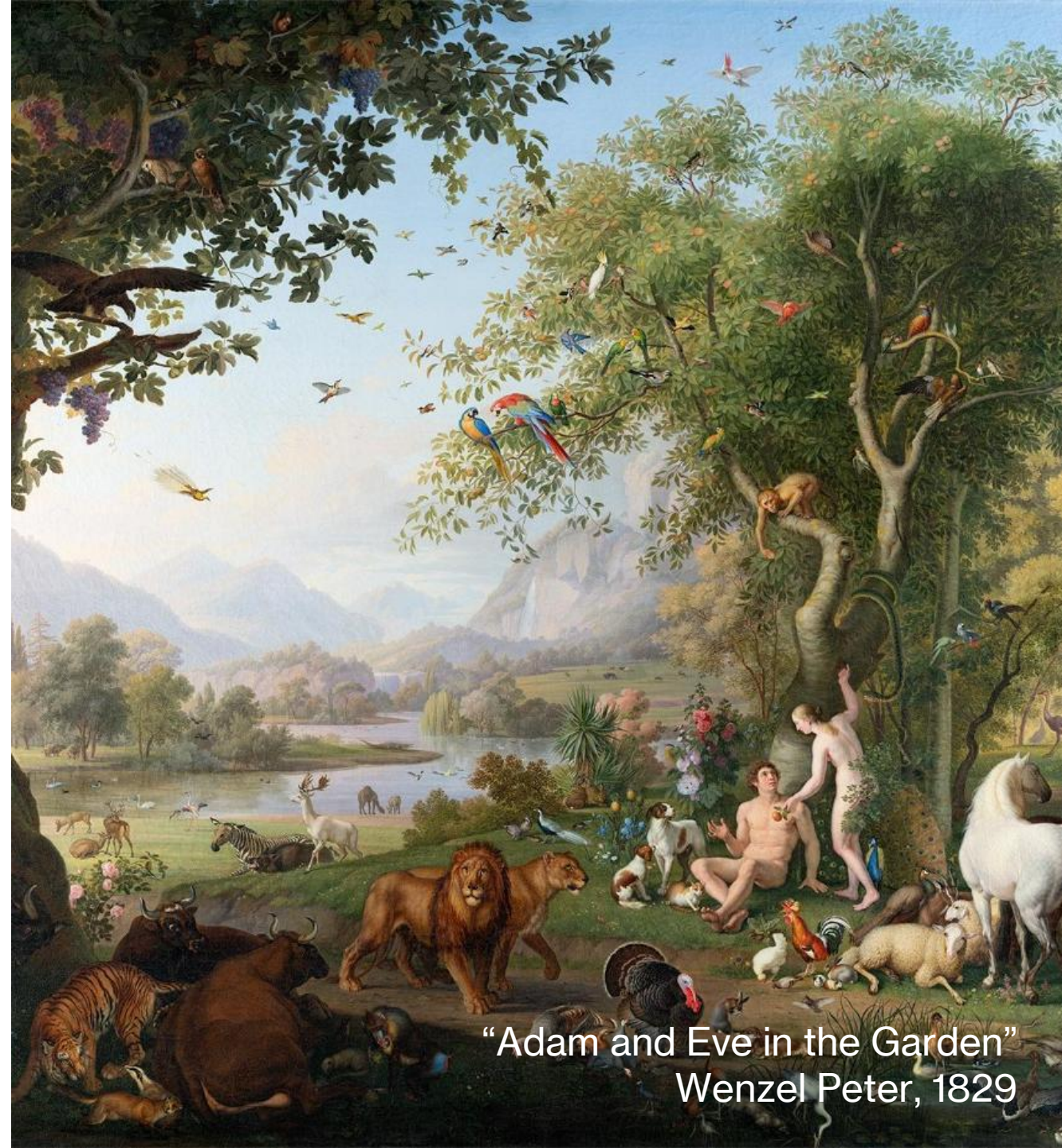
God promises to sovereignly perpetuate a war

Seed – *zera*

This war extends to the spiritual offspring of serpent and the spiritual offspring of the woman

He – singular masculine

From the many offspring of the woman, God promises a champion who finally put an end to this spiritual warfare



"Adam and Eve in the Garden"
Wenzel Peter, 1829



Gen 3:14-15

14 The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; ***he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.***”

“Christ is the promise in every covenant, the substance of the covenant”

– Harrison Perkins



Gen 3:16

16 ***To the woman he said***, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”



Gen 4:7

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its ***desire*** is for you, and you must rule over it.”



Gen 3:17-19

17 *And to Adam he said*, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

“The threat of the creation covenant finds an awesome fulfilment in the dissolution of man’s person. Adam had been created to rule the earth. Now the earth’s dust shall rule him.”

– O. Palmer Robertson



Gen 3:20-21

20 The man called his wife's name Eve,
because she was the mother of all living. 21
And the Lord God made for Adam and for his
wife garments of skins and clothed them.



Q & A

Any questions?