

# FAITH & FREEDOM

## LESSON 1: Foundations

First Baptist Church Chappell Hill, Sunday, September 12, 2021



# Thinking About 9-11

- \* On September 11, 2001, the United States experienced the worst terrorist attack in world history
- \* 2,606 died in the World Trade Center (included 343 members of the NYC Fire Department, 71 police officers in the buildings or on the ground), 125 at the Pentagon, and 265 on the four planes (including the 19 hijackers)
- \* Behind the attacks is a war of ideas
- \* But how did we get to this place?
- \* Are we safe now?
- \* Where do we turn for answers?
- \* How can we understand the root problems and appropriately respond?





# LOOKING BACK

- \* **KEY PRINCIPLE:** We have to look back to move forward. (Zech. 1)
- \* History matters, both the good and the bad
- \* We need to understand and acknowledge
- \* Today's challenges in the United States (and the whole world) didn't begin last night
- \* We need to understand how we got where we are today — what changes and events were happening 10, 20, 30, or 300 years ago to get us to this moment
- \* We need to quit thinking only in terms of “bits and pieces” and see how the myriad pieces fit together
- \* We need to urgently press forward on multiple fronts, and stop huddling on our islands hoping it will just pass.



# KILLING FREEDOM

- \* Attack the FOUNDATION(S) — work to change the core institutions, ideology and beliefs upon which the nation was founded, rewrite / cancel history
- \* Attack the STRUCTURE — undermine the rule of law on multiple fronts, cause chaos, overwhelm the system
- \* Attack the PEOPLE — incite division and tolerate no rivals, marginalize / boycott opposition
- \* Seize POWER — target, take over and weaponize institutions, use ideas / revisionism / indoctrination and ultimately force to empower the leaders of the movement



# IN THE BEGINNING

- \* What are some **foundations** we find in Genesis 1-3?  
Which of these are under attack and why?
- \* Foundation 1: God (exists and brings order) (see Genesis 1:1-3) — the final reality is God
- \* Foundation 2: God speaks
- \* Foundation 3: Humans made in God's image (1:26-27) with dominion over animals and creation BUT NOT PEOPLE
- \* Foundation 4: Ordered liberty (2:15-17)
- \* Foundation 5: Marriage / Family (1:27-28; 2:18-24)



# IN THE BEGINNING

- \* The term “image” has been variously explained as personality, nature (as body and spirit), or capacity for moral decision. It does not signify a physical representation of corporeality, for God is a spirit. The term must therefore figuratively describe human life as a reflection of God’s spiritual nature; that is, human life has the communicated attributes that came with the inbreathing (Gen. 2:7). Consequently, humans have spiritual life, ethical and moral sensitivities, conscience, and the capacity to represent God. The significance of the word “image” should be connected to the divine purpose for human life. Von Rad has made the analogy that, just as kings set up statues of themselves throughout the border of their land to show their sovereign domain, so God established his representatives on earth [*Theology*, vol. 1, p. 146).
- \* Allen P. Ross, Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 112–113.



# IN THE BEGINNING

- \* What are some implications of humans being made in God's image?
- \* "The Genesis declaration that humans are made in the image and likeness of God is the clearest, strongest, and most influential statement of the priceless value of the individual human being in human history." Os Guinness, The Magna Carta of Humanity: Sinai's Revolutionary Faith and the Future of Freedom (Downers Grove, IL: IVP: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2021), 78.
- \* humans are both LIKE and UNLIKE — God is holy and therefore other and different yet made us in His image while prohibiting any image of Himself

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# IN THE BEGINNING

- \* What are some implications of humans being made in God's image?
- \* Each and every person is a valuable individual no matter their age and physical and intellectual abilities
- \* *Mishnah*: "When a human being makes many coins in a single mint, they all come out the same. God makes every human being in the same image, His image, yet they all emerge different."
- \* Being in God's image is the logical grounding for equality, liberty and justice

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# IN THE BEGINNING

- \* What are some implications of humans being made in God's image?
- \* The extent to which we see people as less than God's image is proportional to our willingness to take away their freedom and commit injustices upon them
- \* The famous Three-fifths Compromise was an agreement reached during the 1787 U.S. Constitutional Convention about how to count slaves as part of a state's population to apportion the House of Representatives
- \* What about Genesis 9:20-27?
- \* What about Nazi Germany?

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# THE FALL

- \* Looking at the Fall in Genesis 3...
- \* Humanity in a utopia of ordered liberty
- \* SATAN — who is he, how does he operate, what are his goals? (John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Cor. 2:11, 10:3-5)
- \* What is the nature of his interaction with Eve?
  - \* How does he attack FOUNDATIONS?
  - \* Deception, revision, appeal to pride, humanism
  - \* “Deceptionism” — promise plus deception, usually based on challenging accepted norms or truths
- \* What are some children of humanism? atheism, scientism, idolatry, Darwinism, utilitarian ethics
- \* Fall results in the law of sin and death (Romans 5:12)



# SOURCE OF FREEDOM

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.