

# The Foundation, The Fall and the Flow



## INTRODUCTION:

### **Questions:**

*Where have you ever experienced abundance? (Maybe in a crop you have grown, a season of life, a gift etc)*

*What did that feel like? How did it change the way you treated others?*

*Have you ever experienced scarcity?*

*What did that feel like? How did it change the way you treated others?*

## **The story of abundance - loss - and worship**

### **1. The foundation: God Created Everything. It is Good. It all belongs to Him.**

*Read: Gen 1:27-31*

God's creation was a place of abundance, beauty, provision.

### **2. The Fall: - humankind was removed from this place of beauty.**

As a result of sin, the experience of humankind was radically altered.

*'So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.'* Gen 3:23

So humanity is now working the ground, working to provide for what they need -

*but it still all comes from God, and belongs to God... so how will people respond?*

Enter Cain & Abel....

### **3. First Fruits - what offering is favoured by God?**

*Read Gen 4:1-5*

#### **Questions:**

*What was significant about the 2 offerings that were made?*

*Which one attracted the favour of God?*

*How does this challenge us today?*

NOTE - the text says that 'over time' Cain brought an offering. This is contrasted with Abel offering the FIRST. Both were offerings, one was an act of faith, one was given later.

Roll on a few years.... People are no longer just relying on subsistence - there is wealth.....

### **4. The Tenth - An act of worship**

*Read Gen 14:18-20*

NOTE - Melchizedek a priest of the most High God appears out of nowhere and brings bread and wine to Abram (later called Abraham) and blesses him. This happens before any laws are given, before God enters the covenant with Abram. In the New Testament, Melchizedek is seen a 'prophetic picture of Jesus'. He is a foreshadowing of what is to come in Christ (see Hebrews 7)

Abraham represents God's people, Melchizedek in represents Jesus.

#### **Questions:**

*How did Abram respond to this priest?*

NOTE: This tenth portion permeates the whole of the Bible - being known as the Tithe - the portion that belongs to God. The First Fruits that are given back to God in worship and obedience.

(See Mark 12:17 - where Jesus says 'Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's')

*What are your reflections?*