

Approximately 45 minutes Topical



## **From Dust to Glory: The Serpent, Our Weakness, and Christ's Victory:**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Father God, in the name of Jesus, thank You for Your holy Word. Thank You that You speak truth to us from the very beginning of Scripture. Lord, open our eyes today. Help us understand what it means that we were formed from the dust, what it means that the serpent was cursed, and what it means that Jesus Christ has won the victory. Speak to the new believer with clarity, and speak to the mature believer with depth and fresh encouragement. Let Your Spirit teach us, convict us, strengthen us, and draw anyone listening today to salvation in**

**Christ. We ask it in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**

### **Quick Historical Setting:**

As we open to Genesis, we are opening to the foundation of all biblical truth. Genesis explains beginnings: the beginning of creation, the beginning of man, the beginning of sin, the beginning of death, and the beginning of God's redemptive promise.

Traditionally, Genesis is understood to have been written by Moses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The people of Israel needed to know who they were, where they came from, why the world is broken, and why they needed the Lord. And we need that same understanding today.

- Genesis 2 shows us man's creation.
- Genesis 3 shows us man's fall.

And right there, in the middle of mankind's ruin, God gives the first promise of **redemption**. So this is not merely ancient history.

👉 This is our story.

This is the story of humanity, sin, spiritual conflict, and the hope of Jesus Christ.

## 1. Man Was Formed from the Dust:

**Genesis 2:7** (NIV) says, **Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.**

That verse is powerful. Man is both humble and glorious.

We are humble because we were formed from the dust. There is no room for pride here.

- You and I are not self-made.

- We are not independent.
- We are not “little gods”.
  - We are creatures.
  - We are dependent on the One who made us.

👉 But man is also glorious because God breathed into him the breath of life.

- Dust by itself has no life.
- Dust by itself has no purpose.
- Dust by itself has no future.

👉 But when God breathes, life begins.

That means your life is not an accident. Your existence is not random. You were made by God and for God.

Now the dust reminds us of something important: our weakness. Abraham said in

**Genesis 18:27(NIV)<sup>27</sup> Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,**

Psalm 103 reminds us that the Lord knows how we are formed and remembers that we are dust. **Psalm 103**(NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy  
name.**

**<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—**

**<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,**

**<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and  
compassion,**

**<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good  
things**

**so that your youth is renewed like the  
eagle's.**

**<sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.**

**<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:**

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and**

***gracious,***

***slow to anger, abounding in love.***

***<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,***

***nor will he harbor his anger forever;***

***<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins***

***deserve***

***or repay us according to our***

***iniquities.***

***<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above***

***the earth,***

***so great is his love for those who fear***

***him;***

***<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,***

***so far has he removed our***

***transgressions from us.***

***<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his***

***children,***

***so the LORD has compassion on those***

***who fear him;***

***<sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed,***

***he remembers that we are dust.***

***<sup>15</sup> The life of mortals is like grass,***

***they flourish like a flower of the field;***

***16 the wind blows over it and it is gone,  
and its place remembers it no more.***

***17 But from everlasting to everlasting  
the LORD's love is with those who fear  
him,***

***and his righteousness with their  
children's children—***

***18 with those who keep his covenant  
and remember to obey his precepts.***

***19 The LORD has established his throne in  
heaven,***

***and his kingdom rules over all.***

***20 Praise the LORD, you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
who obey his word.***

***21 Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,  
you his servants who do his will.***

***22 Praise the LORD, all his works  
everywhere in his dominion.***

***Praise the LORD, my soul.***

In other words, God knows our weakness. He knows our limitations. He knows our frame.

Amen..... Understand?

And after sin enters the world, dust becomes even more connected with mortality. **Genesis 3:19** (NIV) says, **<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.**”

So dust points to human weakness, human dependence, and after the Fall, human mortality.

👉 That is why the gospel is so precious. The Bible does not flatter man. It tells the truth.

➤ We are weak.

- We are fallen.
- We are mortal.

👉 But God, in His mercy, still reaches for us.

## **2. The Serpent Is Cursed to Eat Dust:**

Now look at Genesis 3:14. After the temptation and the fall, the Lord says to the serpent, **Genesis 3:14**(NIV) **14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,**

**“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!**

**You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.**

Look at this carefully...

**“...Because you have done this... (v.14) ...you will crawl on your belly and you will “eat dust” all the days of your life.”**

(v.14)

👉 This is symbolic language filled with meaning.

In Scripture, to eat dust is an image of humiliation, defeat, and being brought low. It is the picture of shame. It is the picture of judgment. It is the picture of a defeated enemy.

So when God says the serpent will eat dust, He is declaring the serpent's disgrace. Satan may have succeeded in deceiving Eve in that moment, but he did not win the war. God immediately marks him as a judged and doomed enemy.

- That matters for us, because sometimes evil looks powerful. Sometimes darkness looks like it is advancing. Sometimes temptation feels strong, and the enemy feels active. But from the very beginning, God declares that the serpent's future is humiliation, not triumph.

👉 The devil is not God's equal.

He is not some dark rival balancing out the universe. He is a created **being under judgment**. His doom is certain.

### **3. Does the Serpent “Feed” on Fallen Humanity?:**

Now this is where the question becomes very interesting.

Man is formed from dust. The serpent is cursed to eat dust.

👉 Is there a connection?

**There is, and it is spiritually rich.**

Satan does not feed on people in a literal physical way, but he does feed on fallen humanity in a spiritual sense. He works in the realm of sin, weakness, deception, and rebellion against God. He takes advantage of man's fallen condition, seeking to deepen

bondage, stir temptation, and keep people trapped in darkness.

The serpent works in the realm of weakness, rebellion, temptation, and death. He preys on what sin has damaged.

Before the Fall, man was innocent. After the Fall, man became exposed in a new way. Sin distorted the human condition. The flesh became a battleground.

- Shame entered.
- Fear entered.
- Death entered.

And Satan abuses that fallen condition.

- He tempts.
- He accuses.
- He deceives.
- He stirs pride, lust, fear, bitterness, and unbelief.
- He works where sin has opened a door.

James 1 teaches that temptation works through desire when it is conceived and then gives birth to sin.

- The devil knows how to aim at the weak points of fallen humanity. He knows how to appeal to the flesh. He knows how to whisper lies to dust.

This is why that connection is so powerful.

The serpent “eating dust” helps picture a spiritual reality: evil targets fallen mankind. Satan works through sin, weakness, and human brokenness.

He loves to keep people trapped in deception, bondage, and ruin.

He wants those made in God’s image to live as though they have no hope, no purpose, and no future beyond the dust.

👉 But praise God, that is not the whole story.

## 4. The Real Battle: Flesh Versus Spirit:

The New Testament helps us understand this even more clearly.

Paul tells us in Galatians 5:17 that the flesh and the Spirit are in conflict with each other.

**Galatians 5:17(NIV)<sup>17</sup> *For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.***

The flesh is that fallen tendency within us that resists God. It is not merely the physical body. It is human nature corrupted by sin.

So there is a real battle in the Christian life.

- The flesh says, “Live for self.”
- **The Spirit says, “Live for Christ.”**
- The flesh says, “Follow your appetites.”
- **The Spirit says, “Walk in holiness.”**

- The flesh says, “Stay in the dust.”
- **The Spirit says, “Set your mind on things above.”**

This is why temptation feels so personal. Satan exploits the fallen nature. He works through lies, but those lies find a hearing in fallen humanity. The enemy does not create sin out of nothing. He appeals to what is already twisted in the fallen heart.

- That is why no **one can save himself**.  
Education cannot fix this.
- Morality alone cannot fix this.
- Religion cannot fix this.

Human effort cannot breathe life back into dust.

 Only God can do that.

For the Christian, victory is not found in trusting ourselves, but in relying on the **Holy Spirit**.

The flesh is not defeated by ignoring it or pretending it is not strong. 🖐️ It is defeated as we stay close to Jesus, abide in Him, and follow Him day by day.

## **5. But the Serpent Does Not Have the Final Word:**

🖐️ Praise God,.... Genesis 3 does not end with the curse on the serpent. It moves immediately to promise.

**Genesis 3:15** (NIV)says **<sup>15</sup> And 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.”**

....that the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

🖐️ That verse has often been called the first gospel promise in the Bible. Right at the

scene of man's failure, God promises a coming Deliverer.

The serpent would wound Him at the heel, but He (Jesus) would crush the serpent's head.

**Christians understand this to point forward to Jesus Christ. This is prophecy....**

- At the cross, it looked like darkness was winning.
- At the cross, it looked like evil had triumphed.
- At the cross, it looked like death had swallowed the Son of God.

👉 But the cross was not Satan's victory. It was Satan's defeat.

Colossians 2 tells us that at the cross Christ disarmed the powers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them.

**Colossians 2:13-15(NIV) <sup>13</sup> When you**

***were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,<sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.<sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

Hebrews 2 says that through death Jesus destroyed the one who holds the power of death....that is, the devil. ***Hebrews 2:14-18(NIV)<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he***

**helps, but Abraham's**  
**descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had**  
**to be made like them, fully human in**  
**every way, in order that he might**  
**become a merciful and faithful high**  
**priest in service to God, and that he**  
**might make atonement for the sins of**  
**the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself**  
**suffered when he was tempted, he is**  
**able to help those who are being**  
**tempted.**

The serpent may move in the realm of dust, but Jesus came from heaven.

- Jesus entered our humanity without sin.
- Jesus took our judgment.
- Jesus went into the grave.
- And Jesus rose again in power.

That changes everything.

## **6. Jesus Does More Than Forgive** **Dust...He Raises It:**

Listen....This is one of the most beautiful truths in all the Bible.

👉 God did not simply pity dust. He entered our condition in the person of His Son.

Jesus took on flesh. He stepped into our weakness. He felt hunger, sorrow, rejection, and pain. **Yet He never sinned.** He became the second Adam, the true and perfect man.

And through Him, dust gets a future.

- First Corinthians 15 contrasts Adam and Christ. In Adam came death. In Christ comes resurrection life. We bore the image of the earthly man, and in Christ we will bear the image of the heavenly man.

That means the story of the believer is not “dust to dust” only. It is “dust to glory.”

- Yes, our bodies are weak now.
- Yes, we still fight sin now.

- Yes, we still live in a fallen world now.

👉 But because of Jesus, this is not the end of the story. The grave is not the final chapter for the child of God. The serpent does not get the last word. Sin does not get the last word. Death does not get the last word.

👉 Jesus gets the last word.

## 7. What Does This Mean for Us Today?:

- First, it means we should walk humbly.

If we are dust, there is no room **for pride**. Everything good in us is by the **grace of God**.

- Second, it means we should be watchful.

The enemy exploits weakness. We do not play games with sin. We do not flirt with

temptation. We do not assume we are too strong to fall. We stay close to Jesus.

- Third, it means we should live with hope.

Maybe you feel weak today. Maybe you feel like your life has been dragged through the dust. Maybe you feel beaten down by failure, temptation, grief, or shame.

👉 Remember this: Jesus specializes in redeeming what is broken.

- He can forgive the sinner.
  - He can restore the fallen.
  - He can cleanse the guilty.
  - He can give life where there was only dust.
- Fourth, it means we must choose whether we will remain in Adam or come to Christ.

By nature, we are in Adam: fallen, mortal, condemned.

By grace, through faith, we can be in Christ:

forgiven, made alive, and promised resurrection.

## **8. An Invitation to Be Born Again:**

Let me speak now to anyone listening who has **never truly come to Jesus Christ.**

- You may be religious.
- You may believe in God in a general way.
- You may know Bible stories.
- You may even feel convicted right now.

But the question is this: **Have you been born again?**

- Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins.
- Jesus Christ was buried.
- Jesus Christ rose again.
- And He offers forgiveness and eternal life to all who will repent and believe.
- You do not clean yourself up first.

- You do not save yourself by works.
  - 👉 You come as you are, and you place your faith in **Jesus** only.

If you want to be saved, call on Him today.  
Right now and right where you are.

Let us Pray....

**“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner..... I know I cannot save myself..... I believe You died for my sins and rose again..... Please forgive me,..... cleanse me,..... and come into my life..... Be my Lord and my Savior.... I turn from my sins and place my trust in You alone..... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”**

**Romans 10:9(NIV) says....<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**Closing Prayer:**

Let us Pray....

**Father God, thank You for Your Word. Thank You that though we were formed from the dust, You have not abandoned us in our fallen condition. Thank You that the serpent's defeat was promised from the beginning, and that victory has come through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Help us to walk humbly, live watchfully, and trust fully in our Savior. Strengthen every believer today to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. And for anyone who is not yet saved, draw them powerfully to repentance and faith in Jesus. We thank You for Your mercy, Your truth, and Your victory. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



Matthew 28:19-20