

An open book with a red bookmark is shown from a top-down perspective. The pages are aged and yellowed, with some text visible. The spine is visible in the center, and the book is resting on a dark surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

The **Good** Book

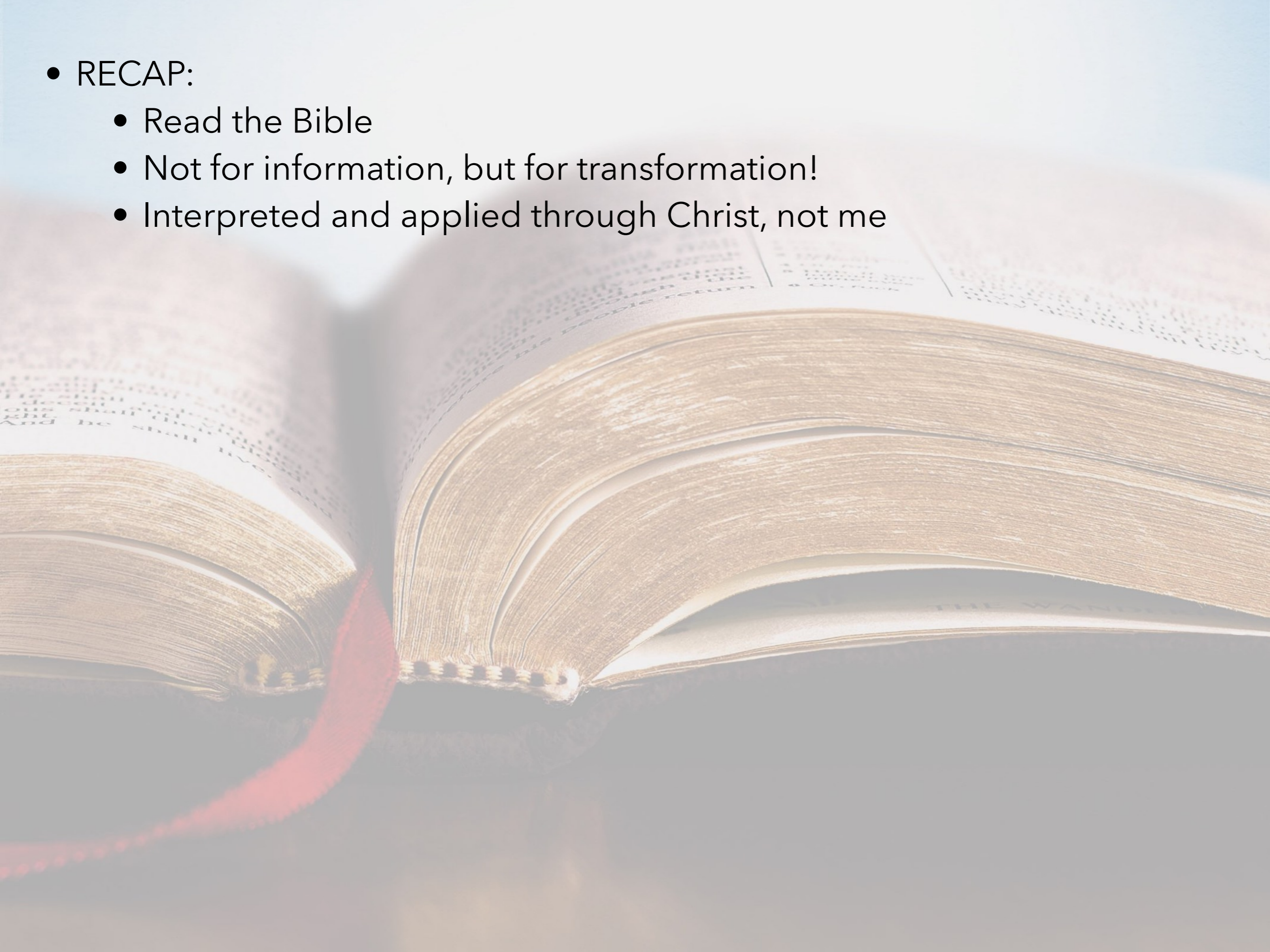
Books available for \$5

The Good Book

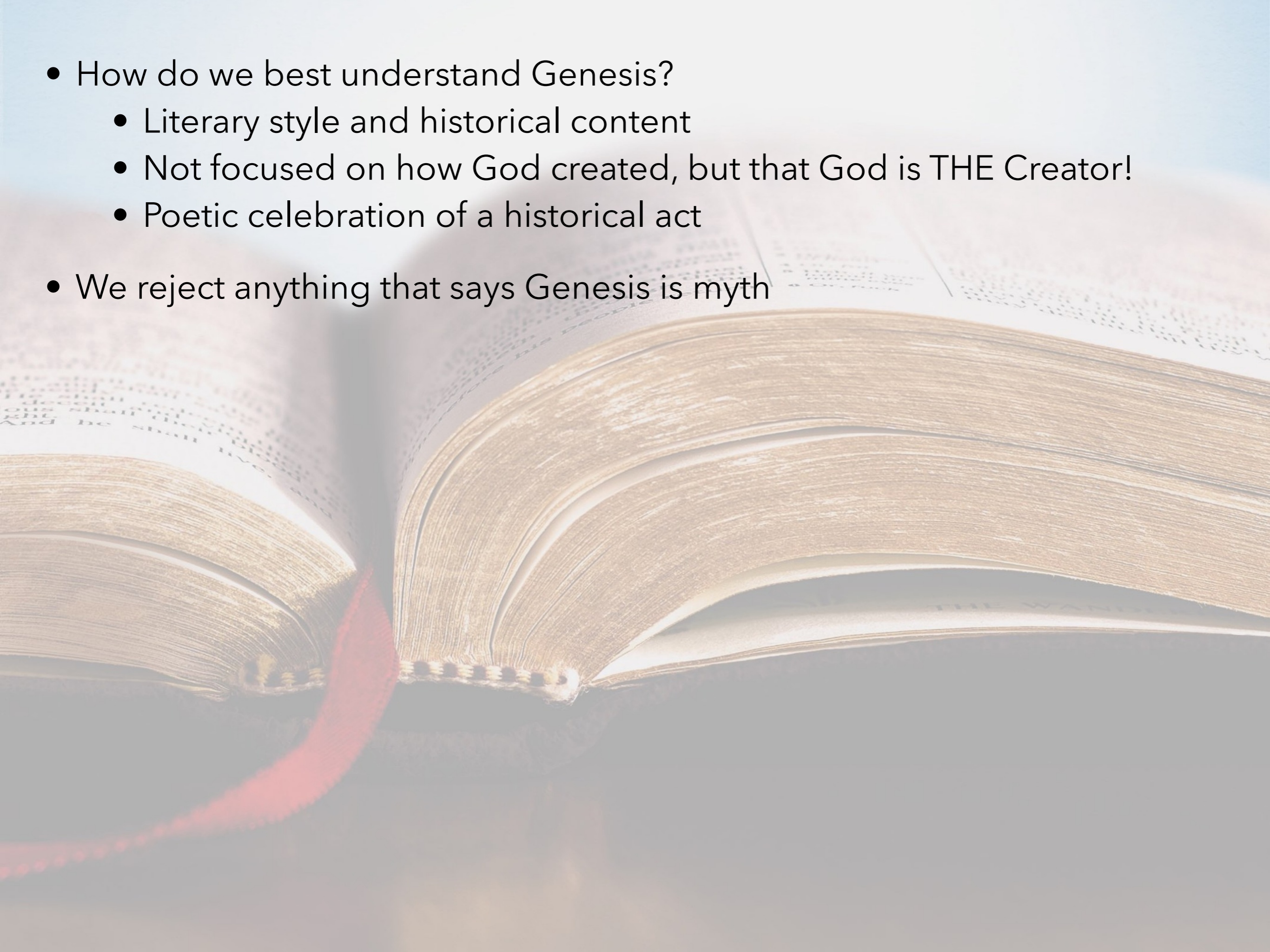


- RECAP:

- Read the Bible
- Not for information, but for transformation!
- Interpreted and applied through Christ, not me



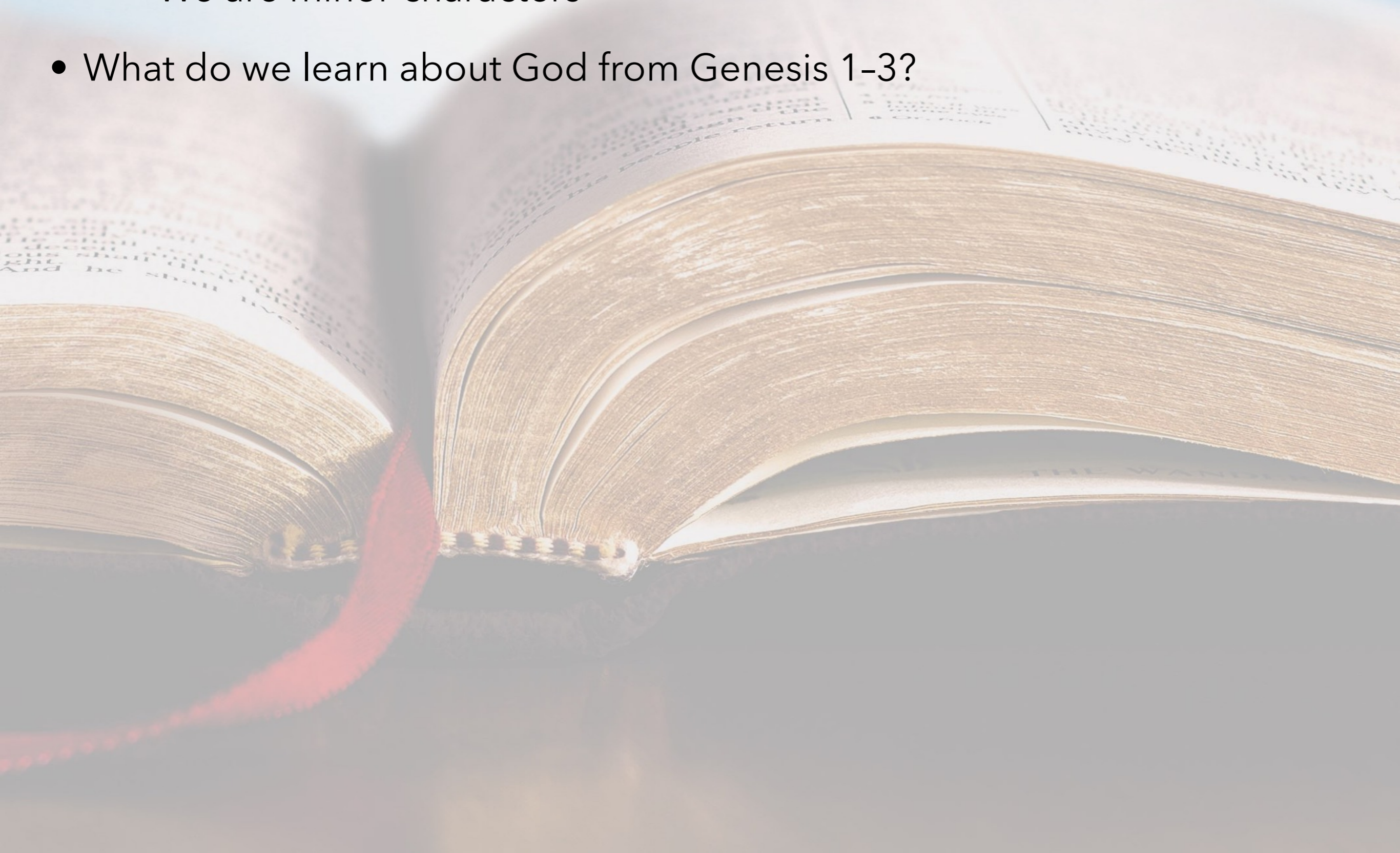
- How do we best understand Genesis?
 - Literary style and historical content
 - Not focused on how God created, but that God is THE Creator!
 - Poetic celebration of a historical act
- We reject anything that says Genesis is myth



- Ultimately, science and Scripture complement each other
- Also, in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15, Paul talks about Jesus and Adam
 - Is one mythological and one historical?
 - If so, is the fall actual? Is redemption? Or should they both be symbolic?



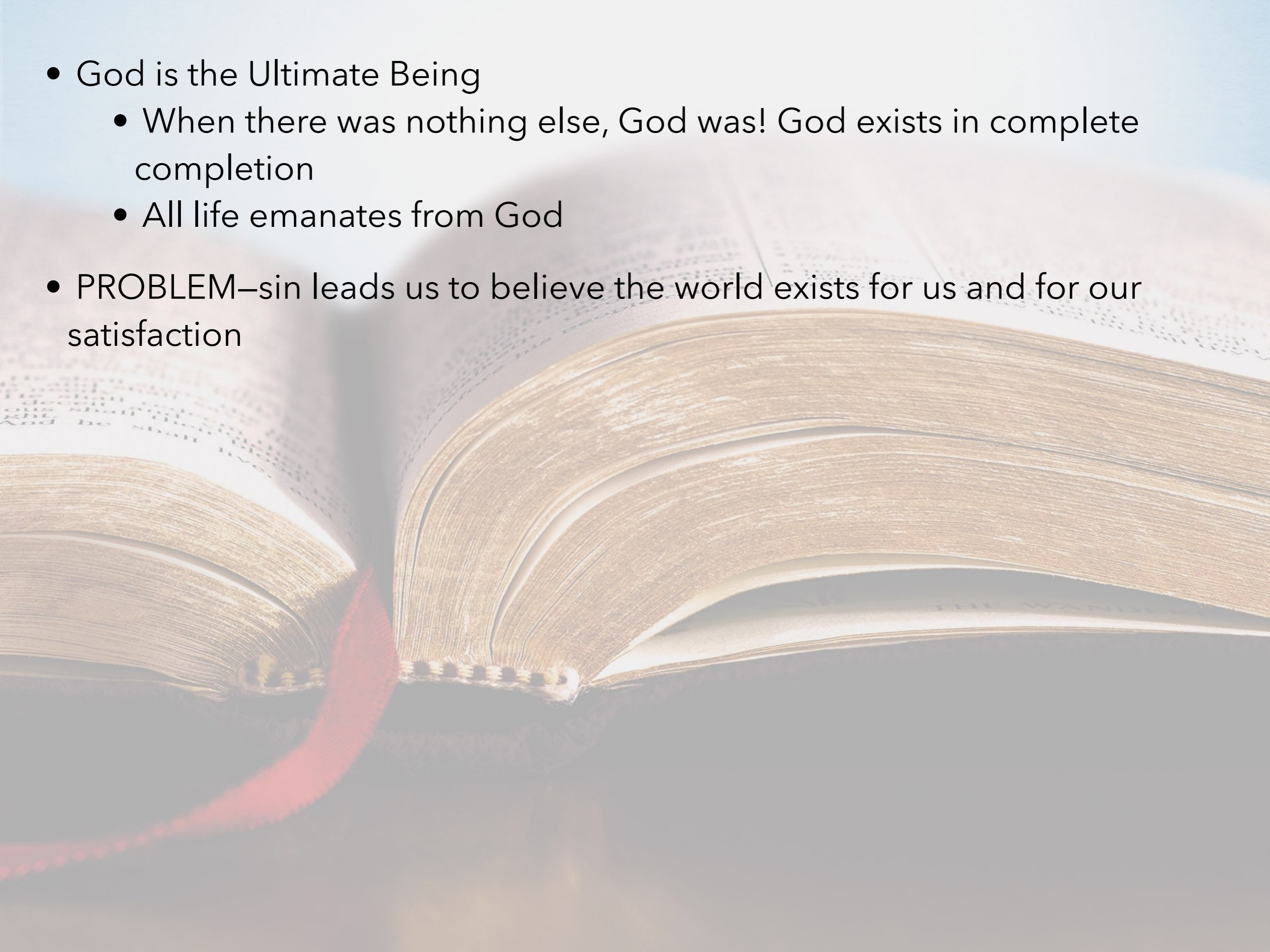
- Our “new” paradigm for reading Scripture:
 - The Bible is the story about God, and specifically about Jesus
 - We are minor characters
- What do we learn about God from Genesis 1-3?



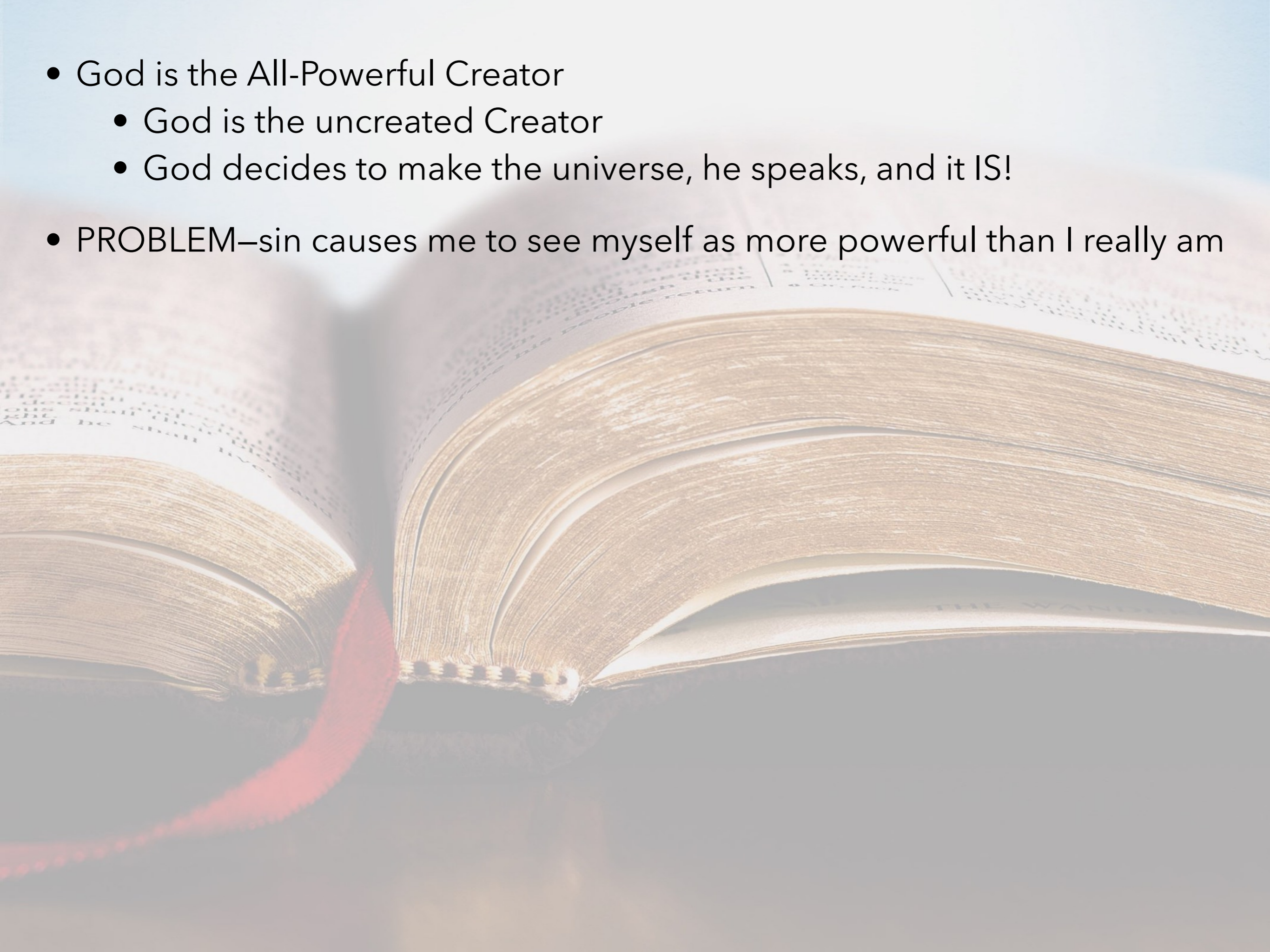
Genesis 1:1-5

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

- God is the Ultimate Being
 - When there was nothing else, God was! God exists in complete completion
 - All life emanates from God
- PROBLEM—sin leads us to believe the world exists for us and for our satisfaction

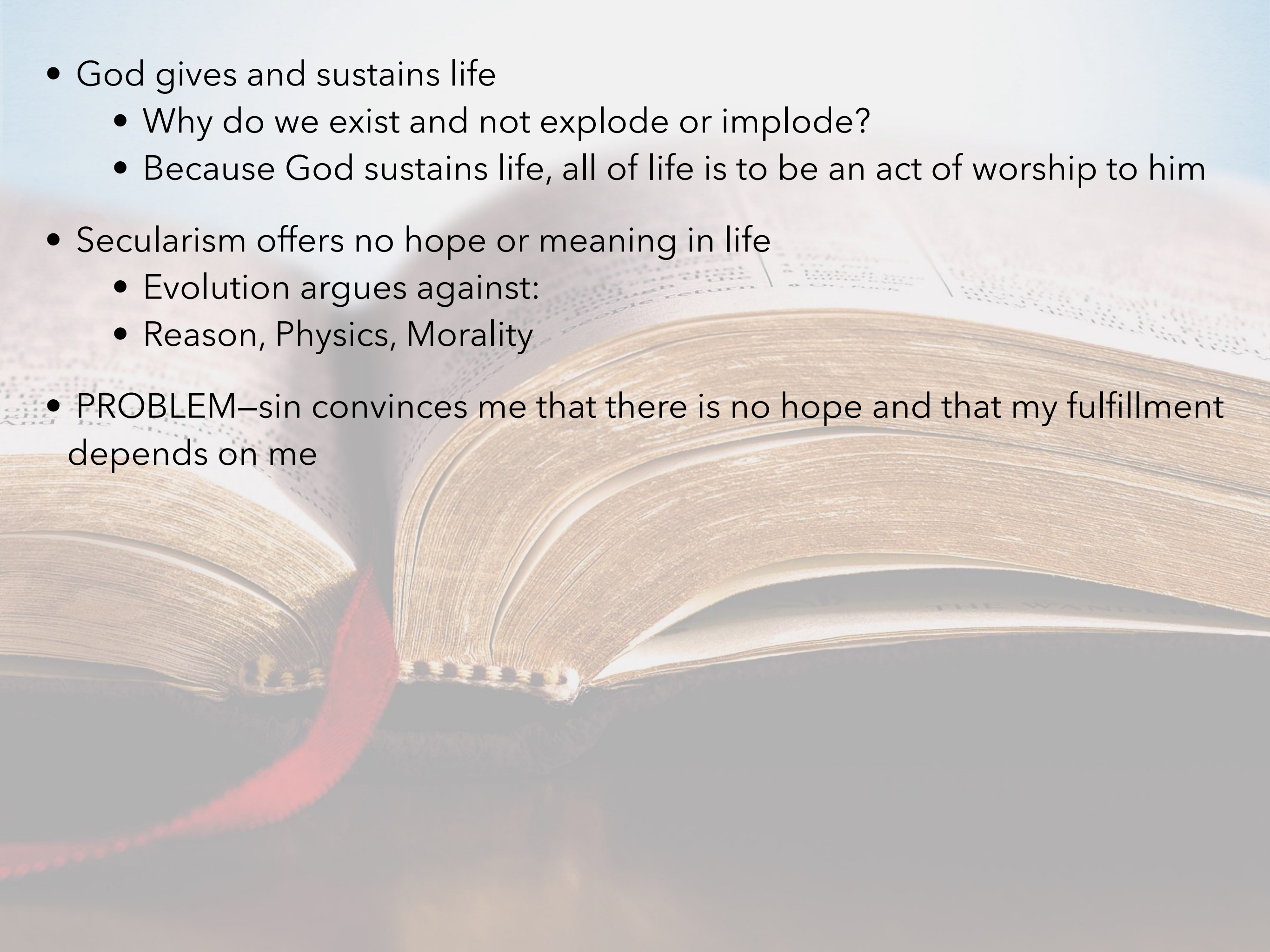


- God is the All-Powerful Creator
 - God is the uncreated Creator
 - God decides to make the universe, he speaks, and it IS!
- PROBLEM—sin causes me to see myself as more powerful than I really am



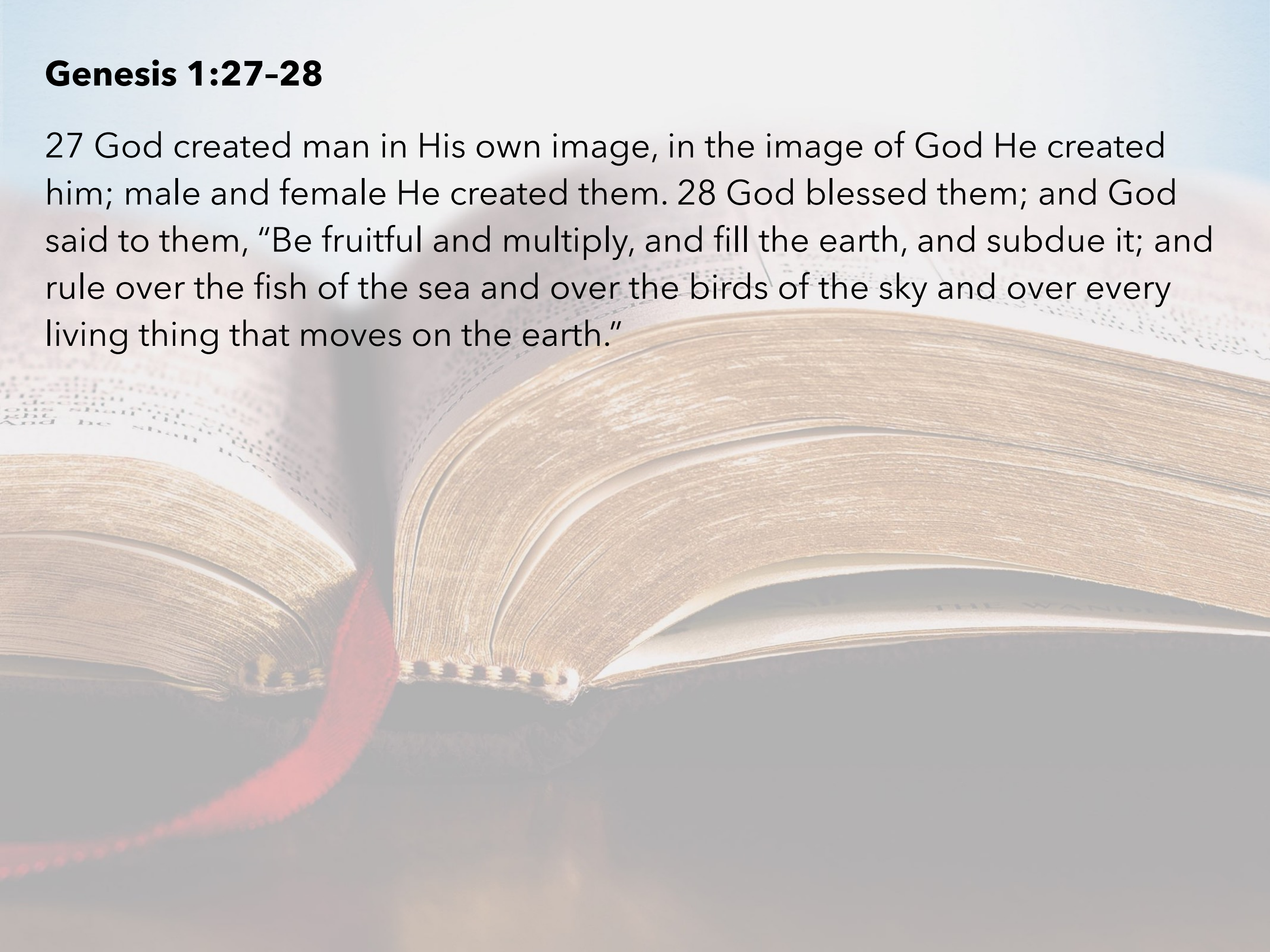
Genesis 1:20-23

20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."
21 God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

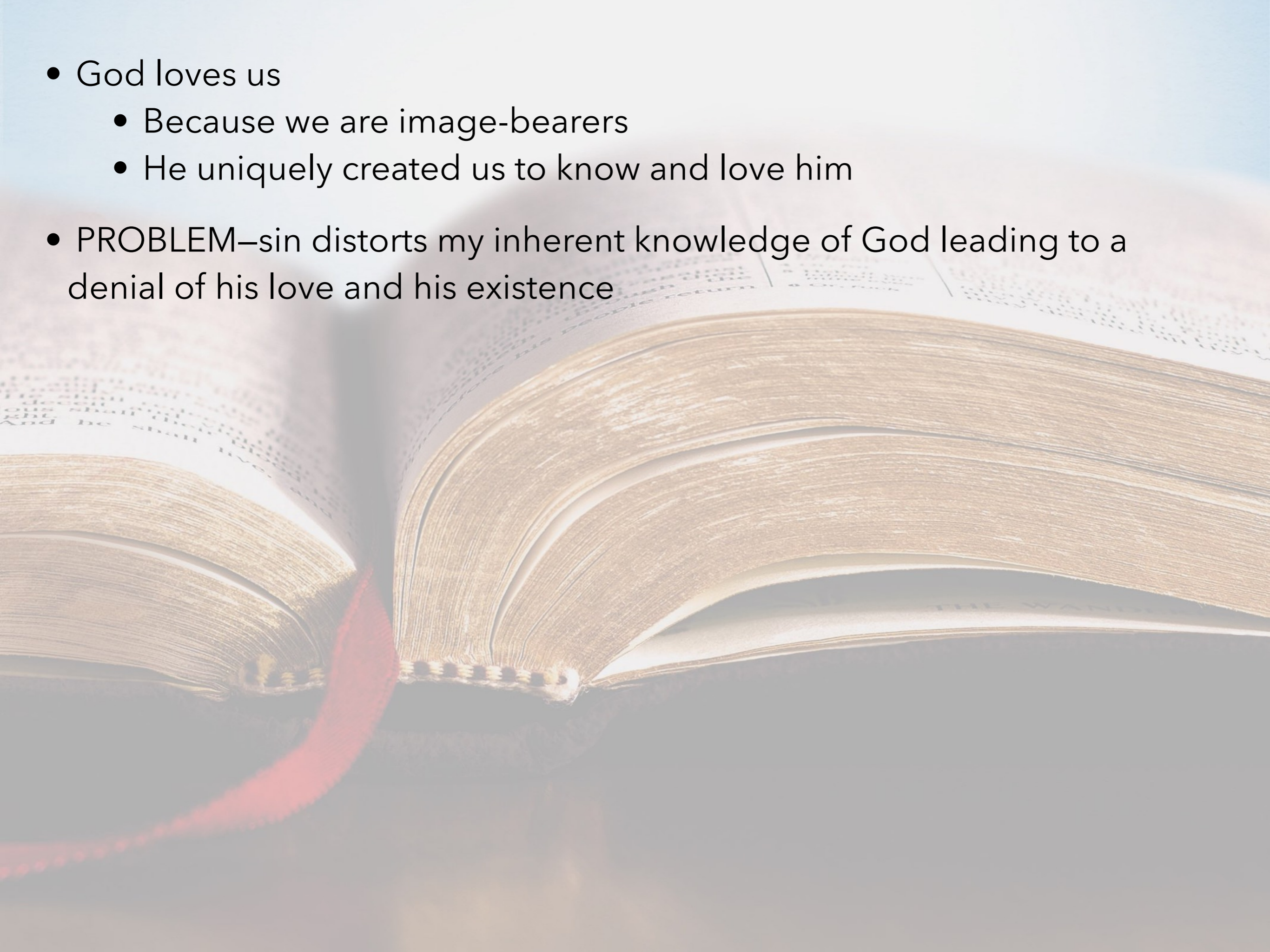
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- God gives and sustains life
 - Why do we exist and not explode or implode?
 - Because God sustains life, all of life is to be an act of worship to him
 - Secularism offers no hope or meaning in life
 - Evolution argues against:
 - Reason, Physics, Morality
 - PROBLEM—sin convinces me that there is no hope and that my fulfillment depends on me

Genesis 1:27-28

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

An open book with a red bookmark is shown in the background. The pages are aged and yellowed. The text of Genesis 1:27-28 is overlaid on the image. The book is open to a page that appears to be Genesis 1, with the text of verses 27 and 28 clearly visible. The red bookmark is placed in the gutter of the book, between the two pages.

- God loves us
 - Because we are image-bearers
 - He uniquely created us to know and love him
- PROBLEM—sin distorts my inherent knowledge of God leading to a denial of his love and his existence



Genesis 1:1, 27; 2:22-23

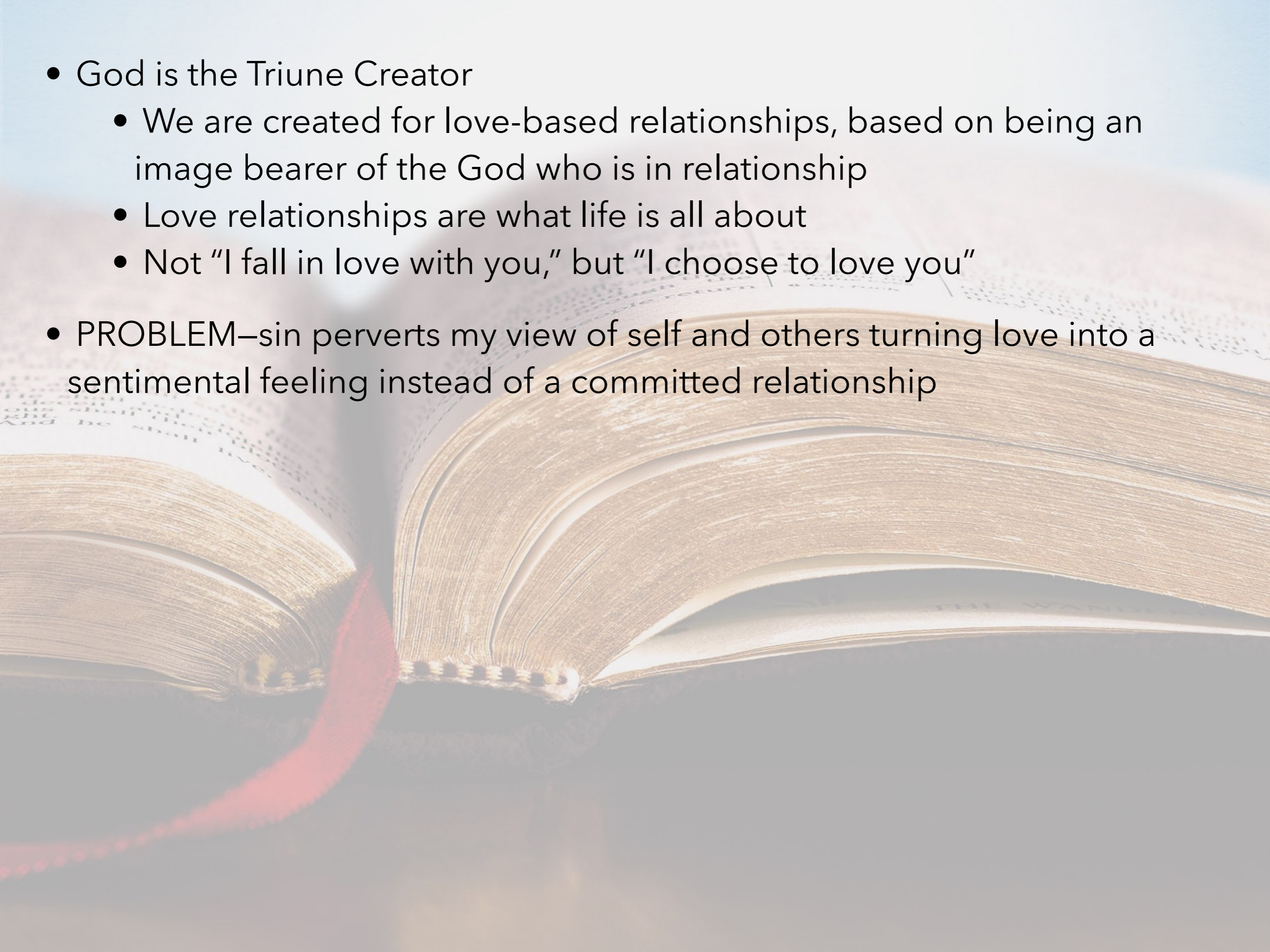
1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

22 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

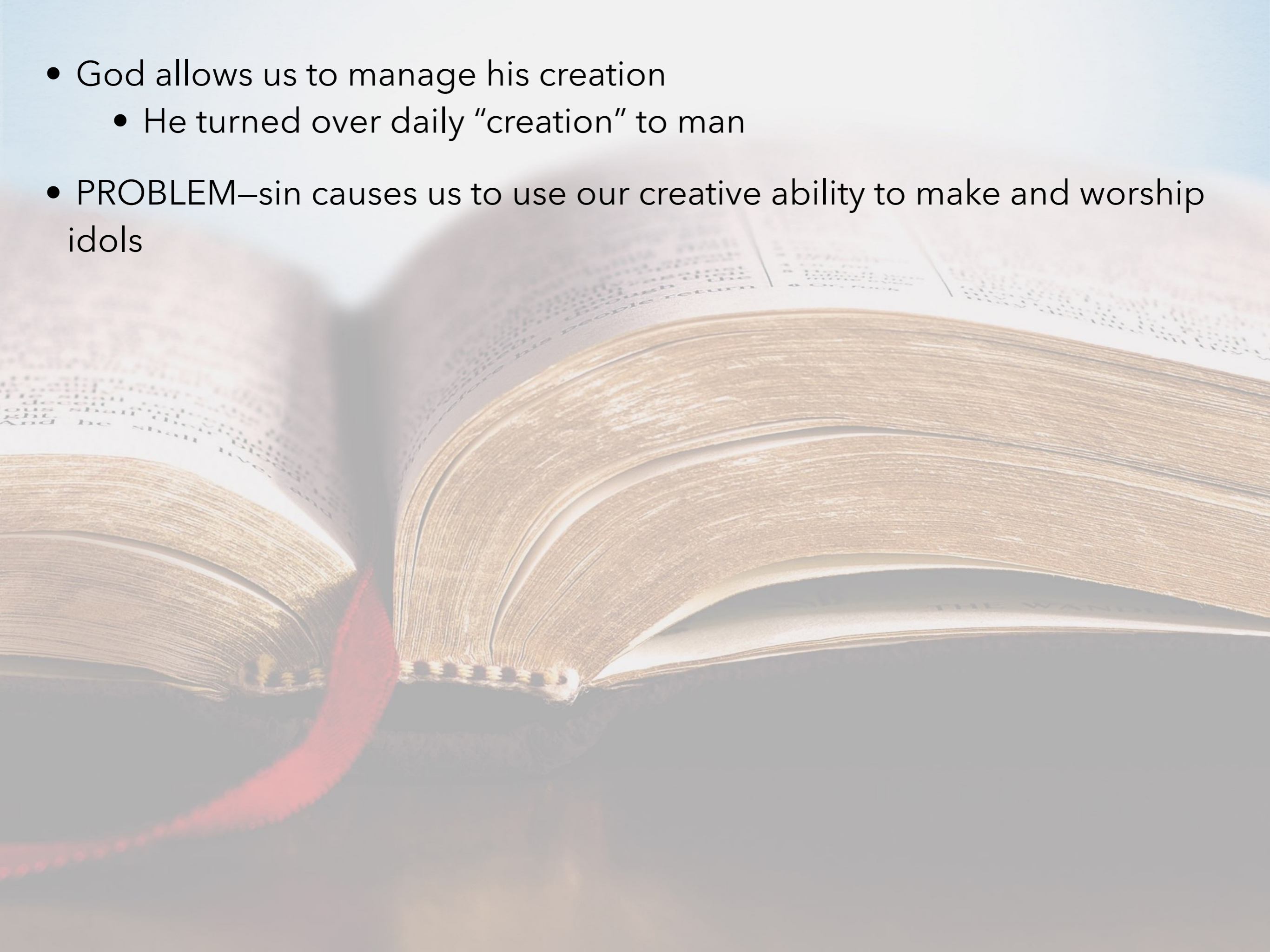
- God is the Triune Creator
 - We are created for love-based relationships, based on being an image bearer of the God who is in relationship
 - Love relationships are what life is all about
 - Not “I fall in love with you,” but “I choose to love you”
- PROBLEM—sin perverts my view of self and others turning love into a sentimental feeling instead of a committed relationship



Genesis 1:27-31

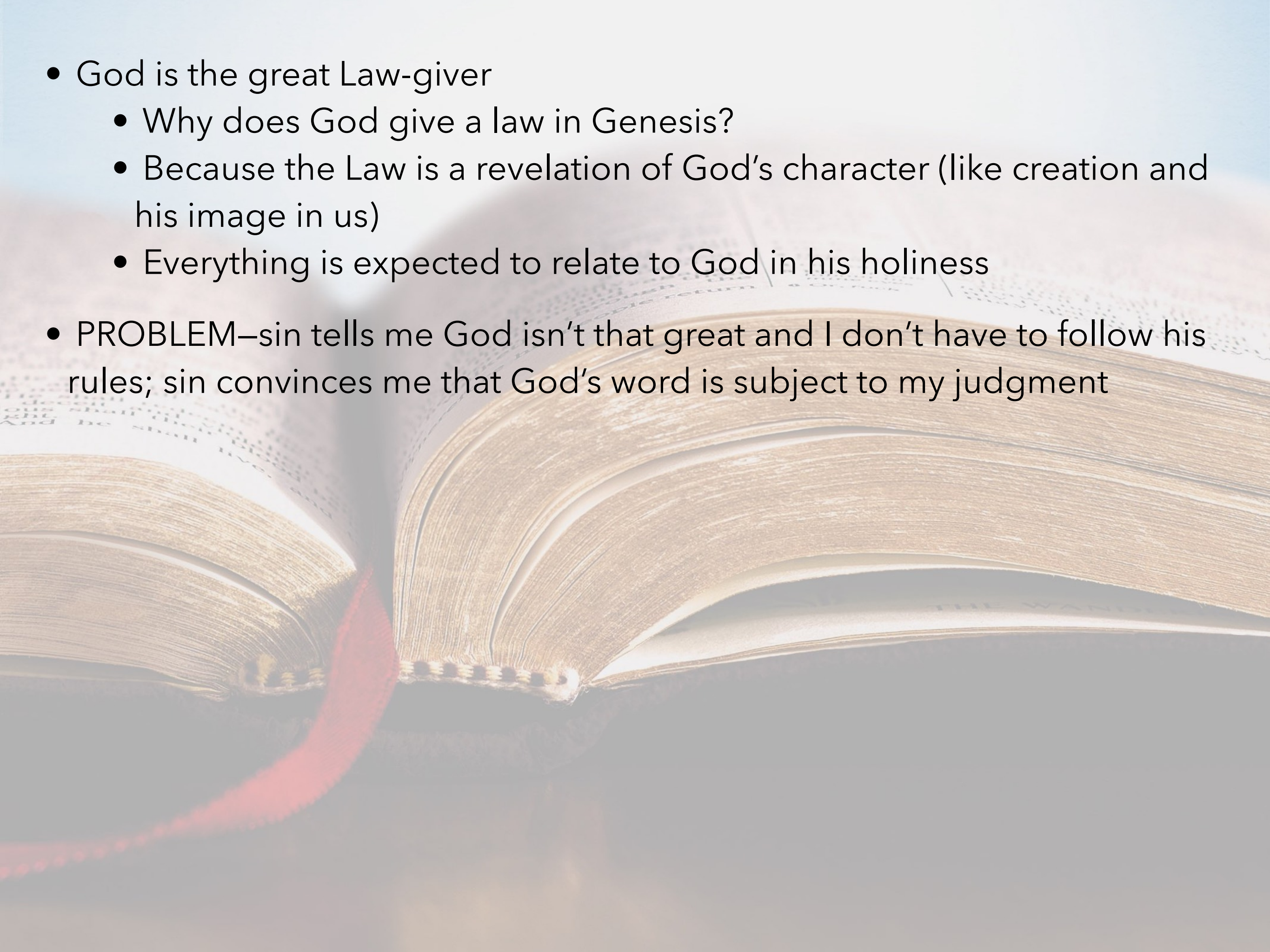
27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- God allows us to manage his creation
 - He turned over daily “creation” to man
- PROBLEM—sin causes us to use our creative ability to make and worship idols



Genesis 3:1-7

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 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 desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

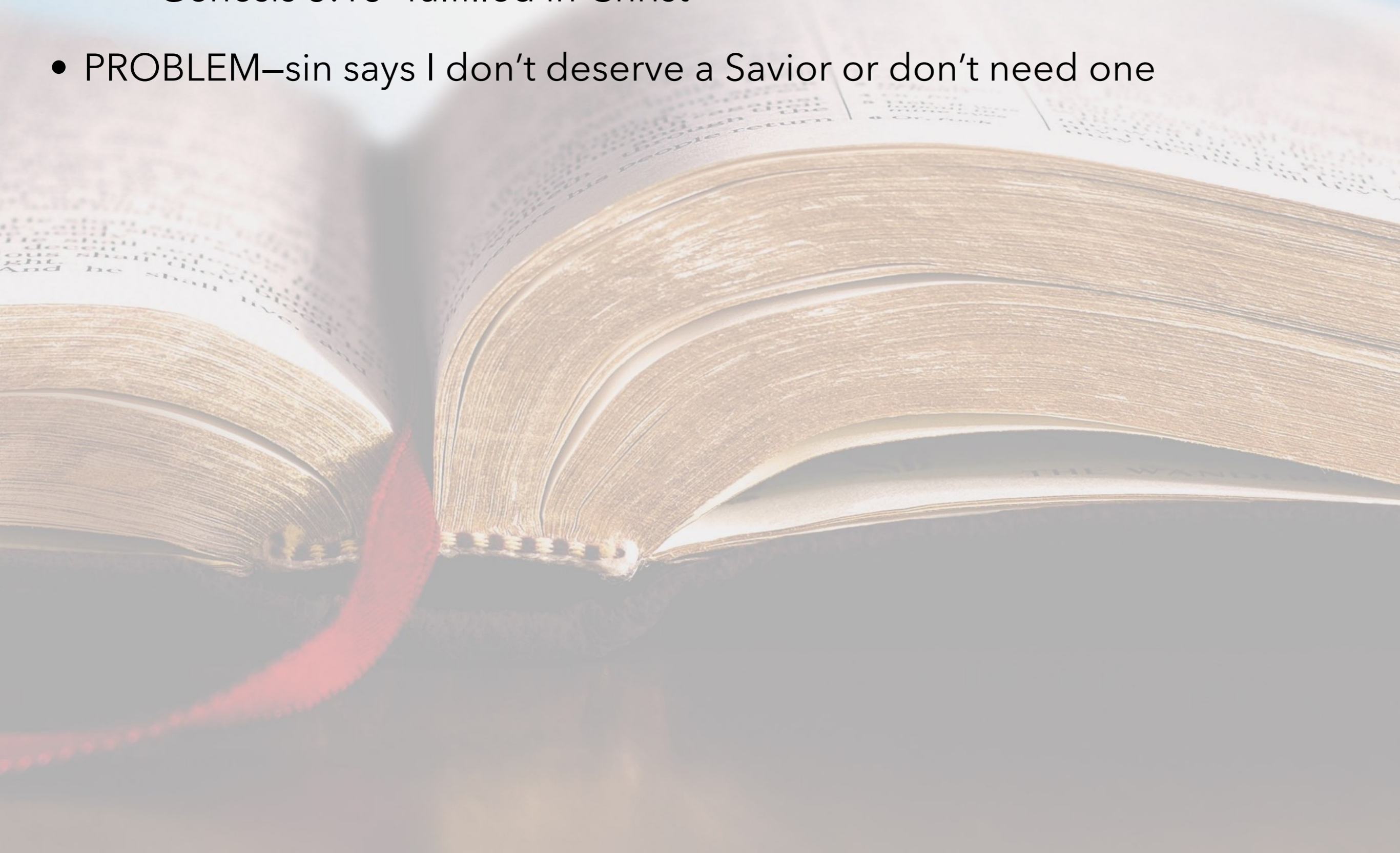
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- God is the great Law-giver
 - Why does God give a law in Genesis?
 - Because the Law is a revelation of God's character (like creation and his image in us)
 - Everything is expected to relate to God in his holiness
 - PROBLEM—sin tells me God isn't that great and I don't have to follow his rules; sin convinces me that God's word is subject to my judgment

Genesis 3:21-24

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" – 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

- God is the merciful Savior
 - This is grace undeserved and unearned!
 - Genesis 3:15- fulfilled in Christ
- PROBLEM—sin says I don't deserve a Savior or don't need one



- What do we learn about us from Genesis 1-3?
 - Created with purpose
 - Created with glory
 - Created to glorify God
 - I have chosen to rebel against God
 - Sin hurts everyone

