

Genesis 3:1 NIV Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

The crux of the Cosmic War is God’s character.

1. Pharaoh is a shadow of the serpent

Exodus 1:8–10 NIV ⁸ Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹ “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

2. The battle of Pharaoh vs Yahweh is a battle of reputations

Exodus 12:12 NIV On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

3. The 10th plague consisted of removing protection from the destroyer

Exodus 12:23 NIV When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

“The Destroyer mentioned in [Exodus 12:23](#) is interpreted [by second-temple Jews] as the malicious angelic agent Mastemah [variation of ha-Satan], whose minions are sent to kill all

the firstborn in Egypt; and the first Passover is understood to be both a liberation from enslavement to Pharaoh in Egypt and a release, even if only temporarily, from the domination of Mastemah, who was at work in Pharaoh and the Egyptians.”

David Moffit, Rethinking the Atonement (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2022), 18.

4. The purpose of the Exodus was for the nations to know Yahweh

Exodus 15:14–15 NIV ¹⁴ The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia. ¹⁵ The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away;

Exodus 18:10–11 NIV ¹⁰ He said, “Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods.”

5. Israel was chosen to reveal Yahweh’s name to the nations

Exodus 19:5–6 NIV ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’”

6. The Law displays Yahweh’s loving and just character

Exodus 20:1–2 NIV ¹ And God spoke all these words: ² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

Exodus 22:21–23 NIV ²¹ Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt. ²² Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. ²³ If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry.

7. The tabernacle shows how Yahweh's dealing with sin is just

Exodus 25:8 NIV Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them

Exodus 30:10 NIV ¹⁰ Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the LORD.”

8. The serpent attempted to break the covenant through idol-worship

Exodus 32:4–6 NIV ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt”... ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Deuteronomy 32:16–17 ESV ¹⁶ They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

9. Moses' intercession exemplifies the rules of engagement in the Cosmic War

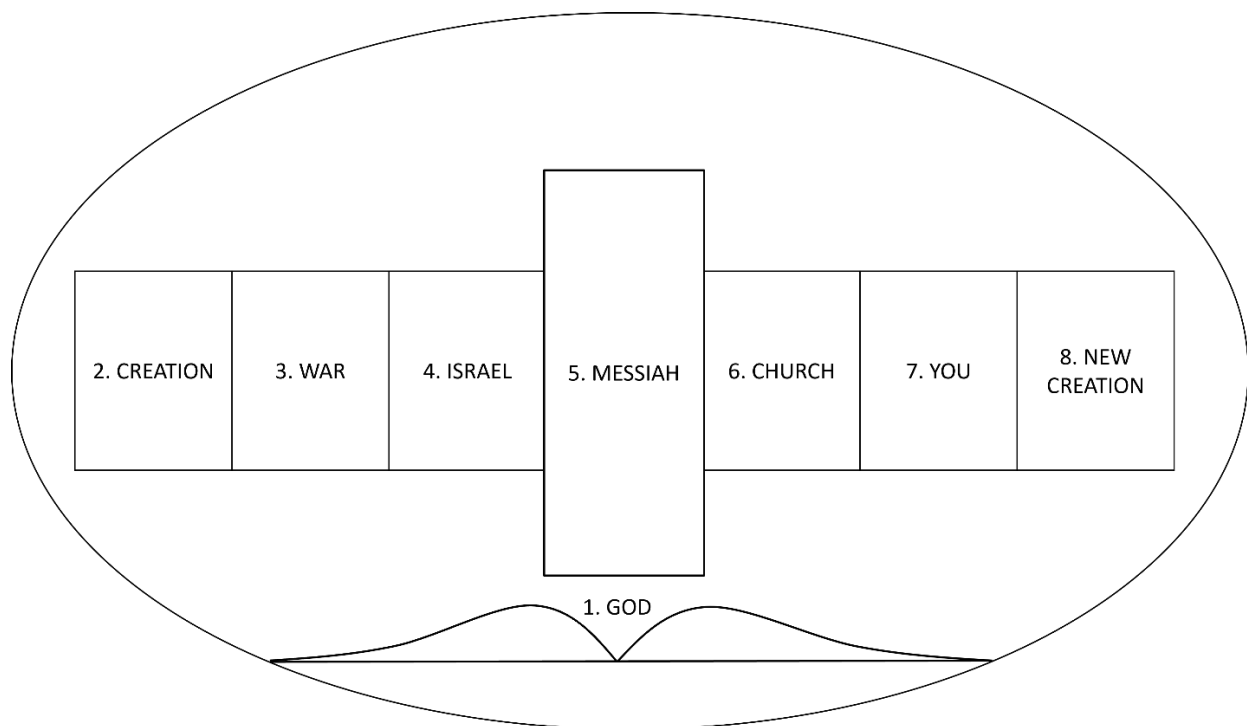
Exodus 32:9–14 NIV ⁹ “I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.” ¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God... ¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

*“Here [[Ex 32](#)] and elsewhere, God welcomes and even elicits intercession. Had God actually wanted to destroy Israel, he need not have spoken to Moses in the first place. God's words “let me alone” ([Ex 32:10](#)) are a rhetorical way of saying to Moses: ‘Here is what I will do unless you intervene.’ God's words thus evoke Moses' intercession (as God knew they would), providing legal and moral grounds for God to justly forgive his covenant people.” John Peckham, *Why We Pray* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2024), 27.*

10. Moses' intercession shows Yahweh's care for his reputation

Exodus 32:11-12 NIV ¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.

Keep the story in mind.



Revelation 15:2-4 NIV ² And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God ³ and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. ⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."