

Fall Series

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# Healing Origins

Genesis 1-11





**15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**

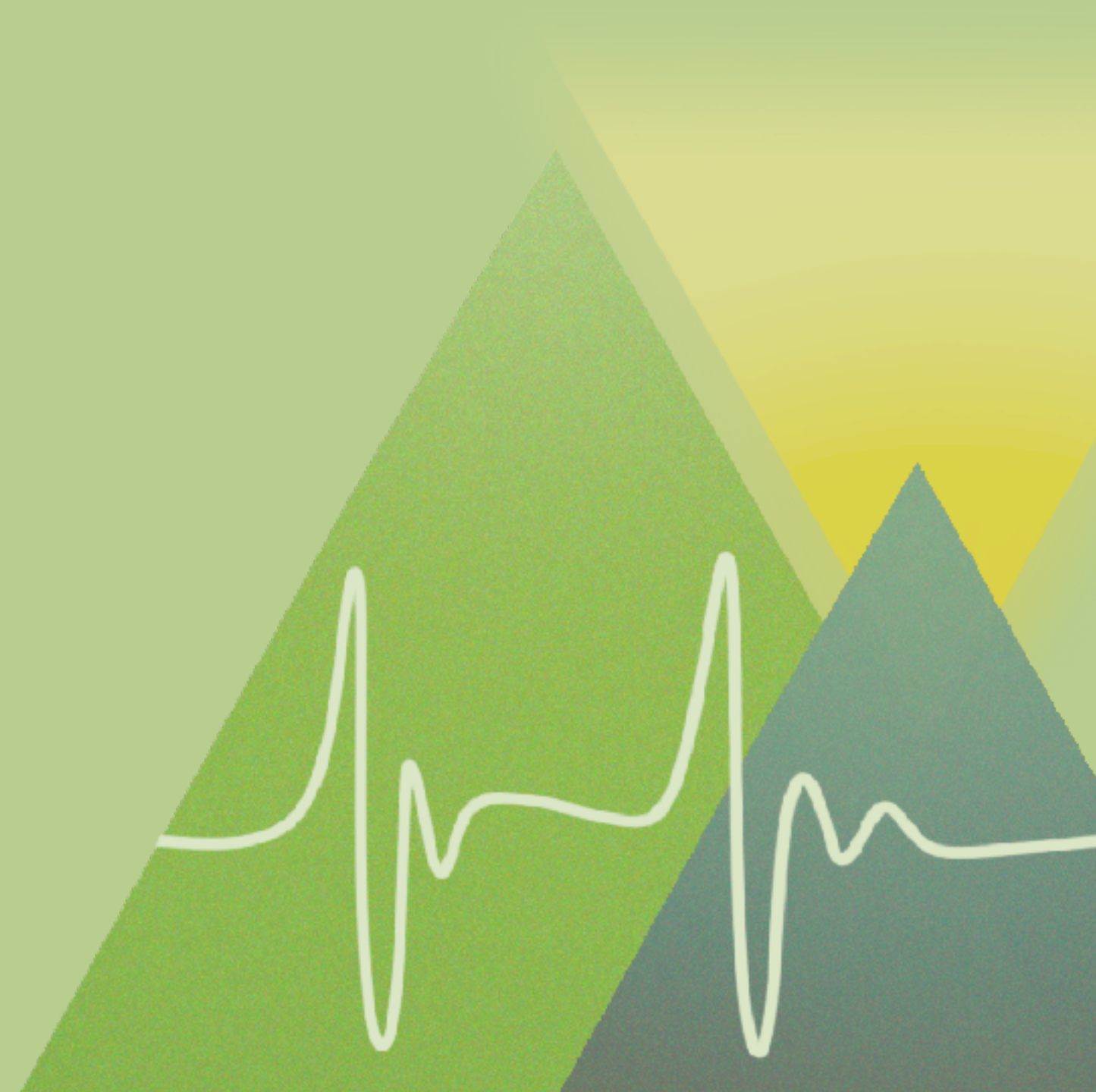
**Gen 2:15-17**

(Pg. xxx)



**2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”**

**Gen 3:2-6**  
(Pg. xxx)





**4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when 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 fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.**

**Gen 3:2-6**  
(Pg. xxx)



**22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.**

**Gen 3:22-23**

(Pg. xxx)

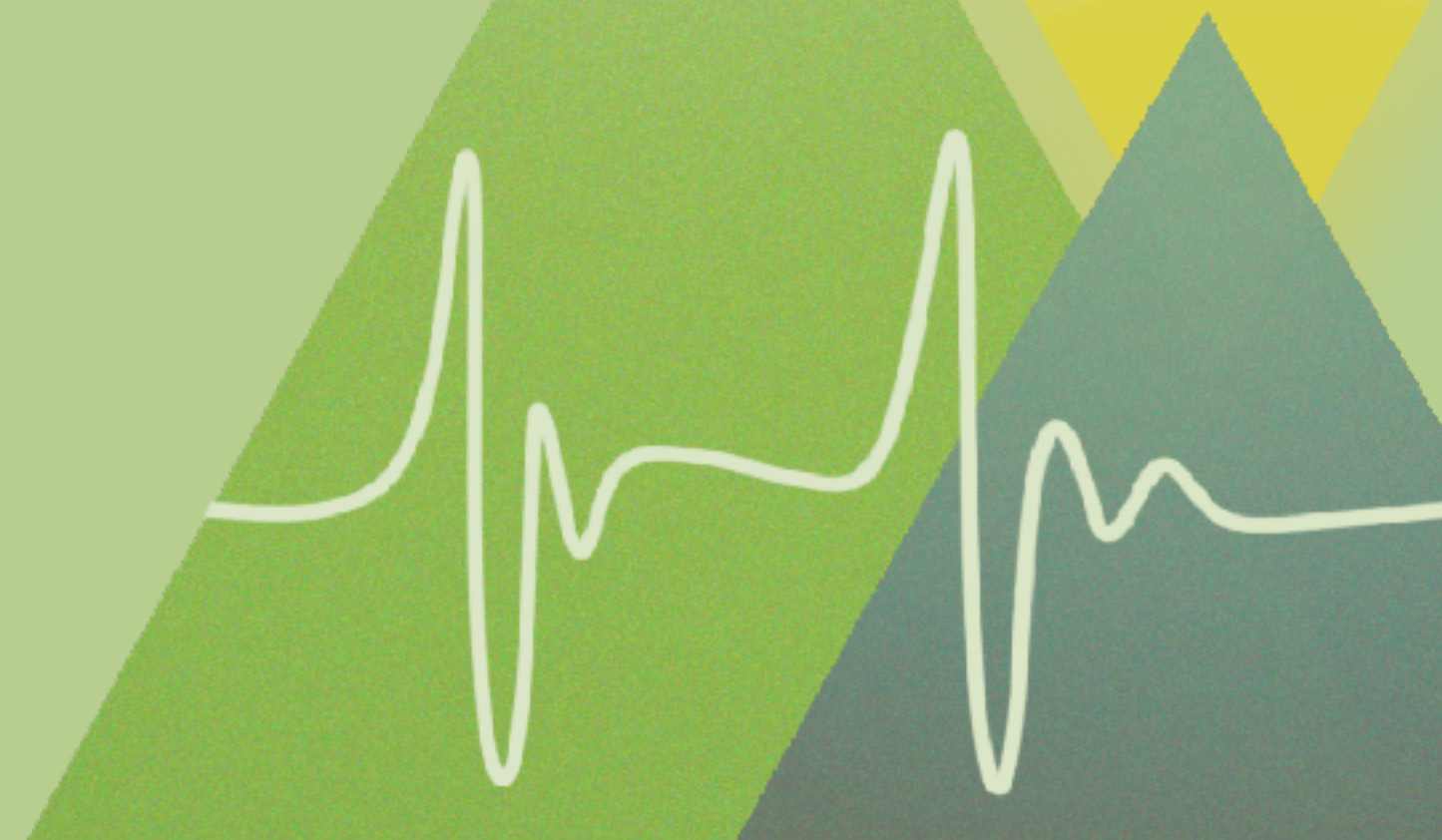




**1 Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.**

**Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.**

**Gen 4:1-16**  
(Pg. xxx)



**6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”**

**8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.**

**9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”**

**“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”**

**Gen 4:1-16**  
(Pg. xxx)





**10 The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”**

**Gen 4:1-16**

(Pg. xxx)

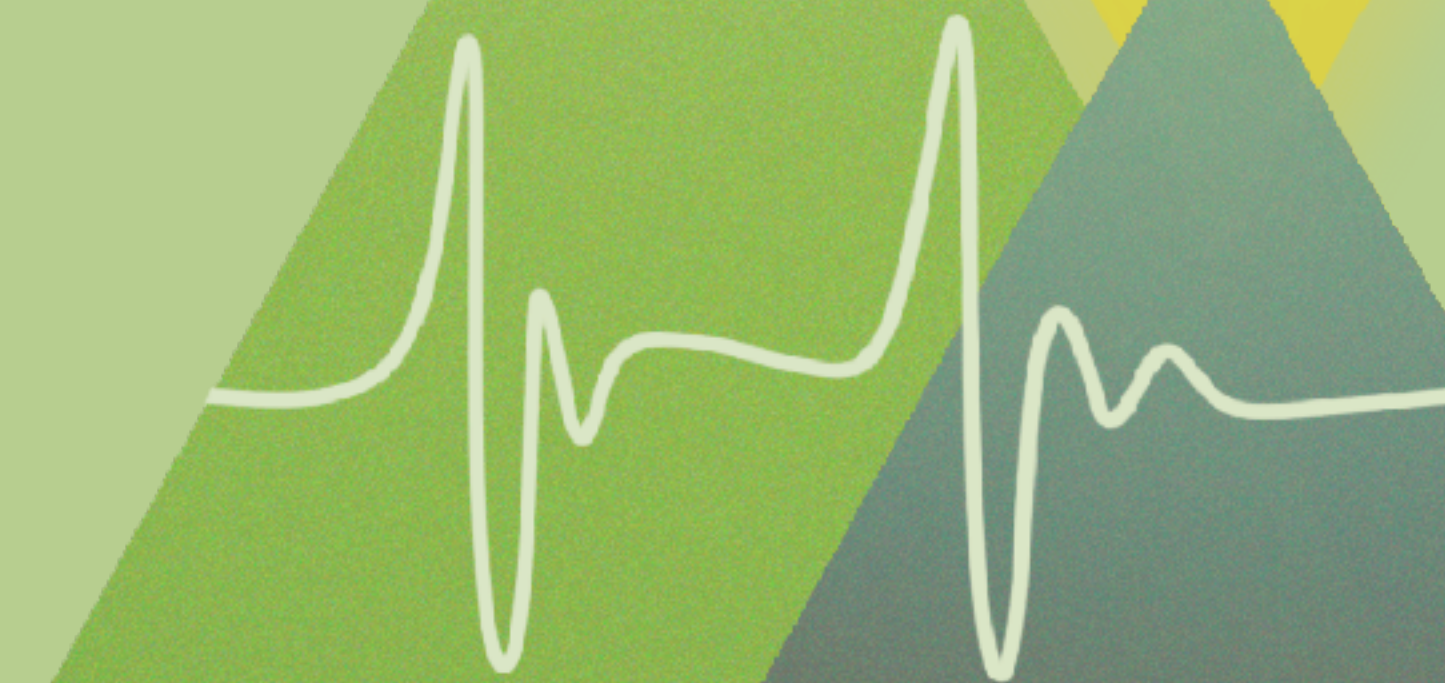




**13 Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. 14 Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”**

**15 But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. 16 So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.**

**Gen 4:1-16**  
(Pg. xxx)



# **"Sin" in Genesis 2-4**





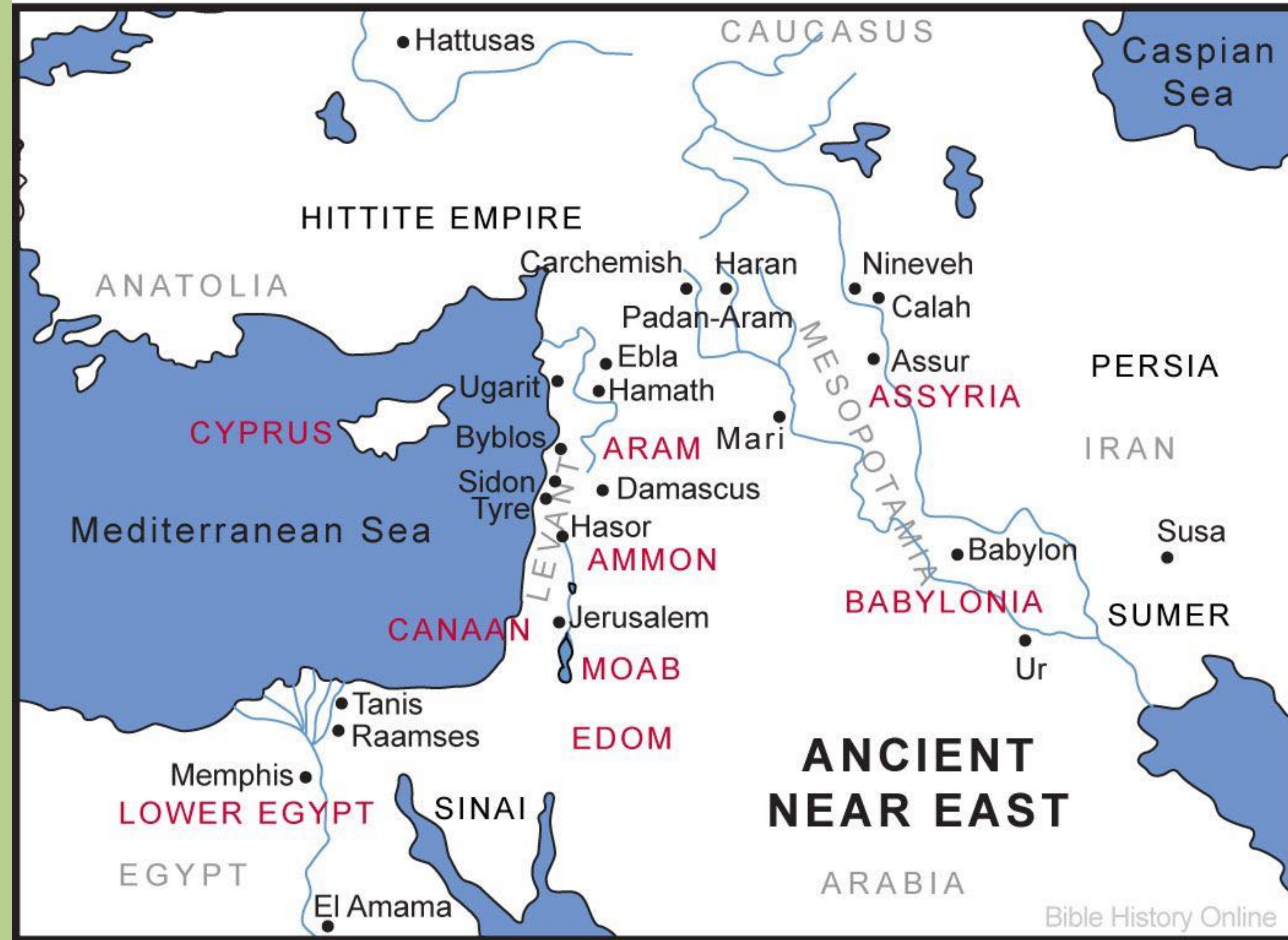


# Healing Imagination





## Map of Ancient Near East





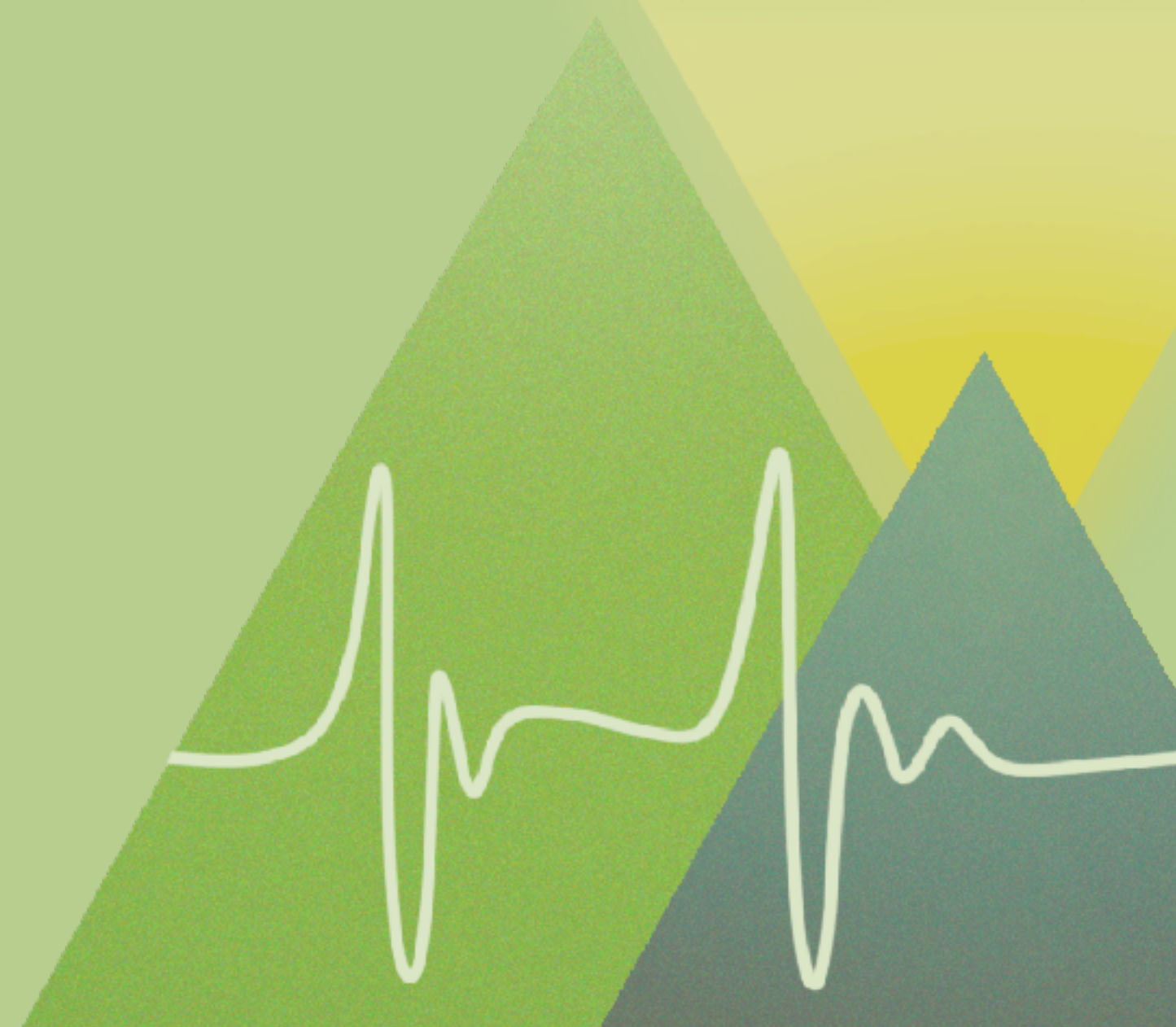
**Babylonian  
creation myth  
"Enuma Elish"**



**Marduk slaying  
Tiamat**



**"Let there be light ... and there was light"**





# Main points

- "Sin" means something much broader than moral badness or evil
- The Fall does not cataclysmically change reality
- God cares about *shalom*, not moral performance

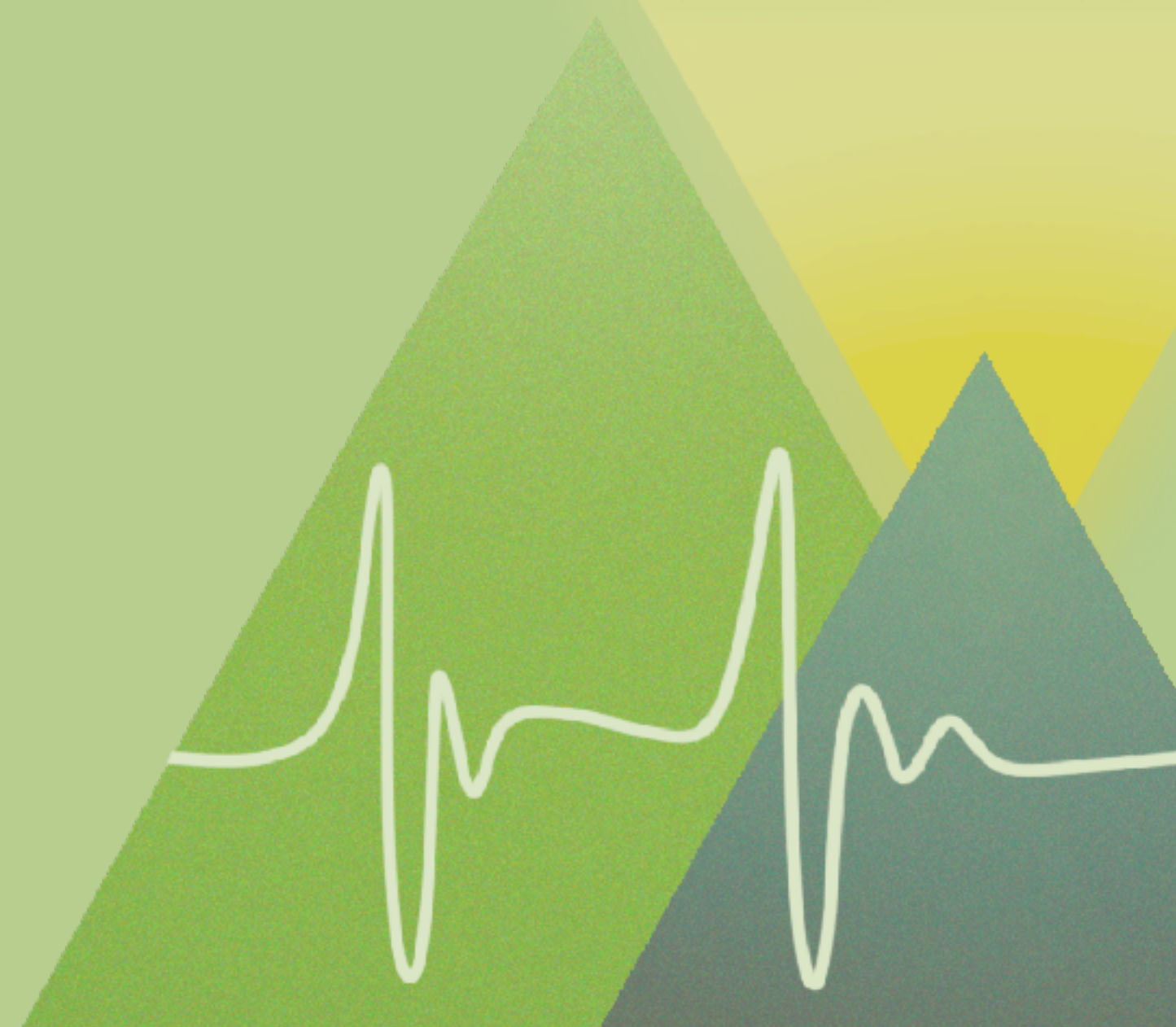


חַטָּא (Hebrew "khata") = "miss the mark"





חַטָּא (Hebrew "khata") = "miss the mark"  
ἁμαρτάνω (Greek "hamartano") = "miss  
the mark"



# God's target 🎯

- Cultivating the world for its and our good
- Caring for creation as modeled and defined by God's own loving care
- Caring for each other as modeled by God's loving care





# To ponder

- "Missing the mark" in the context of God's target of shalom
- Separating out God's target from cultural targets
- God wants healing and restoration after missed targets, not condemnation and punishment





# **Sin and the Fall**



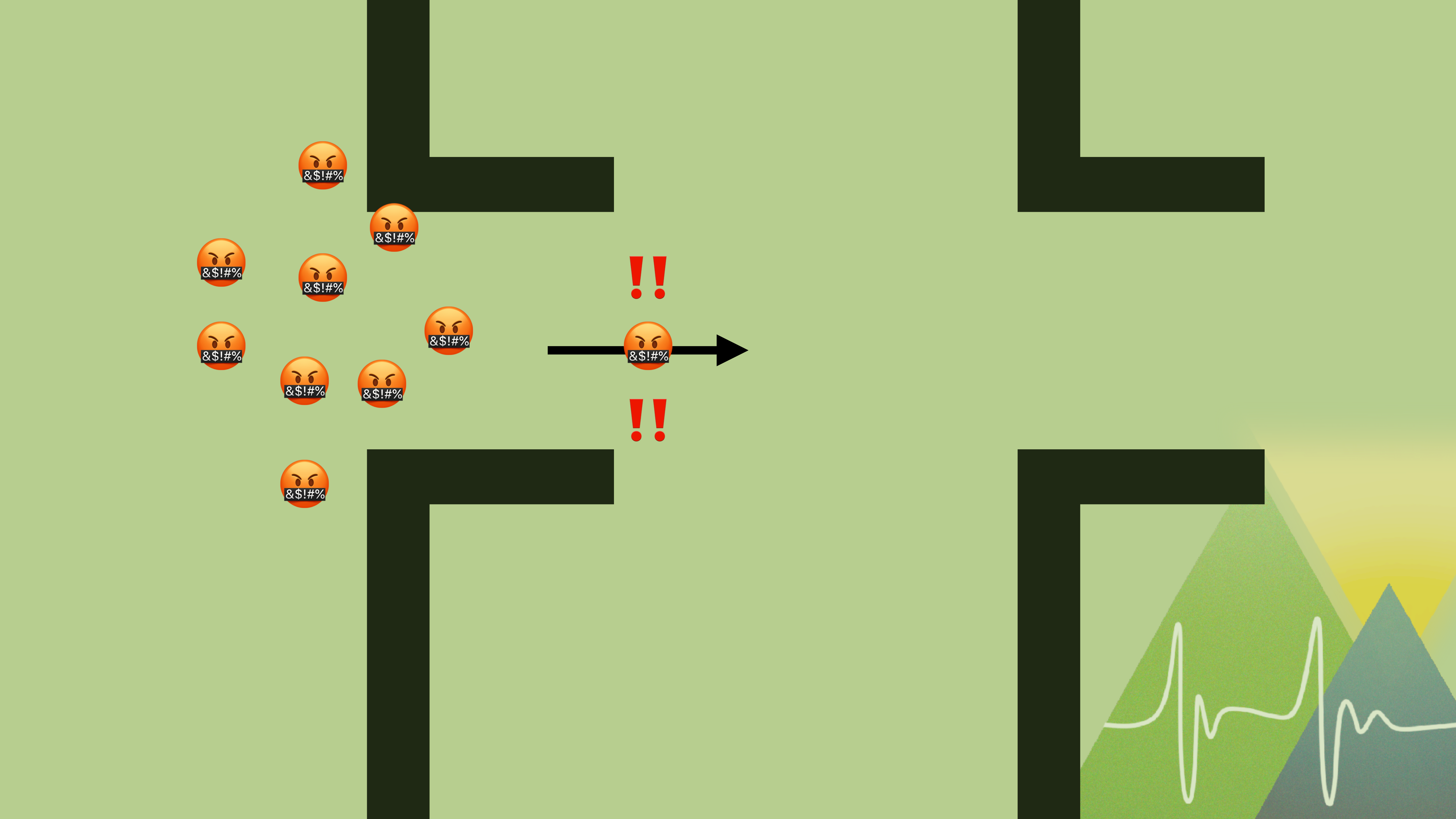




**"...and you must not touch it..."**









# Consequences of the Fall





**“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”**

**Gen 3:16**  
(Pg. xxx)





**~~“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”~~**

**“I will greatly increase your pain and your conception; in painful circumstances you will give birth to children. You will attempt to consume your husband and he will attempt to rule over you.”**

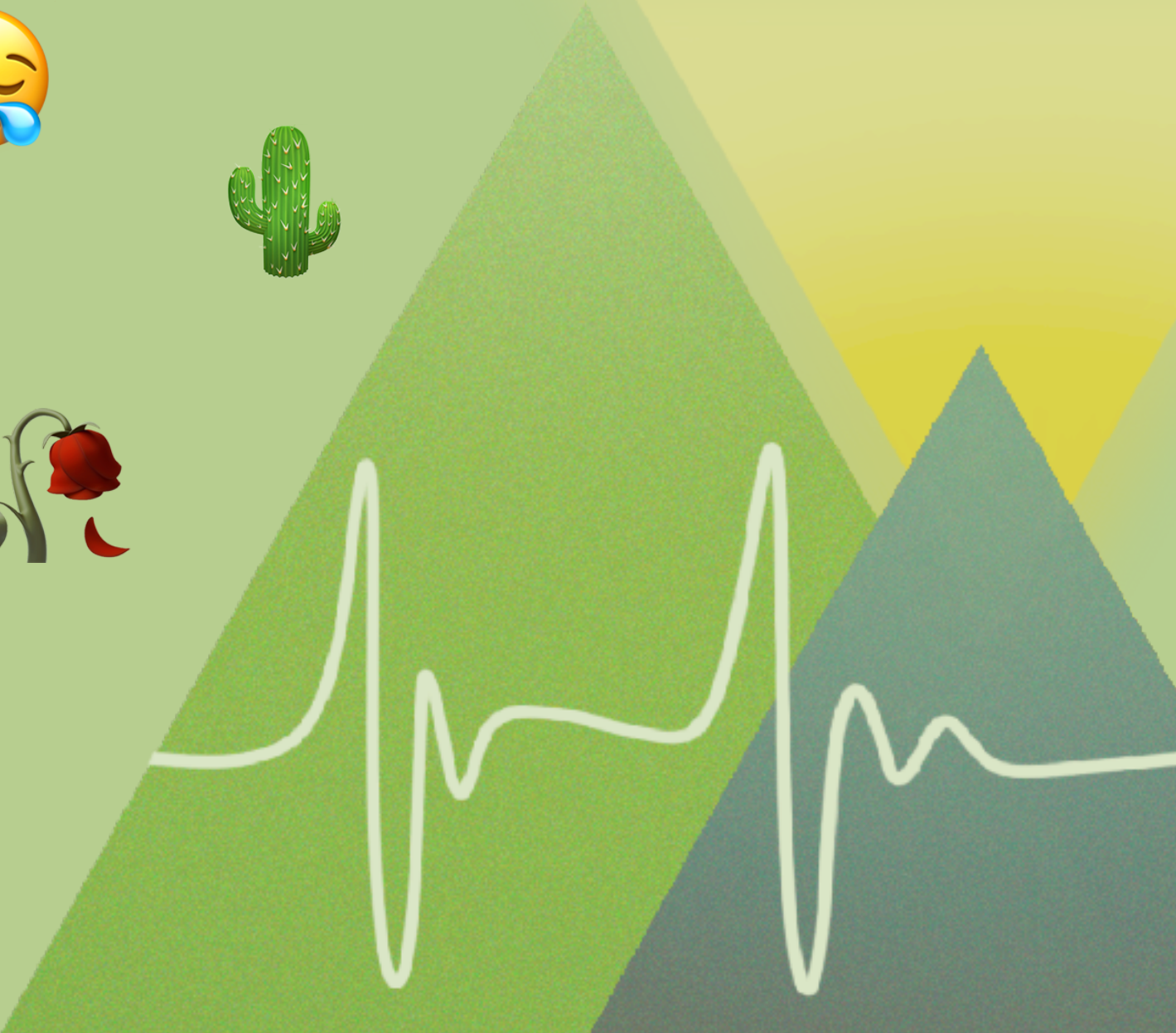
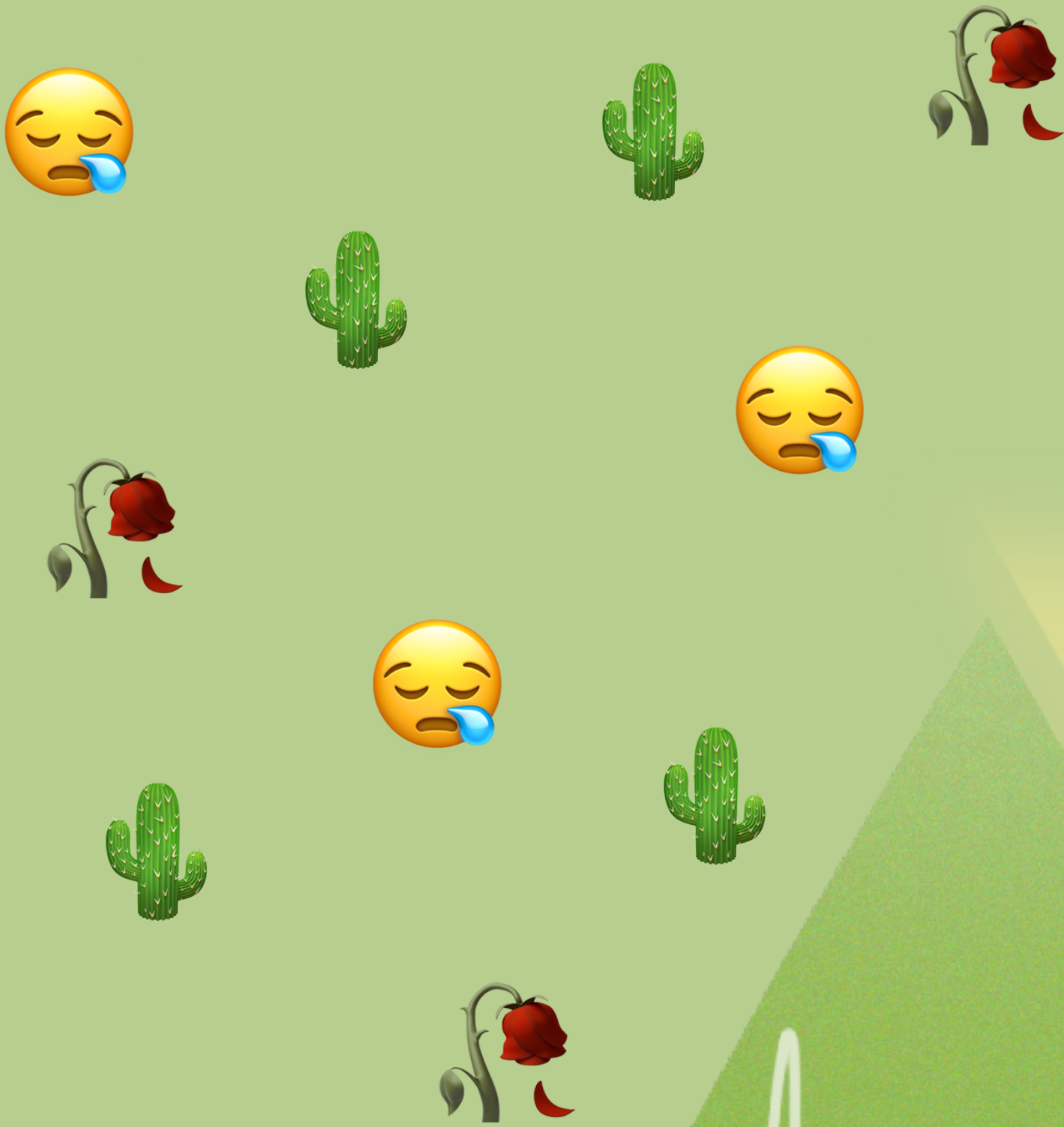
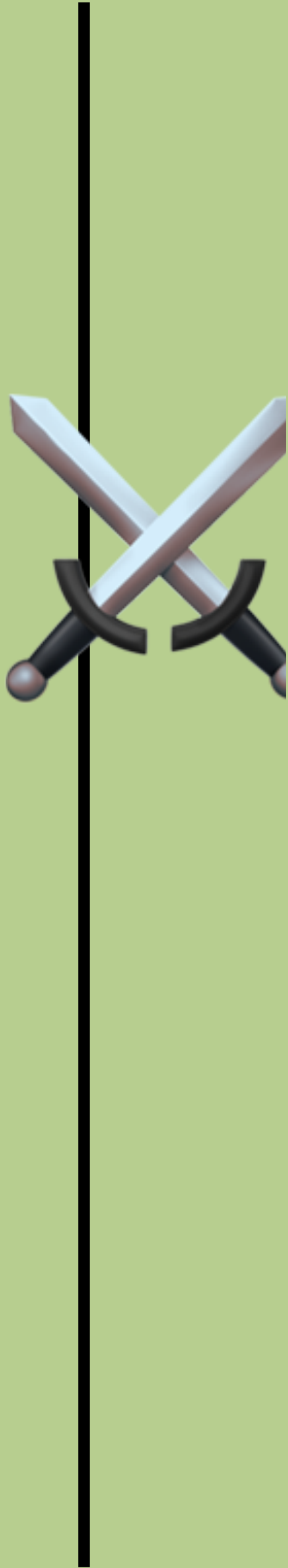
**Gen 3:16 (paraphrase)**  
(Pg. xxx)





# Eden

# East of Eden





**The Fall. A bad call. But not the end of it  
all?**





**“...if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you may rule over it.”**

**Gen 4:7b**  
(Pg. xxx)



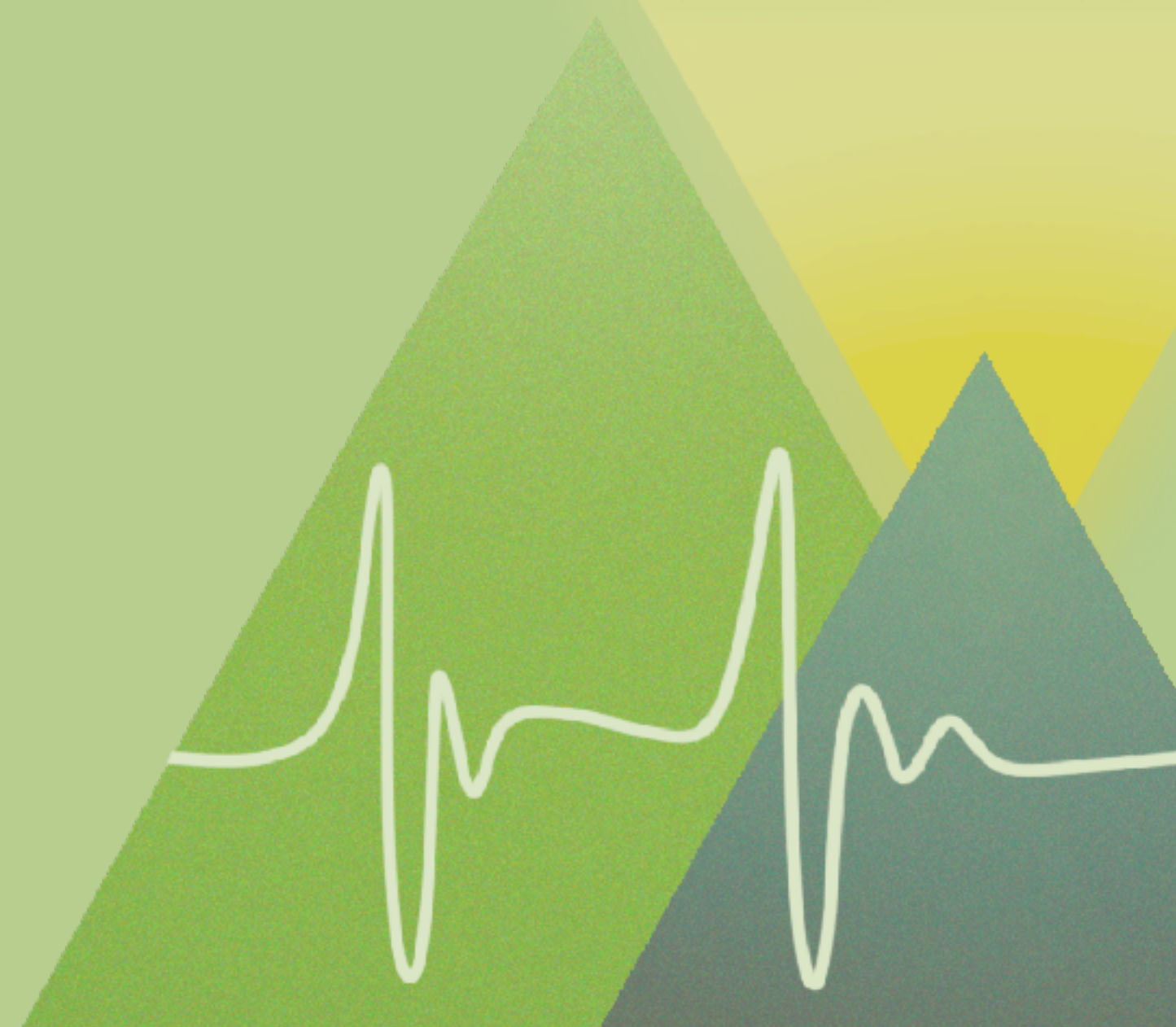


**God cares about *shalom*, not moral  
perfection!**





**The tree didn't exist for the purpose of  
testing humans' obedience**





Electrical sockets  
(Good on their own)



Babies  
(Good on their own)



Bad News  
(Requires parental prohibition)



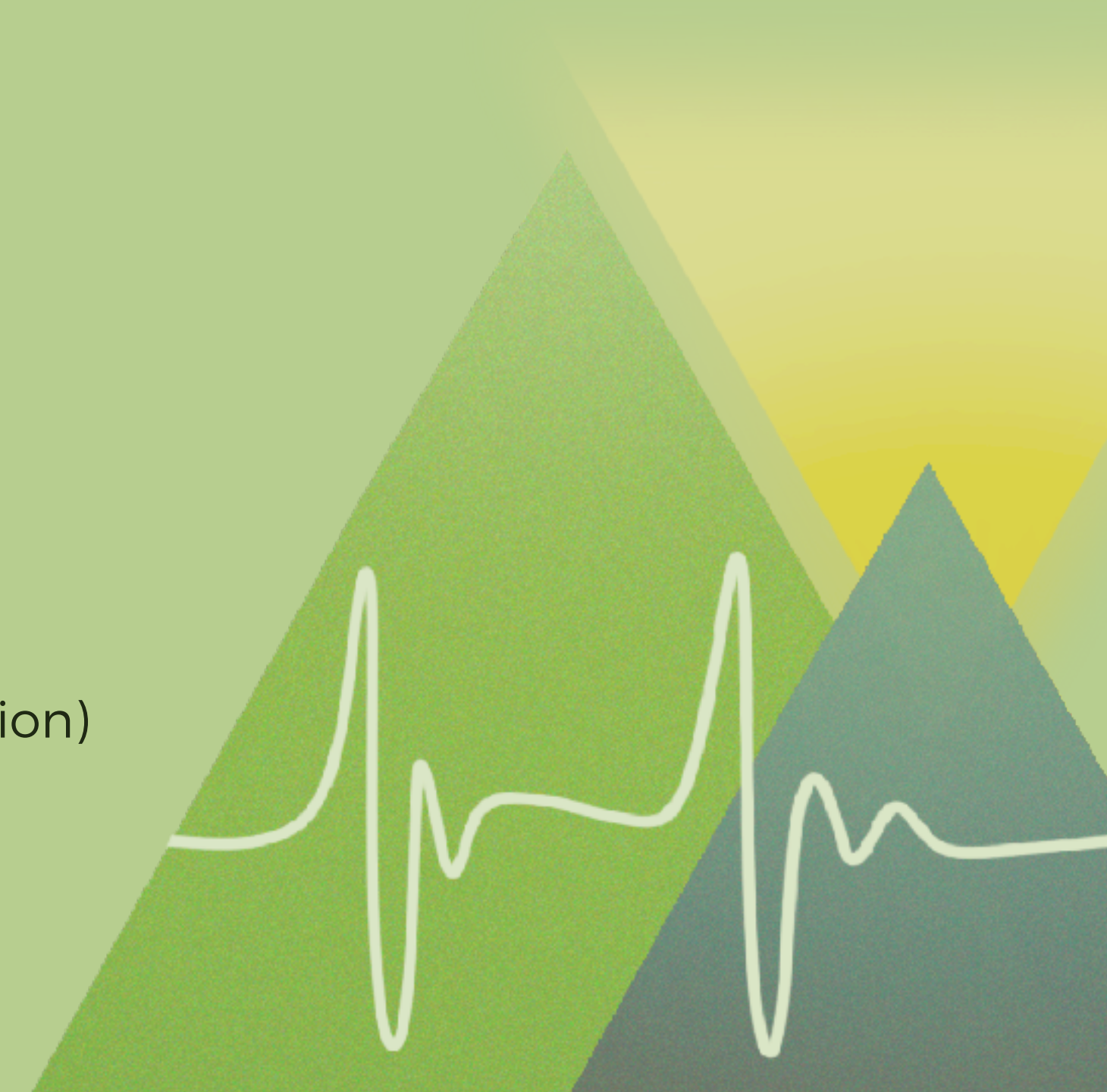
Dangerous mythical fruit  
(Good on its own)



Immature Eve & Adam  
(Good on their own)



Bad News  
(Requires parental prohibition)





**God prefers upholding (even partial)  
*shalom* to moral balance**



# Summary

- The sin God cares about is missing the mark of shalom.
- When we miss that mark, God invites us to restored relationship and helps limit consequences. He is "slow to anger".
- Unfortunately, as a species, we've missed that mark of shalom *a lot*.
- Good news: we're living in the midst of God's plan to restore shalom, for good!

