

Getting to Know Jesus
Part 3 – Jesus in Genesis
Genesis 3:14

I wanted to tell you about something that most of you probably don't know. I like to work on old cars. I haven't had much opportunity till recently but I, and another person, acquired a couple of old cars that we are working on.

The thing about working on old cars is you have to have vision. You have to have be able to see what the car is going to look like when you are done. This is one of the things that keep you going, working, spending time and money, investing in the car.

PIC

We recently bought this car, a 1969 Ford Fairlane Fastback and it is roached. By that I mean it is a mess. From what we can gather it has not been driven for 27 years. The engine is just sitting in the front, not connected to the transmission. All the engine parts are off of it. The seats are all in terrible shape as mice have lived in them and in the rest of the car for years.

I was cleaning all the mouse stuff out and came to this part, **PIC 2** the front floor board on the passenger side. Now you might not be able to tell but the white specks you see on this floor board are not white specks at all. They are spots of daylight shining through the floor. The floor has rusted out and will need some extensive repair. This car has been allowed to set in the weeds, forgotten, allowed to deteriorate to the point where restoration is a true challenge.

Again, it will take vision, planning, time and finances to see what the end product is going to be for this car.

As we continue our look at Jesus, learning more about Him you will see that He and His Father, God, have had a restoration plan for all of humanity from the very beginning of creation. No one has ever been left to their own means. No matter what has occurred in their life or in the world around them Jesus' motto is no life left behind in the weeds to deteriorate but only by the choice of that person.

As you know from last week, all humanity was created in the image of God. In Genesis we read, **Genesis 1:26-27. "God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...God created man in His image... male and female He created them.'**" You, me and every human that has been born over time was created in the image of God.

We will never have Godlike powers although God can move through us powerfully to accomplish His purposes. But I believe that when God created us in His image this means that all humanity has, or had, the capacity to love in the many ways God loves.

But we also know that after Adam and Eve was created, something happened. Because of the free will they were given their vision was shifted off of God and onto Satan and what he was offering them. In reality Satan, in the garden of Eden was offering them the possibility of greater control of their lives. And humans being what human beings are, that is what Adam and Eve chose. They chose what Satan was offering therefore they broke away from the original image of God they were created in.

Disastrous results for all of humanity as this new reality of fallenness was passed on from generation to generation. Until it has come us, the present generation.

As we pick up from last week most scholars would agree that Jesus was present during the days of creation. He was still in Spirit form but we also believe He was present from what we read in Colossians.

Colossians 1:16, For by Him (Christ) all things were created, both in heavens and earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him (Christ) and for Him.”

Last week I pressed the point that

1. The earth and all that is contained in it was made through Christ and for Christ

The church of Jesus Christ is Christ's bride. Not only was the earth and heavens created by Him they were created for Him.

Last week I spoke of how I and a lot of scholars believe that when God appeared on earth in the many ways and forms He did throughout the Old Testament, it was very possibly Jesus in what ever form was needed. Jesus has always been actively involved on earth and with humanity from the beginning of creation clear through to the time He was born as a human child.

And even though He was crucified, resurrected and now is seated at the right hand of God, He is still actively involved on earth through the lives of individuals who have accepted Him in their heart and who are working with Him to see God's kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven.

As we look back into the Old Testament to see just how Jesus and God were working together to bring salvation to all humanity it is not only interesting but should increase our faith and understanding of Jesus' love for us.

In John 5:39, 46, Jesus wrote, **John 5:39, 46, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for Moses wrote about Me.”**

If you look for Jesus in the Old Testament you will find Him. If you slowly read, ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance it is amazing the references to Christ you will find. You going to read one here in a moment but let me set it up at first.

After eating of the tree God asked them not to, God came and confronted Adam and Eve and the serpent. Naturally Adam and Eve pointed to the snake and said the snake made me do it. But as you know Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, to the land beyond that was thorny and weedy.

In some ways I think of what occurred to humanity at that point is like what occurred to the old car I bought. It was sentenced to the pasture where weeds, mice and other things of the world could ravage it. It was no longer being used for the purpose it was created for.

But what happened to Adam and Eve and therefore all of mankind wasn't God's or Jesus' last words on the matter was it? Their love for mankind was so great that right from the beginning of humanity's sinful state a plan was put into to place to restore humanity to the original image of God they were created in.

Look with me at **Genesis 1:14-15**, **“The Lord God said to the serpent (who we know to be Satan), ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all the cattle and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go and dust you will eat all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise you on the head and you shall bruise him on the heel.”**

There is something icky about snakes isn't there. I have heard many of you, more women than men but some men as well, talk about your distaste and even fear of snakes. In reality snakes are not that bad, not as bad as we make them out to be. They actually do a lot of good by keeping down the rodent population. In my mind spiders are worst than snakes. I am not hesitant to pick up a snake but not a spider.

But the reality is that through this event in the garden of Eden, because Satan choose to show up in the form of a snake and deceive Adam and Eve, all snakes have been given a bad rap. God has caused enmity, a dislike, even stronger than that a complete disdain and thought that the only good snake is a dead snake. But it goes deeper than that.

What God spoke over the snake was much more than a casual pronouncement. It was actually a prophetic announcement that something is coming that would deal with Satan and his rebellious ways once and for all.

2. Before announcing judgement on Adam and Eve, God passed judgement on Satan.

When God said that I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head and you shall bruise him on the heel, God was passing judgement upon Satan and He was announcing the tool He was going to use.

Let's first look at the tool, or actually I should say person God announced He was going to use. God said that He would create a enmity. Enmity is a difficult word so let's find a different word for enmity.

Definition: enmity - the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.

If we use this definition then God could have very well said that I have put something into place that is going to be actively opposed and even hostile to you and your ways.

What was that thing? It was something that was going to come through the seed of the woman Eve. Something is going to be produced through her that is going to bruise your head. Now notice God takes this a bit further. In this passage He goes on to say He shall bruise your head.

Couple of things. This pronouncement from God goes on to say and you shall bruise him on the heel. Which do you think is worse? A bruise on the head or on the heel? On the head right. A bruise on the heel can be irritating but a bruise on the head can be fatal.

The second thing God said was this. He went from saying I will put an enmity, an ill feeling between you and the seed of the woman to naming the enmity. **God said He shall bruise you on the head and you shall bruise Him on the heel.** Who do you think God meant when He said He, He, a person is coming from the seed of the woman? Who was God speaking of? Jesus right?

This is one of the first places in the bible and creation story that Jesus is actually mentioned. When God said let Us create man in Our image, we take that to be God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But when God said He shall bruise you head there is no doubt who He is talking about.

3. **Jesus is the enmity that will bruise, actively oppose Satan**

We can actually pull John 3:16 all the way to the beginning of mankind. For God so loved the world. God and Jesus loved all of mankind so much that right from the beginning of sin, right from the beginning when Adam and Eve stepped out of the possibility of operating fully in the image of God, God and Jesus had a plan of restoration.

They had a plan of pulling mankind back out of the weeds, back out of the place beyond Eden, back out of that place where sin and death could ravage them, back into an Eden like place, back into a relationship with Him and eventually a restored Eden on earth that we can live in for eternity.

Nothing tripped up God and Jesus. Not Adam and Eve's mistake. Not Satan's temptations. Nothing has the ability, the power to keep God and Jesus from completing the work on earth they have begun.

The same is true in your life. Mistakes happen. Temptations come and go. Sometimes we are strong, sometimes we are weak, sometimes we pull out of the shop but as long as we come back and avail ourselves to Jesus, His restoration plan for your life will continue to unfold.

The thing about the cars I am working on, they have no ability to restore themselves. They have to set and wait until I have the time and finances to put into them. That is not true of you and your ability to be restored in Christ-likeness. That is not true of the plan God has for your life.

4. Because of the plan of God through Jesus the body and repair shop is open, the cost of the rebuild has been paid, all you have to do is show up

The more you show up, the more restoration work is done. The rust of past or current sin, heartaches, insecurities and failure will be not only patched up but restored beyond your wildest dreams, beyond any restoration the world can provide.

As we come into this time of Thanksgiving, it is exciting to know that Jesus and God put a plan in place right from the beginning. We can be thankful that Jesus's love and plan has covered approximately 7,000 years and that love and plan has come to you. You are here this morning. You have made yourself available to Him and His restoration plan for you. *You have much to be thankful for. Let's pray*