

Genesis



Purpose

- ◆ Know Jesus Well
- ◆ Yearn for more

The Gospels are the Climax

- ◆ Study all of Sacred Scripture through the “lens” of Jesus’ mission
- ◆ All of the Bible points to, or builds upon, the defeat of sin and death by Jesus
- ◆ The origins of these two very different problems are found in a single book, Genesis

Most of the Story

- ◆ The origin of nearly everything
- ◆ Everything Jesus
 - ◆ Why we need “saving”
 - ◆ Why we die at all
 - ◆ Why He chose to die for us
- ◆ 3 of the 6 Covenants are in Genesis
- ◆ What is a Covenant?

What is a “Covenant”?

- ◆ The formation of a family bond (marital, tribal, or otherwise)
- ◆ It carries a death penalty should one break it
- ◆ It is the foundational principle of our relationship with God
- ◆ It explains why Jesus chose to die for us, a death we earned many times over across the ages

The First Great Hurdle

- ◆ Ancient, pre-dates books, pre-dates writing
- ◆ Very complex & potentially confusing
- ◆ Remember the Senses of Scripture
- ◆ Break it into pieces, simplify

Pieces

- ◆ Origins
- ◆ Abraham
- ◆ Israel
- ◆ Joseph

Why Not Start at the Beginning?

- ◆ This has not worked for most people in our time
- ◆ Complex, crucial, potentially confusing
- ◆ You need a firm understanding of the “Senses of Scripture”
- ◆ Too much, too soon...easier to circle back

Senses of Scripture

CCC 115

- ◆ Literal Truth, foundational, the Empty Tomb
- ◆ Spiritual Truth
 - ◆ Allegorical Truth >> Jesus (Faith)
 - ◆ Moral Truth >> Right Action (Charity)
 - ◆ Anagogical Truth >> Heaven (Hope)

Abraham

- ◆ Half of our planet claims him as their spiritual father
- ◆ Given the Promise of God (Gen 12:1-3)
 - ◆ Land
 - ◆ Kingdom
 - ◆ Worldwide Blessing >> Jesus
- ◆ The first line of the New Testament:
 - ◆ “The story of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham” Matthew 1:1

Isaac

- ◆ Promised in their old age
- ◆ “Laughter”
- ◆ First in the Bloodline to Jesus
- ◆ His sacrifice strongly prefigures that of Jesus

Jacob

- ◆ The “supplanter” / thief
 - ◆ Birthright
 - ◆ Blessing
- ◆ Flees from his angry brother Esau

Israel

- ◆ The Ladder to Heaven
- ◆ Marries the daughters of Laban
- ◆ 11 sons in Haran before returning
- ◆ Rachel dies in childbirth with Benjamin, buried at Bethlehem
- ◆ Renamed “Isra-El” for wrestling with God

The Sons of Israel

◆ Reuben (L1)

Simeon (L2)

Levi (L3)

◆ Judah (L4)

Dan (B1)

Naphtali (B2)

◆ Gad (Z1)

Asher (Z2)

Issachar (L5)

◆ Zebulun (L6)

Joseph (R1)

Benjamin (R2)

Safe in Egypt

- ◆ Genesis ends with the entire family (70 people) in Egypt under Joseph's protection
- ◆ "The scepter shall not pass from Judah"
- ◆ Generations are "fruitful and multiply" until...
- ◆ A new king arises "who did not know Joseph" (Ex 1:8)
 - ◆ Israelites enslaved for 400 years & Grow into *Tribes*
 - ◆ Enter Moses, the story continues>> Read Exodus & Numbers

First Things/Last Things

- ◆ Chapter 1: Ex Nihilo, “everything from nothing”
- ◆ Chapter 2: Paradise
- ◆ Chapter 3: Lost...the Predicament, and The Plan
 - ◆ The Sin Sequence
 - ◆ The Seed of the Woman, 3:15, “protoevangelium”
 - ◆ Death...for now, our opportunity to return to Paradise

Creation in Genesis 1

- ◆ Science and Religion
 - ◆ *Magisreasonfaith.org*
- ◆ Creation is “Ex Nihilo”...from nothing
 - ◆ George LeMaitre, 1923
- ◆ There was a beginning...
- ◆ 3 days of forms, 3 days of rulers

Genesis 2-Sabbath Rest

- ◆ The First Covenant is the Sabbath
- ◆ 7 is the Number of the Covenant
- ◆ The Sabbath is for US..to contemplate gratitude, God, Eternal Bliss...a “foretaste of heaven” (Heb 4)
- ◆ “The Seventh Day” is repeated throughout the story-completeness
- ◆ “Sevens” dominate Revelation as well

The Second Story of Creation

- ◆ Paradise-our ultimate objective (Gen 2, Cross, Rev 21)
- ◆ Breath of life (Jesus on Easter Sunday in John 20)
- ◆ Science and Religion
 - ◆ Genome project proves singular original parents
- ◆ 2 Trees: Adam is to Keep & Protect, death if you disobey*

The Problem, Genesis 3

- ◆ Paradise Lost
- ◆ “Nahash” and the failure of Adam
- ◆ The Temptation Strategy (3:1-5)
 - ◆ How we fall every day
 - ◆ Doubt, Lie, Twist God’s intentions
- ◆ “You Shall Not Die” is the first worst lie >>> “Get Behind Me Satan” is what Jesus said to Peter when he repeated this
- ◆ Now WE define what is right and wrong-”moral relativity”

Genesis 3:15, the 1st Gospel

- ◆ The *Protoevangelium*
- ◆ Adam was there all along, failed to guard/fight/die
- ◆ The New Adam, Jesus, will reverse this curse
- ◆ The Seed of the Woman >> “Woman” in John’s Gospel
- ◆ Death is the *temporary* solution to the problem

Flood & Remnant

- ◆ Noah prefigures Jesus
- ◆ Peter writes how the Ark prefigures the Church
- ◆ The Rain Bow is a weapon, God points at Himself
 - ◆ “neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done” Gen 8:21
 - ◆ ...but willing to die Himself instead...

- ◆ Gospel First
- ◆ Then Genesis, very slowly with commentary
- ◆ Then Moses, Jesus' prototype
- ◆ Then the Timeline to Jesus...Joshua, Judges...

