

God's Creation

The Big Picture - Session 1

Balance the tables and make request for people to try and sit at random tables each session.

A New Series

Welcome - The Big Picture our new series in which we take a broad look over the entire Bible, to see what it has to say to us. We will be spending time over the next seven sessions, looking at some major themes contained within the scriptures. In doing so, we can get a clear 'picture' of what the Bible is all about and what God determines is so important, that he has preserved such information for us to understand today.

Session Dates

- God's Creation - **13/11/2018**
- Redemption through a holy nation & peculiar people **27/11/2018**
- From bondage to the promised land - **15/01/2019**

Overview

- Talking just a little on the creation of the Heavens and the Earth
- but more about Mankind and their effect on God's creation

Scripture verse for this evening

Genesis 3:1-4 (KJV)

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Teaching

Genesis - Where it all begins

The answers to life biggest questions, have been asked and searched for, for centuries.

- Where did everything come from?
- How did life start on earth?
- Is there any purpose to life?
- Is there a God?

Thankfully the answers to the questions can be found in the Bible, and many are answered in the first few chapters.

So, the search is over for those that put their trust in God's holy book.

'In the beginning, God'..... The very first verse of the Bible tells us that God is the creator.

It also tells us that God is the one responsible for creating the physical universe and how he created it.

The bible actually says quite a lot about creation, both in the OT and the NT.

The very first chapter also gives us our first glimpse of what we refer today as the trinity.... v2 'The Spirit'..... v26 'Let us', which can be understood to include God the Father and God the son.

So the first two chapters of Genesis tells us how God created everything. Chapter one gives us details from a general comprehensive viewpoint. Chapter two changes that view to zoomed in and more specific one.

A brief mention of the differing viewpoints of creation

I should mention the common competing views when it comes to the subject of 'beginnings', the most obvious one being the theory of Evolution promoted since 1859 in his book 'Origin of Species'. This view has now become the one accepted and promoted by the atheists that make up much of the scientific community. This theory is put forward to explain the origins of life on Earth and is taught not as theory, but as fact.

As for explaining the existence of time, space and matter, the same scientific community holds primarily to what is commonly called, 'The big bang theory'. It is not the only theory out there that provides a 'naturalistic view', but it is the most common one despite having major and well known problems this theory has.

There is also something known as the 'steady state theory' which is not a new theory, which says the Universe has always existed and always will, but it too has major drawbacks.

Moving closer to home, there are those in within religious circles who choose to accept the theories promoted by the mainstream scientific community. They hold to various doctrines that try to join science and theology together and they fall under the main heading of 'Theistic evolution'. These Theistic Evolutionists believe that God used evolution and the big bang for the creation of all things, which requires billions of years of time.

The biblical view of creation

You cannot, without injecting ideas from outside of the Bible, and with a straight reading of the holy scriptures, come away with the idea of evolution of

life on Earth or Big Bang theory. Indeed, all of these theories can be definitively refuted and shown to be false, based on the scriptures alone.

For this session however, we shall be spending our time concentrating mostly on chapter 3 that describes the origin of sin on Earth, death and what is often referred to as 'the fall of Mankind'.

God's creation was very good

God created everything in just 6 days - it was all good.... but not for long

So, in chapter one and two of Genesis, we read how God created the stars in the heavens, the Earth, all living creatures and of course Mankind.

God planted a garden in a place called Eden, and there he placed Adam and his wife Eve to tend to that garden.

What is 'The fall of Mankind'?

When people talk mention 'The fall of Mankind', they are referring to in general is, Mankind falling into sin as a result of disobedience to God, and the results of it. So let's take a closer look at what led up to the event in question and the catastrophic consequences that followed.

God put all types of fruit trees in the garden for food and in addition, there where two special trees.....

Genesis 2:9 (KJV)

And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

God gave only one prohibitive command for Adam and Eve to follow....

Genesis 2:16-17 (KJV)

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Was it hard to keep that command?

- Consider that there was just one prohibitive command
- That God told them where the trees were located
 - so we can infer they were also separate from the other fruit trees
- in a recent sermon, Chris mentioned that for many, when they are told that they can't do something, they then have an inclination to do that very thing, as a result of having a 'sin nature'.
- Adam and Eve did not have such a nature, so would not have been affected in that way at God's restriction.
- Who knows how long they would have gone, but it is clear it was the deceptions and lies of the serpent, that provided the motivation for Eve to consider ignoring God's command.
- The serpent told Eve God was lying, that she would not die, but rather she would be like a God, appealing to any vanity she might have had.

God finds out

After making some general inquiries, it was necessary for our just God to prescribe justice and judgement for breaking the command

God passes judgement first of all on the serpent, which we shall look at shortly, but who was this serpent?

Revelation 12:9 KJV

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

To Eve

Genesis 3:16 KJV

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

To Adam

Genesis 3:17-19 KJV

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

The plan of redemption begins

Finally, we come to the judgement of the serpent. The serpent was the first to receive Judgment, but within which we see the beginnings of a plan of redemption.

The Serpent is Judged

Genesis 3:14-15 KJV

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The first gospel reference in the Bible

v15, shows us that, there will be 'enmity' or a state of opposition and hostility between the descendants of the serpent (those who are enemies of God), and the descendants of the woman, with the last part of the verse...

'it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel', pointing to the ultimate victory The Messiah will have over the work and destruction of Satan.

A glimpse of the prophecy from the Garden of Eden, revealed in the NT.

Galatians 4:4-5 KJV

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

And from this event in the Garden of Eden until the Messiah, God can be seen revealing fragments of his plan of redemption through his prophets, through the generations.

Group Study

- God said, "In the day you eat of it, you shall surely die". Was God talking of a
 - physical death?
 - spiritual death?

See Genesis 3:19, Ephesians 2:1-3

- What was this a real serpent?
 - Was the Devil a real snake?
 - Was the snake a real talking snake? (see Numbers 22:27-28)
 - Was the snake symbolic (Revelation 12:9)
 - Did Satan possess a snake

- Should we make excuses before God for our sin?

See Genesis 3:9-13

Summary

So The actions of Adam and Eve have had devastating consequences that mankind has not been able to overcome on his own, in fact the opposite is true. Left to do as man desires, things got progressively worse very fast, to the point that as the bible puts it....

Genesis 6:5-7 KJV

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

So we have gone from God creating everything and when God looked upon it, God himself said, it was all very good; to mankind degrading to a point where God regretted creating mankind in the first place, and ready to destroy every living thing.

If only we knew if this story was going to end in disaster or will there be a happy ending?

We'll leave things there until next time.

Afterthoughts

'Afterthoughts' are who wish to give some more time to study or consider and go even deeper after the session has finished.

It is not expected that you should reach any conclusion from these questions, and hopefully you will find them exploring them, challenging and rewarding.

- Why did God put the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden, if he knew eat of the tree and die?
 1. He didn't know
 2. He knew it was possible
 3. He wanted Man to know he had a choice (freewill) and God had a plan.

- Why could it only have ever been God, who could have redeemed man from his sins and restore all things, satisfying the original judgment of death because of sin.

- Why couldn't God just forgive man for his transgressions? Why did God have to become a man and suffer so much, to be able to provide salvation with eternal life?
 - (In part, this demonstrates God's unsearchable depth of righteousness, and his undeniable level of love for Mankind).

Next Session Dates

27/11/2018

15/01/2019