

God's Grand Story pt 3 – From Creation to Redemption: telling the Story

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

THANKSGIVING Celebrations:

1. Thanksgiving Food and Clothing drive this next Friday! EXCITING!
2. After Service Prayer – BOTH SERVICES!
3. GOD IS ON THE MOVE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Recap: 4 Chapters, 5 Main Promises, 1 HERO – Jesus and is moving towards the most EPIC finale ever and the FINAL happily ever after! This is a love story – a story of redemption!

The BIG questions a worldview answers: see how many answers you can find for these questions!

- **Origin** – how did we get here? Is there a God?
- **Meaning & Purpose** – what is the meaning of life? Why are we here?
- **Morality** – is there right and wrong?
- **Destiny** – where is everything headed? What happens after we die?
- **Identity** – who am I? how do I fit in the world around me?
- **Problem** – what is wrong with the world? society? And me?
- **Solution** – how can we fix what's wrong?

REMEMBER: Don't read the Story with the wrong lenses... we are reading with a Biblical worldview lense on... we believe in the UNSEEN & the SEEN. We believe they work together. But what is SEEN was made from what is UNSEEN. NATURALISTIC? DUALISTIC? BIBLICAL?

Let's begin...

A. Creation: In the beginning...

Origin: Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

START: BIG – creates a HOME: TIME begins →The heavens... the earth... space, planets, sets the Universe in motion **Genesis 1:2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- **Day 1:** God SPEAKS... and it was so... light comes to his creation! We have Day & Night...
- **Day 2:** God speaks... and it was so... and seas & skies are separated and made distinct... it was GOOD
- **Day 3:** God speaks...and it was so... and vegetation begins to cover the earth... fruit trees and plants and vegetables... and he sees that it is good.

- **Day 4:** God speaks... and it was so... and the Sun & Moon begin to work together for Day & night and the creation of seasons on the earth... Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter... 4 seasons... a foreshadow of 4 themes?
- **Day 5:** God speaks... and it was so... and fish and birds fill the seas and skies!
- **Day 6:** God speaks... and it was so... and every animal on the earth, things that creep on the ground were made... **IT WAS GOOD.**

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **Identity: Image of God**

- **Day 6:** He speaks and creates humans (ADAM & EVE) in His image... and at the end he says, it was VERY GOOD.

Genesis 2:18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- **Day 7:** God rests... not because he was tired... no. He was done creating. It was now time to enter his own creation and enjoy being with Adam & Eve...

He gave Adam & Eve work and purpose, he invited them to enjoy relationship with Him! He walked with them in the Garden of Eden – which he made for them! They were created to LOVE him and give him GLORY!

- **Their job:** to be fruitful and multiply! Subdue the earth, work the land, build culture, etc. and rule it!
- **Genesis 2:24** we see God performs the first MARRIAGE CEREMONY!

It was PERFECT. It was PARADISE. But remember... God wanted a people that he could invite into his perfect LOVE... into RELATIONSHIP with him... **so he gave Adam & Eve the ability to CHOOSE.** They could choose to love him or reject him.

To make the choice legitimate... God created ONE TREE they could not eat from. The rest? Was theirs to enjoy! Morality: God defines what is RIGHT & defined what is WRONG.

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Adam & Eve. walk with God, they are naked and ashamed... they didn’t know pain, they didn’t know death, they didn’t know brokenness, sin, addiction, anxiety, embarrassment, rejection, humiliation... no... they only know God, his blessing, and LIFE!

B. The Fall: sin & the entrance of death...

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God actually say**, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

- We find pieces of his origin story scattered in the prophets... he was a Cherub, a beautiful angel, who led a rebellion against God...
- **King of Tyre - Ezekiel 28:12-16** "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
- **King of Babylon - But he wanted to be worshipped as God - Isaiah 14:12-14** How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'
- **Satan was cast from heaven...** and we find his entrance into the Grand Story as he appears to Eve in the form of a serpent... and true to his nature... **he is trying to lead another REBELLION**
- **"Did God really say?"**
- **Genesis 3:2-3** Eve responds, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."
- **Satan replies**, "you will not die. God knows that when you eat, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good & evil" **THEY WERE ALREADY IMAGE BEARERS!**
- **So Eve took the fruit**, and seeing that it was good and pleasing to the eye, she ate of the fruit...
- She then gave **the fruit to Adam**... who also violated God's only rule and ate of the fruit!
- **Immediately their eyes were opened!** Had they become more like God? NO- that had been deceived!
- **The Problem: Mankind rebelled against God and the consequence was Death - like a virus... spread throughout creation**

C. The MAIN Act in the GS: Redemption: God's plan to redeem creation

God... being Sovereign and all powerful... he knew that giving choice was the only way to truly experience a loving relationship... and he knew that choice would lead to sin & death infecting humanity, the heavens and the earth. So he enacted his plan of redemption!

1. **PROMISE 1 Edenic Covenant: Genesis 3:15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The FIRST promise is like a seed... Remember during Creation – God Spoke and it was so... God speaks the “Seed of redemption” and sets his plan in motion!

- **Solution: the Serpent Crusher** -There would be an offspring of Eve A HUMAN - that would be wounded by the serpent, but would crush the head of the serpent... a SERPENT CRUSHER! that would REDEEM HUMANITY

Sin & Death were in creation → Adam & Eve were removed from the Garden → the wait begins – who will the Serpent Crusher be?

The story continues... generation after generation is born... we move from Adam to Noah... and see more “seeds” or “clues” that point towards the Serpent Crusher – the REDEEMER

- **10 Prophetic Names:** woven into the names of Adams descendants throughout Genesis 5 are hidden a prophetic sign... Adam “**man**”; Seth “**appointed**”; Enosh “**mortal**”; Kenan “**sorrow**”; Mahalel “**the blessed One**”; Jared “**shall come down**”; Enoch “**commencement**”; Methuselah “**his death shall bring**”; Lamech “**lamentation**”; Noah “**to bring rest**”

We get to Noah... Was this the time for God’s redemption?

Genesis 6:6-8 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

- **God shortens the lifespan of man from 900-120 years... to limit the evil they could do...**
- **God instructs Noah to build an ark ... He is going to FLOOD the earth.**

The people saw him building a boat... but they did not repent... Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Genesis 7:12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

Genesis 7:17-23 The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth... The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.

Genesis 9:1-3 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth... I give you everything.

Genesis 8:21 “the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.”

Genesis 9:20-21 Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

- **Just like Adam did with Eve! He was given the same mandate, the same gifts, the same opportunity and he rebelled also! Then blamed someone else – Just like Adam and EVE.**

From here... THE REBELLION CONTINUES to grow and culminates once more in a place called Babylon at the Tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

- They were in direct rebellion to God’s command to spread across the earth.

Genesis 11:7-8 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.” So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

Things looked like they were getting worse... with every year that passed... it seemed as though God’s PROMISE would never be fulfilled... in fact, it seemed things were getting WORSE.

But God was still working out his plan of REDEMPTION... and the next piece of the puzzle required a NATION that would be SET APART as GOD’s CHOSEN PEOPLE... a people that would demonstrate to the rest of creation who God was, what he was like, show his character, a nation through whom the Hero would be revealed... a nation who would be as a Bride to Him.... **TO BE CONTINUED....**

D. Answers to Worldview Questions:

- Origin:** how did we get here? God created us!
- Purpose:** why are we here? Love & glorify God!
- Morality:** what defines right & wrong? God defines right & wrong!
- Destiny:** where are we headed? Towards redemption... undoing the curse???? FOGGY STILL
- Identity:** who am I? who is God? Image of God – I am God’s special creation GOD?
Uncreated, creator, one-but plural, good, thinks, feels, he is the Law giver, Judge, merciful, all-powerful, His WORDS always come TRUE.
- Problem:** what’s wrong with the world? God created it GOOD. Mankind REBELLED against God and brought DEATH into the world.
- Solution:** how can it be fixed? The Serpent Crusher!

IF these answers are TRUE. How should they effect your life today?

PRAY FOR EVERYONE - First time commitment – lead first time commitments

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM

MARANATHA! The Lord has come! The Lord is coming! Come quickly Lord!

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SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers