

Jesus In Genesis: Pt 1

Intro: This morning we are going to begin our study on the Book of Genesis:

Once a year we all study the same passage, unites us, focuses us, knits our hearts together (All on same page)

Many different ways to study Genesis: Verse by Verse (Wed Night) Characters, Topics, Creation, Life Lessons

Now is a GREAT time to take your Bible study and bible knowledge to a new level: Small Group/ABS (Online)

Genesis literally means BEGINNINGS...So it's a great time to begin a new chapter in your biblical understanding

Everything is in Genesis; It's the beginning of all we know! Creation, Man, Sin, Redemption, Family, God's People...

For the next couple of months we are going to look at Genesis in a unique way: Jesus in Genesis

If you know where to look you will find Him everywhere. Sometimes his fingerprints are obvious...sometimes in shadows

Waiting to be discovered...but He is always there.

As we enter this study...Let me teach you a theological concept that is going to be foundational to our study of Jesus in Genesis

Foreshadowing: *A person, place or event in the OT that prophetically looks forward to and reveals something of the character, work or nature of Christ.*

Hebrews 10:1-14 *"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-- not the realities themselves."*

SLIDE: Altar; Lamb; Cross

So, when you know where to look...and what to look for...you will find Jesus...in the shadows...waiting to teach you something about His character, His person or His work.

Genesis 1-3

Pg 1

God Made Us And Knows Us.

Gen 2:4-7

***A quick word on Creation: I am a literal 7 day creationist, 7/24 hour time frames...God spoke and it WAS!

That said I recognize there are a number of different interpretations. We don't make them a point of division

We respect the differences...Are aware of them...But do not divide over them.

I believe that God "made" man out of a handful of dust and the breath of life from Himself!

- We are a unique combination of both dust...and the breath of God!

~**Dust:** We are made from the most basic and common elements of this world

Psm 103:14 *"For he knows how we are formed, and remembers that we are but dust."*

~**Breath of life:** We are also made from the breath of God...made in his image and likeness

Psm 139: *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful..."*

Illus: We have the capacity to live up...or to live down!

Human beings can be the most vile, reprobate, awful creatures imaginable...doing things to our world and to one another that defy imagination! At our worst...we live up to dirt heritage we come from

But...we also have the capacity to rise to heights that are unbelievable. We see people do things that are amazing in their sacrificial capacity. We live sometimes the very image of God, and we reflect His glory!

Illus: Galatians 5:16ff

At our worst we can be dirt...at our Best we can be spirit...every one of us is a combination of both.

God knows that...sees that...God understands that...and He Loves us ANYWAY!

God Desires To Bless Us! Gen 1:27-31

- The very FIRST thing God did with mankind? Blessed Us! (1st time a word or concept is used...significant)
Bless: Lit = *to speak and/or bestow good upon someone. To wish well:* Either physical, emotional or spiritual good.
~Spoke His blessing (It is VERY GOOD!)
~Provided means of blessing physically 4 P's (partner, place, provision, purpose)
~Spiritual good: His personal presence and direction (Walking with, Talking with, Directing, Sharing with)
- Notice something: God BLESSED THEM...and it was not just about what they GOT!
In fact it is more about what they were to give and do for OTHERS than what they received for themselves!
True BIBLICAL blessing isn't "Oh look at all I get for me to spend on and take care of myself!"
True BIBLICAL blessing is about being taken care of by God so we can take care of others!

BLESS Acrostic:

B= Be Fruitful: Be productive, both with children and with life

L= Be Leading: Be in dominion over the earth (Not as a despotic ruler, but as a steward of creation!)

E= Be cautious of Evil: Watch out for those things that will spiritually damage you 2:16

S= Supplied meaningful work...Serving Him and creation (Work it: Serve/till Take Care: Guard/Protect)

S= Showed us how to live: *In Healthy Relationship In Meaningful Service In Appropriate Rhythm of work/rest*

God BLESSED them...And it wasn't to just gather to themselves...but rather to be a blessing to Him/others/creation

God Desires To Walk In Relationship With Us.

Ch 3:1

You see God's desire to be with us over and over in the Genesis accounts

- 2:17: Protect us: "You will surely die" Both Physically and Spiritually (Separation fm God)
- 3:8: Seeking out: "Heard the sound of God walking in the garden in cool of the day"
- 3:9: Calling to Himself: "Where are you?"
- 3:21: Provided Covering for Sin "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."
- 3:15: Predicted Christ Coming "He will crush your head, you will strike his heel"

Applic:

In the heart of that moment of sin and rebellion and separation, God was ALREADY at work to provide a way back to relationship with Himself! You see, my sin, and your sin did not "catch God off guard!" He wasn't taken by surprise

Rom 5:8: "While we were yet sinners, Christ Died for us!"

Rev 13:8: Jesus was the Lamb slain from the foundation (NIV CREATION!!!) of the world!

Imagine this: The garments that Adam and Eve made for themselves from leaves could cover their physical nakedness... But they could not cover their sin...their spiritual nakedness

Because: Heb 9:22 "without the shedding of blood there IS no forgiveness of sin."

So God the Son...Jesus...who has been walking with them and talking with them (*Last week Thomas Dr Hudgins NT*) Slays some of the animals...predicting BOTH the OT Sacrificial system...AND the Crucifixion of Christ.

At the heart of their broken relationship.. WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS

Jesus is showing the way back to the Father....

- He takes one of the animals He created...Kills it...Blood pours out...that blood sprinkles the pages of history for thousands of years...predicting the sacrifice that is yet to come...
- God is telling us in EVERY way possible...I love you...I want to forgive you...I want to be restored in relationship
- God is making a way...and Now WE have respond

And so we see...Jesus in Genesis...

SLIDE: Lamb Adam and Eve Covered OT Altar Cross

- Redemption
- Forgiveness
- Death
- Restoration

CONCL:

- Two Responses to this passage

~If you know him...if you sin is forgiven by the blood of the lamb...Slain from foundation of the world
Thank Him and praise him

~If you don't know him...if your relationship is still broken...

Hear him calling you..."Where are you?"

Don't be afraid...

Here is the message of Genesis: God SEES you in your Sin, Adultery, Lying, Theft, Anger, Lust, Hatred
Bitterness, Unforgiveness, Anger

And He says to you...I made you...I created you...I know you are but dust...I know you sinned...I know you ran from me...Hiding from me...Shame and Guilt...

But while you were doing all of that...I was making a way back home.

Come to him

It is a simple prayer...

Come today...Find Jesus in Genesis