



ALL THINGS NEW

A Study Through Genesis 1-12

Jan 5 - Feb 23





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A STUDY

Through Genesis 1-12

Jan 5 – Feb 23

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ALL THINGS NEW

Someone once asked me, "If you were forced to carry a church through only one book of the Bible, which one would it be?" My immediate response was, Genesis! My friend was a bit surprised by my answer. Genesis? An Old Testament book? Why?

The answer is simple really. Genesis is the foundation for God (The trinitarian sovereign creator), the world, man, woman, marriage, family, sin, salvation, our purpose in life, God's plan for the world, and so much more.

Without a proper understanding of Genesis, humanity is doomed to wander in life without a sense of hope or purpose. As Francis Schaeffer once wrote,

"An impersonal beginning explains neither the form of the universe nor the personality of man. Hence it gives no basis for understanding human relationships, building just societies, or engaging in any kind of cultural effort. It's not just the man in the university who needs to understand these questions. The farmer, the peasant, anyone at all who moves and thinks needs to know."

But the fact is, the universe's beginning, and our beginning was not impersonal. In the beginning....GOD. God created. God cared for His creation (Spirit was hovering over the deep). God continued to interact with His creation (creating form and filling void). God spoke and the universe responded to His voice (there's personalness there, interaction). God came down and formed us with His own hands, in His own likeness, and then tasked us with a job like His...fill the earth (as I have filled it).

Over the next several weeks we will look through this book of "Beginnings," and discover life as He intended and be challenged to form New Beginnings, modeled after His creation and not our own fractured replicas of creation.



All Things New

A New Identity
Week 1
January 5, 2020





Prepare your Heart

The first chapter of the Bible is written to give us a foundation upon which to understand life. And so it begins...in the beginning...GOD, not in the beginning, you or me...but in the beginning GOD...for nothing in this life makes sense apart from God.

Without a God in this world, who created the world, who has declared what is good and what is not good in this world, who has put his image in humanity, and therefore has given us intrinsic worth, who has given us the answer to why we were created, we are wandering souls, seeking pleasure and meaning in things that can never satisfy. Without a proper understanding of the God of the universe we are left trying to reconcile the world and fix its brokenness, but without any real reason WHY this fractured world should be restored, or WHAT the ultimate model of rightness in the world looks like.

But there is a God, a God who started all of this. And that God has made Himself known to us and has recorded for us His acts of creation. A look at a creation teaches us a lot about its creator. So as we read Genesis One today, let us remember that creation speaks to us about its creator.



Scripture

Read Genesis 1:1-2:4. Draw the six days of creation (Days 1-3 above, Days 4-6 Below), getting an understanding of what God is doing in creation. Note especially v. 2.

Void Form

Present

- Read Genesis 1:1 & Revelation 22:12-13
- Share about something you once created, but no longer possess.
- How does the creation process give us evidence that God is present in our world?
- What comfort can we glean knowing that we serve a present God?
- Read Genesis 1:2 & Deuteronomy 32:10-11. Describe a time when you felt the Spirit of God hovering over your life.
- Read Colossians 1:17, In what ways is Jesus still active in creation? How has He been active in your life this week?

Personal

- Read Genesis 1:3, 26, 28 and note the verbs being used.
- Why do you think God chooses to speak creation into being?
- In what ways does God speak to us today?
- See is a common verb associated with God in Genesis. In what other circumstances do we see God "seeing," and how do those situations show us that God relates to us on a personal level?



Powerful

- Read Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26
- Theologians often speak of God creating ex nihilo, out of nothing. What are the differences between how man creates and how God creates?
- Discuss the power of creation (innovations of man, forces of nature, etc).
- In what ways is God's power greater than creation's?
- What power over creation did Jesus display while living on earth?
- Read Genesis 18:14. What things in your life do you need to see God's power?
- Share with your group some ways you have experienced the power of God.

Good

- Read Genesis 1:4, 31
- Discuss the phrase, "creation was good because it came from a good God."
- Read Psalm 136:4-9. How does creation display the goodness/steadfast love of God?
- At the end of each day God declares His creation as good. In what ways was it good?
- How does creation point us to see the goodness of God?
- What are some ways we can enjoy God through His creation this week?



“The beauties of this world whisper to our souls that there is someone ultimate...We keep looking and longing for the beauty behind the beauty, the One who will satisfy the cravings of our soul. This explains why the drug addict keeps shooting up and the porn addict keeps looking and the materialist keeps buying and the thrill-seeker keeps jumping. On the other side of one thrill is the constant need for another...All beauty is a breadcrumb path that leads us to Christ.”



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



All Things New

A New Purpose
Week 2
January 12, 2020





Prepare your Heart

While most Christians are very familiar with it, Genesis 1 tells the amazing story of the creation of humanity. According to God's original design, humans were like God, pure, simple, whole, loving, and harmonious.

Unfortunately, sin has destroyed much of our likeness of God. But what Adam and Eve lost through sin, Jesus redeemed and restored by His cross. This week, we will be looking at God's desire for harmony in His church.

As we Read through Genesis One let us focus on why and how God created us. Let us explore what it means to be made in His image. Let us look around at one another and still notice the image of God staring at us through fractured humanity. Let us look to Jesus, the one who restores and redeems that image, returning it to its initial state.



Scripture

Read Genesis 1:26-31 & 2:4-9. Although this is a familiar passage, read it as for the first time. Pay attention to every detail, ask questions of the text.

In His Image

- What characteristics do we share with God and what characteristics do we not share with Him?
- How do you see God's image in Adam and Eve before the fall? What is missing after the fall?
- Read Genesis 9:6. In what ways has God's image remained even in sinful humanity?
- Genesis 1:27 reminds us that God created both male and female in His image. Discuss ways in which our culture ignore God's image in males and in females.
- How does being created in God's image change how you view and treat yourself?
- How should your neighbor being created in God's image determine how you relate to them?

Dominion

- God is a ruler and has dominion over His creation, as creatures in His image He has called us to have dominion and subdue the earth.
- In what spheres of life are you called to rule over? Be specific.
- Read Genesis 3:6-7. How does Cain fail to exercise His image of God? In what ways is he now mirroring Adam's image (see 5:3).
- Read Psalm 19, noting verse 13. In what ways can we have dominion over our sins?
- How does Jesus prove His power to rule over and subdue all of creation, especially in relation to sin?



Blessed

- Read Genesis 1:28.
- What does it mean that God blessed Adam and Eve?
- In what ways have you experienced this blessing of God?
- Read Genesis 12:1-3. Discuss the repeated use of blessing and being fruitful.
- How does this promise and command mirror the great commission?
- Read Genesis 2:2. How does God blessing His people and His holy day relate to one another?

The Garden

- Read Genesis 2:5-15
- How does God creating man mirror the six days of creation (Tohu & Bohu)?
- Why do you think God chose to make humans from the dust of the ground?
- God creates by speaking, how does this differ from how God creates humans?
- Some believe that God breathing into man represents the reception of the Holy Spirit. What are your thoughts?
- Read v. 15. What is the significance of work before the fall?
- What type of work did Adam and Eve have? How does it relate to our work today?
- Discuss the ways in which God provides for Adam and Eve the Garden. In what ways have you noticed God's provision for you this year?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



All Things New

A New Marriage
Week 3
January 19, 2020





Prepare your Heart

That which God speaks into being is beautiful. The stars which shower the night sky are beautiful. The earth's landscape, from humble hills to proud mountain peaks, are beautiful. The vast array of color seen in a sunset or field of wildflowers, are beautiful. The animals, with stripes, splatters, and spots, stretched out necks and noses, soft fur and thick skin, are beautiful. Of course, God's crowning creation...humans...are beautiful. We are made in His image after all.

But let us not forget what God created AFTER humans. Let us not forget that beautiful creation which was wrought by His hand and declared very good. Many today would say it is not good. Many today would avoid it like a healthy person avoids the flu. Many today would curse it, abuse it, neglect it, or minimize its place in creation. But as we read Genesis 2, it is an act of creation that can not be avoided. The entire second half of the chapter deals with this beautiful, good creation. And that which God declares good should NEVER be called anything but good.

That creation I am speaking about is marriage. Marriage was not man's idea. It is not an institution created by governments in order to produce good citizens that reproduce faithful subjects. It is a gift given to us by God himself. Even more astounding and mysterious is that marriage is meant to teach us something about Christ and the Church. Genesis two has much to say to the married couple, but it has just as much to say to the single person who will never marry. As Paul once wrote, ALL of scripture is profitable, and Genesis 2 is no exception to the rule. Take root in this chapter and discover all that God has for you as He teaches you about marriage. Be challenged, be encouraged, be transformed, and perhaps be recreated to reflect that first marriage which was truly GOOD.

Holding fast with you,

Pastor TJ



Scripture

Read Genesis 2:15-25 and discuss how this passage is used in the New Testament. How does that help you understand the purpose for this passage?

Work and Keep

- God has created us to work and keep that which He has given us. What are some ways you have worked and kept your marriage?
- What are some ways you can help other's work and keep their marriage?
- What are some mistakes you made or saw others make early on in their marriage which was the opposite of working and keeping marriage?
- What are some ways that God, the true gardener, is working and keeping your marriage (to Christ or a spouse)?
- Read Song of Solomon 2:15. What are some common "foxes" that need catching?

It is NOT good

- Read v. 18-20
- These are shocking words after so many, "it was good." what are some good things about marriage you have enjoyed or seen others enjoy?
- Adam had God and the animals, but still God says that Adam is "alone." Loneliness is one of the deepest hurts people experience today. How can we cultivate "togetherness" in our marriages? How can we cultivate "togetherness" in our lives as singles?
- In what ways are spouses helpers one to another?
- Give some examples in the Bible and then in your own life where spouses benefited from each other.
- What are some ways God has brought "suitable helpers" to singles?



One Flesh

- Read Genesis 2:21-24
- To leave father and mother looks different in each culture, what are some appropriate ways to leave home? What are some inappropriate ways to leave home?
- Are there other things that a single person should leave behind once he or she becomes married?
- Read Matthew 19:29. What does it look to leave father and mother and hold fast to Christ?
- Read Ephesians 5:28-33. What are some ways we care for our own body? What are some ways we, in the same way, should care for our spouse?
- What are some ways spouses experience one fleshness?
- What are some ways church members experience one fleshness?

Naked and NOT Ashamed

- Read Genesis 2:25
- The Bible often uses the word "naked." What are the ways it is used? (do a word search if necessary)
- This verse uses the word, "ashamed." Shame is something that doesn't get talked about a lot in western cultures. The Bible has much to say about it though. What is your understanding of shame?
- Read Genesis 3:7. This tells us much about the power of sin. In what ways can sin bring shame into a marriage?
- Christ comes to remove our shame. How does Jesus do that in our marriages and not just our individual lives?
- What are some practical ways we can live, "naked and not ashamed."?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



All Things New

A New Enemy

Week 4

January 26, 2020

The Death of Sin Pt. 1





Prepare your Heart

There are a great many evils that befall humanity, but none so evil as sin. There are a great many dangers threatening our destruction, but none so dangerous as sin. Sin is that which robs us of God. Sin is that which separates us from one another. Sin is that great deceiver, which whispers false promises of delight. It gives us a taste yet deprives us of the fullness of joy, for joy does not belong to sin nor can it be found in sin. Sin starts wars, destroys nations, wrecks homes, steals away loved ones, eat at our flesh until nothing but bone is left. Sin ungod God (at least in our hearts).

Should we not hate sin? Should we not loathe sin. Should we not avoid it at all costs? Today we think too little of sin's sinfulness. But at the very beginning of the Bible, God makes it plain: sin is exceedingly evil and is against your good and should be shunned, starved, and strangled!

This week, as we look at the fall of man let us place sin in its proper place, as the great enemy of God who seeks to rob Him of His glory, and by so doing, rob us of our greatest happiness (God Himself)?

Fearing with you (Proverbs 8:13),

Pastor TJ



Scripture

Read Genesis 3:1-13 taking note of all the destruction that comes from sin.

Cause

- Read Genesis 3:1-5
- Questioning someone's beliefs or knowledge is a powerful way of causing doubt. What doubts did the serpent's question cause within Eve? (v. 1)
- Are you able to recall when a question asked by yourself or others led you to sin?
- Read James 1:13-15
- What desires appealed to Eve? (see also 1 John 2:16)
- What are some common desires that lead us into sin?
- How do these desires draw us away from Christ?

Reaction

- Read Genesis 3:6-7
- Read Genesis 3:6 & Matthew 18:6-7. What are some ways our sin encourages others to sin?
- How can we stop sin's transmittable nature (in our church, our family, etc)?
- Compare 2:25 and 3:7. What is the significance of shame and sin?
- In verse 7, Adam and Eve realized what they had done, and they clothed themselves, attempting to correct their mistake. Did their response correct their mistake?
- What are some common ways people try to cover their sin? Does it work?



Curse

- Read Genesis 3:8-13, 2:17
- Reflecting on Gen 3:12-13 and Gen 2:17, how did sin change man's relationship with God?
- How did sin change Adam and Eve's relationship?
- How does sin affect your own relationship with God and others?
- What are some ways you have seen sin destroy a community?
- In verse 10 we see that Adam was 'afraid' and 'ashamed' when he heard God moving through the Garden. Why, do you think, Adam had these feelings? Are they feelings of true remorse? If not, why do you say so?
- Read 1 John 1:9. What is the proper response to sin?
- What hope do we have in the midst of great sin? (Think through the scriptures and how God has used sin for His glory and our good)



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



All Things New

A New Promise

Week 5

February 2, 2020

The Death of Sin Pt. 2





Prepare your Heart

Sin is that enemy that causes death and destruction of every good thing on this earth. But the good news of the Gospel is that sin is dying. Through Jesus' death on the cross the sting of death has been severed.

Yes, in this life we will experience pain, but we also have the promise that God is redeeming our pain. In fact, at the very beginning we get a glimpse of how God will free us from the pain of sin...by suffering the pain of death on our behalf. The seed of Eve will crush the enemy, but only through His own crushing on the cross.

God had every right to leave us in our sin. God had every right to banish us without bringing good news of great joy, that one day a serpent crushing Savior would come to once and for all slay sin and save us from eternal separation of the presence of God, our greatest joy. But God didn't leave us alone. God did bring good news. And most importantly, Jesus DID come!

This week we look to the hope that even when we are faithless, God is faithful. Even when we sin against Him, He saves to the uttermost.

Longing, with you, for final redemption,

Pastor TJ



Scripture

Read Genesis 3:1-24 taking note of the hope that is given to Adam and Eve.

Restore

- Read Genesis 3:8-13
- Why do you suppose Adam and Eve hid from God? (See also Revelation 6:16)
- When we sin, are we tempted to respond the same way for the same reason?
- Read Psalm 139:1-12.
- Do you think that God was surprised at Adam and Eve's actions?
- Why did God question Adam and Eve instead of reprimanding them?
- How does God respond to us today when we sin (focus on the Holy Spirit's role)?
- Read v. 15. How does this verse foreshadow the gospel? What New Testament passages further explain this truth?
- How do you see the enmity struggles (echoes of the gospel to come) throughout the Old Testament?
- What emotions do you experience when you read Genesis 3:15?

Sentence

- Read Genesis 3:14-19
- What punishment is given for sin and how do we still experience the effects of their sin today?
- Read Genesis 3:15, Romans 16:20 and Galatians 3:16
- Why do you suppose God both punishes sin and promises hope?



Sentence

- Take some time to discuss how Jesus crushes the head of Satan and how we can experience freedom from sin through Jesus.
- Due to man's rebellion against God, a curse is spoken. Over whom, or what, is this curse spoken in vv. 17-19? What does this show of God's character?
- How does both the Old and New Testament present God as a God of justice AND love? Why is this good news for God's people?

Life & Death

- Read Genesis 3:19-20 and Romans 5:12
- Death has now entered into the world through the sins of Adam and Eve. Yes, Adam chose to name woman, Eve (living). What does that show you of Adam's thinking?
- Discuss what true faith looks like (to believe God's promise of deliverance – Use Heb. 11 if needed)?
- Read Genesis 3:21
- God made man clothing out of skin, replacing their own clothing made from plants. Think about the significance of this verse read in context of Hebrews 9:22.
- What exactly did Jesus' death accomplish and for whom?
- Why did God send Adam and Eve out of the Garden?
- Read Revelation 21-22:5 and discuss our hope for God's ultimate reversal of sin and its destructive nature.

Adam and Eve were in a sinless, painless, bright, and glorious garden. The promise was “if you obey you’ll live.” And they took the fruit and ate it, and death and decay entered our lives.

Jesus was in a dark and ominous garden. The promise was “if you obey you’ll be killed...but they’ll live.” And he climbed that tree of death for him, and it became a tree of life for us.

-Tim Keller



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



All Things New

Division
Week 6
February 9, 2020





Prepare your Heart

As we turn our attention to life after the fall we find that sin attacks us where it hurts the most, in our relationships. God has created us to live in community with Him and one another. The totality of the law is summed up in loving God and loving one another. So it is no surprise that sin seeks to separate us from God and from one another.

Genesis 4 and 5 continues to reveal the effects of sin on our relationships. It separates husband from wife, brother from brother, nation from nation. In doing this it is attacking the very image we were created in. God has created us to reflect the unity that the Father, Son, and Spirit eternally radiate. Our unity one with another is attainable only through the unity that the Trinity manifests to us.

Much is at stake here, God's glory and peace on earth. Every era and every culture struggles with unity, this current one is no exception. Look around your communities and nations and ask yourself what destruction sin has created to your unity, then ask yourself how God can use you to restore that unity.



The Growth of Sin

- Read Genesis 4:1-8
- What could be the possible causes of Cain's anger in v. 5?
- What set Abel apart from Cain in God's eyes? Read Hebrews 11:4 for context.
- Read Vv. 6 & 7 Does Cain show any sort of remorse for his anger and attitude?
- What are some common ways people respond to God's discipline for sin?
- Read Genesis 4:8, Matthew 5:21-22, and James 1:19-20, 4:2 and discuss the dangers of anger.

Cause and effect

- Read Genesis 4:9-16
- What is Cain's response to God's question in v. 9?
- What does the verse show about the characteristics and natural progression of sin?
- What does v. 9 show of God character? Read Genesis 3:9 for context.
- What is the difference between Cain's curse (vv11-12) and the one pronounced by God in Genesis 3:17?
- Read Luke 23:40-41. What is the reaction of Cain for his punishment and that of the thief? What does this say about Cain's character?
- Reflecting upon Cain's reaction to God's punishment, what would your honest reaction be? How is this indicative of human nature?
- Read v. 15. What promise does God make Cain and what does it show of God's character?
- Do you experience this in your own life?



Progression of Sin

- Read Genesis 4:19-24
- Take some time to discuss the two seeds that are at war (Gen 3:15) (Cain vs. Abel; Lamech vs Enoch; etc). How do we see this battle all throughout scripture? How do we see this battle today?
- How does Lamech's disobedience and defiance escalate in v. 23?
- Have you seen sin in people's heart follow a similar pattern?
- Reave v. 24. How does Lamech's nature the opposite of Jesus' nature?
Read Matthew 18:21-22
- Reflecting upon this last passage, how are we to conduct ourselves?
Attempt to provide two or three characteristics.



Suggested Resources for Further Study

[Francis Schaeffer]

Genesis in Time and Space

[Gordon J. Wenham]

Word Biblical Commentary

[Derek Thomas]

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/creation-ex-nihilo/>

[Derek Kidner]

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary

[Tremper Longman III]

How to Read Genesis