

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Summary – The Gospel in Genesis

The Gospel begins with _____.

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:27-28

Who/what is God?

Where did this world come from?

Is there design in the world? Order? Purpose?

Where did I come from?

What is life?

What is my purpose?

Why is there pain?

Why is there evil?

Why is there death?

Is there authority and accountability in the world?

"The only way to understand yourself or your life is to start with God. And right at the very beginning the Bible takes us there. If you are not clear about this, you will go wrong everywhere else."

(Martyn Lloyd-Jones, The Gospel in Genesis: From Fig Leaves to Faith, pp. 13)

_____ against God is the precipitating cause of all brokenness in this world and is the precondition of the Gospel.

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

¹⁷ 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."

Genesis 2:16-17

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:6

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." ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:15-19

Sin wrecks our notions of "human freedom". Sin enslaves us to the dominion of evil and death. Fellowship with God is replaced by alienation and enmity. Human relationships are corrupted. Earth is cursed. Judgment is imminent. "Salvation" and life as God intended is now beyond our grasp:

²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:23-24

Unmerited, unwarranted _____ is the response of God to our sinful, broken condition:

⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:9

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"

Genesis 3:13

²¹ And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Genesis 3:21

"... the clothing which God provided was in itself different from what man had thought of. Adam took leaves from an inanimate, unfeeling tree; God deprived an animal of life, that the shame of His creature might be relieved. This was the last thing Adam would have thought of doing. To us life is cheap and death familiar, but Adam recognized death as the punishment of sin. Death was to early man a sign of God's anger. And he had to learn that sin could be covered not by a bunch of leaves snatched from a bush as he passed by and that would grow again next year, but only by pain and blood. Sin cannot be atoned for by any mechanical action nor without expenditure of feeling. Suffering must ever follow wrongdoing. From the first sin to the last, the track of the sinner is marked with blood. Once we have sinned we cannot regain permanent peace of conscience save through pain, and this not only pain of our own. The first hint of this was given as soon as conscience was aroused in man. It was made apparent that sin was a real and deep evil, and that by no easy and cheap process could the sinner be restored. The same lesson has been written on millions of consciences since. Men have found that their sin reaches beyond their own life and person, that it inflicts injury and involves disturbance and distress, that it changes utterly our relation to life and to God, and that we cannot rise above its consequences save by the intervention of God Himself, by an intervention which tells us of the sorrow He suffers on our account. For the chief point is that it is God who relieves man's shame.

(Marcus Dods, The Book of Genesis, pp. 25–26)

Sin must be _____, or God ceases to be _____. But God, rich in _____ offers a way of _____.

⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So 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." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Genesis 6:5-8

In righteous wrath, God judges the overwhelming tide of human sinfulness:

²⁶Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:26-27

Yet, not all are destroyed. In mercy, a righteous remnant is saved. And because of mercy, that remnant heralds the offer of salvation to the sinful world around them:

"... if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly ..."

2 Peter 3:5

_____ is the only viable (and salvific) response to the grace of God.

And faith is demonstrated in _____.

¹²Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him ...

Genesis 12:1-4a

⁴What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

Romans 4:1-5

"... the obedience which Abraham had (though not perfect) was the inevitable outcome of his faith in God's gracious promise. He obeyed God and offered his only son Isaac on the altar not to earn God's favor, but because he was so confident in God's promise to give him posterity through Isaac (Genesis 21:12; Hebrews 11:17-19) in spite of everything. Obedience is the necessary outcome of truly trusting in God's promises, and so obedience is made a condition of inheriting God's promises which are granted by grace and through faith." (John Piper, "The Covenant of Abraham")

**For those who place their faith in Him, God makes with them an _____,
forever assured by His sovereign grace.**

3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. **2** Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? **4** Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? **5** Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— **6** just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. **8** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” **9** So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:1-9, 28-29

Jesus is the perfect, obedient _____ of Abraham. Thru Jesus (his life, death, resurrection), many are brought to glory. (Hebrews 2:10)

Jesus is the creator and enabler of _____ for all who belong to him. He secures our eternal “land” and we dwell with Him forever. (Revelation 21:1-22:5)

Jesus is the source and giver of every _____ both now and forever. (Jas 1:17; Eph. 1:3)

“... when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) **12** he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. **13** For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, **14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance ...”

Hebrews 9:11-15a

Next week:

The Alternative: Creation’s Competitive Edge

Dr Robert Carter - CMI Scientist & speaker

In the Fellowship Center