

Reflections From the Book of Genesis

By introducing the book I aim to show that God is a God of purpose, that He has purpose for us that from the beginning and that He will eventually fulfil it at the end of time.

The name Genesis means “origins”, or “beginnings”. The Syriac and Arabic version call it “The Book of the Creation”

A few important things to know about the book of Genesis:

1. Genesis was written by Moses – a man of great character and known to have heard from God
2. Genesis is not fiction
 - a. The writer is clearly writing about factual events and identifies places, specific nations and known historic events
 - b. There are very accurate genealogies and records that link peoples and nations
 - c. It is a historical book
3. Genesis gives an account of the beginning of all things:
 - a. The universe
 - b. Man
 - c. Sin
 - d. Nations
 - e. Governments
 - f. Languages
 - g. In particular, the people God chose from whom the Messiah would come
4. Genesis is the first of five books which deal with the history of man as he relates to God
 - a. It doesn't tell us everything about all peoples, but all that He wants to know to point us to the Messiah
 - b. It mainly tells us of the people who relate and are communicating with God

Why are we considering this book?

1. To show the God is the God of purpose – He has a plan for us that can be seen right from the beginning.
2. To show the nature of mankind – from the time that Adam sinned we have been in rebellion and deserved judgement
3. To show the nature of God –
 - a. Kind and loving
 - b. Slow to anger
 - c. Encouraging repentance
 - d. Judging righteously
 - e. Working on the behalf of mankind – using all circumstances for good

God's intention for man - Chapters 1 & 2

The very first verse of the book has very few words, yet is very significant:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- In the beginning – of all that we know
- God – was already there! In fact he is!
 - Colossians 1:15-17
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
- Created – formed out of nothing
 - John 1:1-3
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- Heaven(s) – three heavens:
 - Sky – Genesis 1:26
 - Universe – Genesis 15:5
 - Abode of God/angels Psalm 68:33; 2 Chronicles 6:18

After the first verse, we see the process of creation:

Day 1 – (vs. 1-5)

- Light
- Divided the light to create Day and Night

Day 2 – (vs. 6-8)

- Sky

Day 3 – (vs. 9-13)

- Land
- Seas
- Vegetation

Day 4 – (vs. 14-19)

- Sun
- Moon
- Stars

Day 5 – (vs. 20-23)

- Sea creatures
- Birds

Day 6 – (vs. 24-31)

- Living creatures on the earth
- Man
- God's directions:
 - Be fruitful and multiply
 - Fill the earth

- Subdue it
- Have dominion of all that lives
- Herb that yields seed and tree whose fruit yields seed to eat
- Green herb as food for beast and birds

It was all good!!!

Day 7 – (Ch. 2:1-3)

- God ended his work and rested
- God blessed the 7th day and set it apart
- Jesus told us why

Mark 2:27

And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

What can we learn from all this?

1. We (man) are important
2. According to the scriptures, all of creation was specifically designed for us
3. God placed us into a perfect environment and gave us dominion over it
4. We were made in the image of God
5. God's intention was for us to be blessed by him!

Next time we will see how he intended us to have intimacy!