

# The Bible From 20,000 Feet

## Part 1: Genesis 1-5

Tuesday Night Bible Study, May 20, 2008

### --PART 1 OUTLINE:

CREATION: THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD  
CREATION: MANKIND MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD  
TEMPTATION AND FALL  
THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS  
POPULATION OF THE EARTH BEGINS

### --CREATION: THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

--Genesis 1:1-3: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ... 3 **Then God said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ... 6 **Then God said**... 9 **Then God said**... 11 **Then God said**... 14 **Then God said**... 20 **Then God said**... 24 **Then God said**... 26 **Then God said**... 29 **Then God said**..."

--contemplation of the creation of the universe puts God's spoken word in perspective... God's words to us in the Bible carry the same power as His words that spoke creation into existence!

--Hebrews 11:3: "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

--you could summarize all God's Words in the Bible with two words: "repentance" and "forgiveness of sins"... the world mocks those words, but they carry the power to transform lives and make us new creations in Christ!

--Luke 24:45-47: "Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (NIV )

--against the backdrop of people mocking the promises that God spoke in Old Testament times and saying that His promises will never be fulfilled, Peter wrote, "scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.' 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." ( 2 Peter 3:3-9)

### --CREATION: MANKIND MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

--one fundamental reason God calls us to follow His word is because we are made in His image!

--insight into consequence of sin... the eternal destiny of hell is a difficult reality to grasp, but it can be easier to grasp in the light of our origin of being made in the image of God...

--being made in the image of God + not being aligned with the word of God = eternity in hell

--being made in the image of God + being aligned with the word of God = eternity in heaven

--insight into the nature of God...

--at first glance Genesis 1:26 may appear to be grammatically incorrect, but it is actually the first insight into the trinitarian nature of God: "Then God said,"Let Us [*plural*] make man in Our [*plural*] image..."

## --TEMPTATION AND THE FALL

--Genesis 3:1a: "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made..."

--"the serpent" clearly represents Satan but whether or not Satan actually possessed a literal serpent is not clear... the picture in Genesis ch.3 of Eve being tempted by the serpent may simply be an allegory to describe a pre-fall event that doesn't easily translate into our post-fall language and comprehension.

--we know that the serpent was Satan because in Genesis 3:15 God said that "the Seed of the woman" (Christ) would defeat the serpent.

--normally one's offspring is referred to as the seed of the man, but Genesis 3:15 refers to it as "the Seed of the woman" which is a prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ!

--at some unknown time before the creation of the world and mankind God created all the angels...

--Job 38:4-7 indicates that angels "shouted for joy" when God laid the foundations of the earth.

--Satan was the highest ranking angel but for some reason his heart was filled with pride and he believed the lie that he could take the place of God... Isaiah 14:12-15 describes what happened to Satan: "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven [*he wanted to have an even higher position in heaven than he already had*], I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ["stars of God" is symbolic of angels – he wanted to depose the other cherub angels and rule over all the angels]; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.** [*he wanted to take the place of God*] 15 **Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit...**"

--Satan believed the lie that He could rise above God but the exact opposite ended up happening!

--after Satan fell he convinced Adam and Eve to believe the same lie...

--Genesis 3:1b-5: "And he [*Satan*] said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

--What happened after Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie? The same thing that happened to Satan – the exact opposite of the lie!

--rather than rising to a higher level of existence they fell to a much lower level of existence... they lost their place in the garden of Eden and became subject to death.

--and so it is with all Satan's lies that come to us in all kinds of different shapes and sizes... Satan promises one thing but the exact opposite ends up happening.

--in John 8:44 Jesus called Satan the father of lies.

## --THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS

--Adam and Eve's sin of eating the forbidden fruit created a state of separation between them and God. Rather than walking in fellowship with God they ran from God in fear...

--Genesis 3:6-7: "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to

her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

--not only did Adam and Eve's sin create a state of separation between them and God but it also caused all of their descendants (the entire human race) to be born in a state of separation from God.

--Romans 5:19 compares the singular disobedience of Adam bringing the curse of the fall to the entire race with the singular obedience of Christ bringing salvation to the entire human race... "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

--saved by grace alone...

--Adam and Eve's act of sewing fig leaves to cover their nakedness symbolizes the attempt to earn salvation by our own efforts – our own good works.

--in Genesis 3:21 God replaced their fig leaf coverings with clothes made out of animal skins which symbolizes the gift of salvation based on God's work rather than our own work – the righteousness of Christ rather than our own.

--God's provision to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness also foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice required to pay for mankind's sin!

--in order for clothing to be made out of skin an animal had to be sacrificed and blood had to be shed!

--the animal used to make clothing for Adam and Eve appears to be the first time blood was ever shed and was essentially the first sacrifice of many throughout the Old Testament that pointed to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross!

--Hebrews 9:22: "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."

## **--POPULATION OF THE EARTH BEGINS**

--in Genesis ch.4 Adam and Eve have their first two children, Cain and Abel...

--Abel walked by faith and Cain walked in his flesh and eventually murdered Abel out of jealousy.

--after Cain murdered Abel he "went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden." (Genesis 4:16)

--Cain then went on to have a child named Enoch and built a city.

--Adam and Eve then bore a third child, Seth, who followed the path of faith like his brother Abel.

--rather than fleeing the presence of the Lord and building a city for earthly security, Genesis 4:26 states that Seth and his family simply "began to call on the name of the Lord."

--Genesis 5 traces the genealogy of Adam's descendants through Seth down to Noah, providing the first segment of the genealogy of Christ in the Gospel of Luke:

--Luke 3:23-38: "Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph [*"as was supposed" was interjected because Jesus wasn't related to Joseph by blood as He was born of the virgin Mary*] ... 36 the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, 38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God."