

Genesis Fulfilled in the Life of Jesus Genesis 1, 12; Matthew 1; John 1; John 8

The story of the Bible does not begin in the New Testament with Jesus. It begins... “In the beginning.” And while the story may not begin in the New Testament, God’s Son permeates the pages of Genesis, and He fulfills the promises Genesis reveals. To understand Genesis, we must look for Jesus, and to understand Jesus, we must find Him in the beginning.

This morning I thought I would do something a little bit different. I’m going to close my eyes, throw the Bible in the air, and wherever it falls open, I will build a sermon. Ready?

- Just kidding. Turn to Genesis 1.
- Often how we approach our Bible reading

And of course, as Christians, we give priority to the New Testament. We love the NT. It talks about Jesus. But the story of God’s Son didn’t begin in the first century.

- So much we cannot understand if we don’t start at the beginning
- Walk up on a conversation already in progress
- Go to the movies, discover you are watching #3 of a 5 part series
- Story of the Bible, God’s Son, humanity, sin and salvation begins in Genesis. That is actually how the Bible begins. In Hebrew the title for Genesis is, “In the beginning...”; first word of Bible in Hebrew means, “in the beginning”
- We have been talking about Genesis for entire school year. We are going to tie Genesis to God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

I. [Jesus is] Creation’s Sovereign

- Genesis 1:1. In the beginning, God...
 - Genesis assumes God; doesn’t try to prove. If something exists, then there must be an adequate explanation. Interestingly, another book of the Bible begins in exactly the same way.
- John 1:1-2
 - Imperfect tense 3X
- John 8:56-59
 - Better grammar to say, “I was”; that might limit Him in time (e.g. only a few years before Adam; that would be strange enough)
 - “I am that I am, I am Yahweh”
 - And they say grammar’s boring
- Genesis 1:1-2
- John 1:3
- He has the right to rule because He is the eternal God, Creator of the Universe.
 - Abraham Kuyper, Dutch theologian, statesman and former Prime Minister of the Netherlands observes, “...there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over *all*, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”
- So what?
- Mt 16 – Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am?
 - No more important question in anyone’s life. It will affect both your eternal destiny and today’s decisions.

- C.S. Lewis. “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about [Jesus]: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.”
- He is Master, Lord, Sovereign over all creation. That includes you and me.
- That’s really good news, because He is also creation’s savior

II. [Jesus is] Creation’s Savior – Genesis 3:1-6

- Son of Adam
 - All our troubles started in the Garden. Many times I have thought about what I will tell Adam and Eve someday, but I would have failed test also.
 - Listened to Satan’s lies. Animals can’t speak; if they could, pick a dog.
 - Doubted God’s goodness
 - Longed for God’s autonomy
 - Adam failed to lead
 - Fall = alienation from God, ground, one another
 - Immediately given promise of a son who would succeed – Gen 3:15
 - First son, Cain, tested and failed
 - Seth died; Adam died; all died; flood; Babel; God chose a family.
- Son of Abraham
 - Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:4-5; Genesis 17:1-3.
 - From your own body, but not through Ishmael. Will not be something you could accomplish on your own. So I will give you a sign of covenant promise = circumcision.
 - I trust that God will fulfill “seed” promise
 - Each birth brought thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, and hope that this ONE might be THE promised offspring
 - Isaac – sensual man; poor father; deceived by son he didn’t love
 - Jacob and Sons
 - Reuben – Genesis 49:1-4
 - Joseph rescued the family; family grew to a nation; enslaved; redeemed
 - Israel tested and failed. Water, food, authority
 - Worship – Ex 32:1-6
 - Deut 8:1-3. Show you what’s in your heart; need new heart
 - Warren Buffett’s Billion Dollar Bracket. Quicken and Buffett wouldn’t say, but contest limited to 15M people (ESPN had 11M last year. 84% out after first game. Everyone out after second round.
 - Set up bracket at church. Always wanted to be a commissioner.
 - Cam in 10th. Won by staff member that hates basketball; picked teams based on logos, teams heard of; friends attended
 - Every bracket in our office was a failure. None measured up.
 - Old Testament – no one measured up. Israel looking for a rescuer
 - And then along came Jesus
 - Matthew says, Jesus is the ONE. Matthew 1:1-2
 - Why does Jesus qualify? Matthew 4:1-11
 - Back in the wilderness; answered with Deuteronomy; perfect Jew/man
 - Heb 4:15 – tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin
 - Paul explains in Galatians 3:16

- Perfect Son of Abraham can receive and distribute the promises given to Abraham.
 - Galatians 3:8, 14
 - What is the “blessing”? Physical, material blessings
 - Justification by faith
 - Gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ***Why does this matter?*** *It wasn't just Abraham who needed a perfect son. We all needed a perfect substitute. We needed someone to live a perfect life for us in order to become a perfect payment for our sins. That person is Jesus.*
 - 1 Cor 15:22. As in Adam all die, so also in Christ, all will be made alive
 - Turn to Genesis 49

III. [Jesus is] Creation's Sovereign Savior

- Ruler and rescuer; sovereign and savior
- Genesis 49:8-10
- Before ruling, He would have to rescue. In order to rescue, He would have to pay for all of the failures of all people for all time.
- Revelation – no one worthy to take the scroll. Lion shows up as a lamb.

Application

Who do you say that Jesus is?

There is only one worthy of our love, devotion and service. It is Jesus. As we close, let's worship Him together.