

“The Book of Genesis, The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme, Genesis, Its Inspiration: According to Our Lord Jesus, Part III”

- ***Today, “Genesis and Its Inspiration: According to Our Lord Jesus Christ, Part III***
- ***Next Time: “Genesis and Its Inspiration: According to Paul”, and,***
- ***Finally, Genesis and Its Inspiration: According to Luke, and the Apostles”***

Review — Introduction to the Book of Genesis, The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme: Today, the First Theme, “Genesis and Its Inspiration: According to Our Lord Jesus Christ, Part II” God’s Revelation of His Holy & Righteous Judgment Upon Israel & Its Leaders — Who Can Doubt It?

- ***God’s Judgment Upon Israel & Its Leaders — The Lord’s Teaching***
- ***God’s Judgment Upon Israel & Its Leaders — Its Genesis Confirmation***
- ***God’s Judgment Upon Israel & Its Leaders — The Lord’s Teaching***

Matt. 23:33-36 [see parallel in Lk. 23:34-39]

33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city:

35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

Matt. 23:37-39

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

- ***Our Lord names Abel here, as the first prophet. That is a direct reference to chapter 4 of Genesis. The Lord’s purpose here in referring back to the Genesis account is the same, isn’t it, as when***

he reminded the pharisees of the creation of Adam and Eve in chapters 1 & 2. It was then as it is here, the Lord accrediting the Genesis account as true and valid and authoritative as it is the word of the living God. If the Lord did not consider the Genesis account to be true and historical, then his reference back to it would have no value as the teach there of the coming judgment would itself then also have no literal meaning and his warnings of the coming judgment on the Jews and their leaders would have no purpose at all.

- ***For completeness, we should also realize that there are other prophets that speak of the coming judgment as the Lord did here, for example, Zechariah in these memorable verses from chapter 12 of his prophetic book where in verse 10 that great prophet confirmed the truth the Lord spoke and which we have just read. These are wonderful words of promise for the Jews that would believe at the appointed time:***

Zech. 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

- ***We looked then at chapter 4 of Genesis which the Lord referenced to see what was written there and how it confirms the Lord's warnings. For there will be, according to Zechariah's prophecy here, a direct connection between the sins against God's messengers, even Christ himself by the religious leaders of the nation at the time of the crucifixion, and those living in the Great Tribulation period. For it is as stated in Mt. 23:35 & 36: "That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation." God shall not forget! The Jews shall be held accountable and especially their spiritually corrupted leaders.***

- **God's Revelation of His Holy & Righteous Judgment Upon Israel & Its Leaders — The Genesis Confirmation**

Gen. 4:1-4

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering [*meaning his offering was accepted by God — by fire most likely*].

Gen. 4:5-10

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect [*meaning his offering was not accepted by God*]. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall* be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

- ***We read there that Cain killed Abel after speaking with him. We can easily guess what that conversation might have been like, can't we? "Abel, why did God accept your sacrifice but did not receive mine, as beautiful as it was as the great work of my hands? You sacrificed our favorite animals but I brought from my gardens and fields the very best that I had. I cannot understand why my offerings were not accepted and yours were.***
- ***Finally, for there is more here to take note of, in verse 10: "And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." So Abel's blood crieth out for judgment, as it were, even from the ground. And that judgment would come, the Lord warns these pharisees now by referring back to the Genesis account.***

- ***Our conclusions:***

- ***But the heart of the teaching here by the Lord that day was regarding coming judgment upon his own people with their satanic leaders in the central focus. But there will be an elect nation the Lord will raise up during the Great Tribulation that will hear the word of the Lord, finally, praise God, but only after the tribulations of that coming seven year trial.***
- ***So, did the Lord believe that the Genesis account of Abel's martyrdom was critical and important to take literally as sacred history? He did. Judgment would come on the Jews and their leaders in the Lord's appointed time. If the Genesis account cannot be taken as the revealed word of God to be interpreted as sacred history and teaching, then his warnings here cannot be taken literally either. That is the bottom line.***

Our Outline Today: "Genesis and Its Inspiration: According to Our Lord — God's Revelation of His Holy & Righteous Judgment Upon All Mankind — Who Can Deny It?"

- ***Genesis and Its Inspiration: According to Our Lord —***
 - ***God's Revelation of His Holy & Righteous Judgment Upon All Mankind — The Lord's Teaching***
 - ***God's Revelation of His Holy & Righteous Judgment Upon All Mankind — The Genesis Confirmation***

Genesis and Its Inspiration: According to Our Lord —

I. God's Revelation of His Holy & Righteous Judgment Upon All Mankind — The Lord's Teaching:

- ***As critically important as Christ's teaching regarding Israel was, his teaching regarding the judgment coming on the entire world is even more important, especially since it included all of mankind. We will look at that as revealed to us in the Matthew 24 account.***
- ***What we will see is that the Lord is speaking to his disciples but that actually, due to the time frames that his prophetic warnings will address, it is not actually them that he is only speaking to, for they***

are “foils” though whom he speaks to those who will live in another generation yet future. And there would be a foreshadowing of his judgments that they would experience.

- *They had asked when the destruction of the temple they knew well there in Jerusalem would be accomplished. He spoke prophetically of its destruction and they asked when it would occur and what signs of its coming destruction God might give in advance, a very practical kind of question indeed. He tells them of coming signs of a judgment to come and then adds these words and refers back to the Genesis account of the Noah Flood:*

[READ] Matt. 24:34-36 [see parallel in Lk. 17:26-29]

34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. *[That is, the generation of persons that see the signs described in the earlier verses which will occur as the Lord explains, at the end of the Great Tribulation]*

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

[READ] Matt. 24:37-39

37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

- *Here the words “This generation” in verse 34 clearly refers to the generation of persons that see the signs described in the earlier verses, signs which will occur as the Lord explains, at the end of the Great Tribulation.*
- *Then, in verses 37 - 39, the Lord mentions Noah by name and also refers to the circumstances that attended to the Lord’s raising up of Noah and the flood as a universal judgment on mankind living at that time. If the Lord was not referring to the Genesis account as sacred authoritative history to be taken literally, then his analogy that further explains the coming judgment of the Tribulation and then finally the Great White Throne looses all of its power. So we must interpret his detailed description regarding Noah and his days of*

preparation and the flood's extent and its consequence for much of the life on this earth as literal including the time lines. As will see many of these details are mentioned or clearly implied in the Genesis account.

- *So it is the details of his account that as we shall see match the details of the Genesis account that give his warnings their power. DID THE LORD BELIEVE THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF THE FLOOD WAS INSPIRED AND THEREFORE TRUE AND TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY AS THE WORD OF THE LIVING GOD? HE DID! WHO CAN DOUBT IT? Let's look at the Genesis account to see what those details are:*

II. God's Revelation of His Holy & Righteous Judgment Upon All Mankind — The Genesis Confirmation:

[READ] Gen. 7:11-16

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

[READ] Gen. 7:17-24

17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

- *Notice the details included here and the language used. As we have seen, our Lord used some of those very detailed descriptions and even chose some that were the most dramatic to illustrate and support his warning found in Matt. 24. Some of those include these:*
 - *The preparation was 100 years of preaching and building of the ark but then when all was ready and the ark contained its commanded cargo (all the life the Lord God had determined to survive the flood), then immediate and rapid destruction would follow. Similarly, his teaching in Matthew was that there would be signs indicating that the time for preparations was over and the promised judgment would soon come.*
 - *The duration of judgment was given to the day implying that all was settled in the plan of God and would occur as written. Similarly, the coming worldwide judgment would occur on schedule and nothing could prevent it.*
 - *The magnitude and extent of the judgment by the flood waters is made very clear with many descriptive phrases used. The flood waters were over the tops of the mountains and covered the entire earth, for example, and consequently all air breathing animals were included in the judgment. This is not a local flood and the coming judgment the Lord predicted would not be local either but worldwide. There are even today so many evidences of the flood geologically, aren't there?*
- *So the Lord referred in those verses in Matthew to Noah and his days and the judgment of God that came on the whole of mankind except for Noah and his family. The Lord's reference to Noah is used to give additional substance, meaning, and power to his preaching about the coming worldwide judgment on all humanity.*

For if God had destroyed all in Noah's Flood, except for preserving eight souls, surely he would be willing also to judge the world again for good cause, saving only a minority as it were. Yes, God had promised never again to destroy the world by water and the rainbow was the sign of that promise, but he had not promised to never again destroy the world. And we know from the Book of Revelation that he shall — by fire!

- ***So we ask again the question, did our Lord Jesus accept Genesis as the written word of God, inspired and fully trustworthy? Yes indeed he did. There can be no question about it. God's coming judgments upon the Jews and his coming judgments on all of humanity were his final teachings in his earthly ministry leading up to his offering of himself as the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. So referring as he did to Abel's martyrdom in reference to the coming final judgment on the Jews (Abel's martyrdom being itself a prophetic type of Christ's final sacrifice) and to Noah in reference to the coming judgment on all mankind (and that also a type of Christ's eventual deliverance of all his elect), this teaching reaching far back into Genesis was central. So who can deny that he considered Genesis to be given by God and therefore inspired?***

On the other hand, as so many taught in our Lord's day or teaching in our own day, if the Genesis account of the great flood is not to be accepted as the literal and true history of the great and worldwide judgment of Almighty God on sinful men, then neither can our Lord's prophecies of coming judgment on the entire world at his second coming be so accepted. So be it. It is one or the other. Amen.

Conclusions & Application for Today:

- ***The Genesis account of the creation of all things and especially of mankind, and God's rightful authority over what he made for his honor and glory, are fundamental to the word of God. Our Lord Jesus certified its inspiration and its authenticity in his earthly ministry. They must be accepted as sacred and literal history, therefore. The additional accounts of our holy and righteous God judging his creation are likewise fundamental. Woe unto those who would tamper with these sacred truths. For apart from their foundation, the rest of the Bible crumbles and falls, including the truths of eternal redemption.***

- ***But praise God for his wonderful gifts and the truths clearly revealed in his precious word. Their foundation for our lives lays secure as he has preserved it and its spiritual power, from the beginning even until our present day. It is available, if only we would receive it! Amen.***