

***“The Book of Genesis, The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme,  
Genesis, It’s Inspiration: According to Paul, Part I”***

- ***Today, “Genesis and It’s Inspiration: According to Paul”***

**Introduction:**

- ***Paul’s ministry through his various missionary journeys and his letters to the churches he established and ministered to are filled with such exalted and heavenly truths that human words struggle to match their glory. But the Holy Spirit gave Paul “spiritual words” that were appropriate and marked by God for our salvation and our edification. Today we will consider some of those truths and those words God gave for our blessing. Paul personally was called to suffer for the Lord’s sake and so are we. In the course of life and ministry, the apostle of the Gentiles came to appreciate the full scope of meaning of those words and I will read to you now his statement of that reality from his second letter to the Corinthians. This is as fitting an introduction to our study today that I know of:***

***2 Cor. 12:1-10***

**1** It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

**2** I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

**3** And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

**4** How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

**5** Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

**6** For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but *now* I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me *to be*, or *that* he heareth of me.

**7** And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

**8** For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

**9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

- *“The abundance of revelations” are Paul’s words here for what we have the privilege of also enjoying this morning. May his grace be sufficient for us as we open his word this morning and live in the realm of that abundant grace throughout the day and days the Lord blesses us with. For that is our privilege as the apostle writes in so many ways in his letters. Now what will seem like a complete context switch (but in reality it is not), back to the subject at hand, Paul’s view on Genesis and its inspiration by Almighty God.*
- *In the entire Bible, Adam is referred to by name 31 times, 18 times in Genesis alone. Paul quotes from Genesis 15 times, 7 times in Romans alone. Eve’s name is found 4 times, 2 in Genesis and 2 in Paul’s letters. So by far, it is Paul who most often refers back to Genesis among Bible authors. Isn’t that interesting? In general, quotations and references to Genesis underscore the truth directly or indirectly that the first book of the Bible, the book of beginnings, is God-given, authoritative and sacred history, whether that history describes mankind or even the creation itself. Often fundamental doctrines are based fully or in some essential way on the Genesis account. We have seen that already in our last three studies here where we focused on the Lord’s own teachings regarding the Genesis account.*
- *So today we will look at Paul’s references to the Genesis account (and also for two more studies, Lord willing). The apostle Paul refers to the Genesis account more than any other scripture writer. Amazingly, he also refers more to what occurred BEFORE the creation accounts. You will remember the expressions “since the foundation of the world” and “before the foundation of the world”. As key example of Paul’s teaching “before the foundation of the world, consider Phil. 2:*

**[READ ] Phil. 2:3-9**

**3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

**4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.**

**5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**

**6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- *It was to Paul that heavenly affairs were communicated that directly affect our lives here as believers. I want to begin this morning by taking us to his letter to the Philippians since our focus today is primarily on Genesis, the book of beginnings, but it was revealed to Paul WHAT OCCURRED IN HEAVEN EVEN BEFORE THE BEGINNINGS RECORDED IN GENESIS WITH ITS EARLY CHAPTERS DESCRIBING THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AROUND US AND OF MANKIND IN PARTICULAR. CONSIDERING THE SEASON WE ARE ENTERING, THIS IS A MOST APPROPRIATE PLACE TO START TODAY.*
- *The incarnation is the Lord God's intersection into human affairs that Paul writes so much about. But incarnation implies pre-existence as those verses in Philippians reveal. And yet he writes in a very practical way of how these truths regarding the son of God have a significance for our day to day lives that indeed "passes human understanding".*
- *We cannot imagine anything more blessed than that the son of God entering into humanity by taking upon himself human flesh so that he might suffer the death ordained for every sinner. But as we shall begin to see today, that and many of the doctrines taught by Paul depend in a most amazing way on the revealed account of Genesis, at least for their foundation. For that reason Paul refers to Genesis more than the other Biblical authors. His teachings greatly depend on the inspiration of that account in the first book of the Bible. We shall have opportunity today to see that from Paul's letters. That we may have the mind of Christ is heavenly thinking indeed, isn't it? And yet that is exactly what Paul exhorts the Philippian believers to enjoy.*

- *In this season, celebrating that intersection of God into our human lives and experience and the theological implications of that, may we bow and worship before our Lord Jesus in a special way and see one another differently as well, even as Christ sees us and did see us even in eternity past as the plan of redemption was prepared. And then, let us consider what it meant for him today implement that plan in coming to us all as our precious Savior, as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. May our manner of thinking be like our Lord's was, as the incarnation was brought to pass and the son of God came into this world, changing it forever. Amen and amen.*

#### **Our Outline Today:**

- ***Paul's View of Genesis — The Genesis Account is Sacred History***
- ***Paul's View of Genesis — Even the Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account***

#### **Next Time:**

- ***Paul's View of Genesis — The Doctrine of Redemption is Also Based on the Creation***
- ***Paul's View of Genesis — The Doctrine of Physical Resurrection is Based on the Creation As Well***
- ***Paul's View of Genesis — The Theology of the Hebrews Letter Is Based on the Creation***

#### **I. Paul's View of Genesis — The Genesis Account is Sacred History:**

***[READ ] Col. 1:12-18***

**12** Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

**13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

**14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

**15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

**16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

**17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

**18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. [John 1:1-4 seems to be a similar type of reference]**

- *We see here how the invisible things of God are made visible and plain for human minds and hearts through Paul's words that express what can only astound us and comfort us as we see how great our Lord God truly is, in the creation, AND in his working under grace. We surely are in the very center of his working! The truth expressed in Philippians chapter 2 is at the summit of the heavenly truths of God made know to man and are connected in Paul's view to affairs here on this earth, even including the creation account found in Genesis. May we be greatly blessed as we consider these scriptures today, scriptures that are given to teach us and encourage us always.*

**[READ ] Heb. 1:1-3**

**1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

**2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

**3** Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- *These words, "image", "firstborn", "glory" and more convey profound truth regarding our redemption with the Genesis account of creationism center focus. So our eternal salvation is intimately tied even to our Lord's work in creation AND his sacrificial work on Calvary. And now he is seated at the right hand of the Father having accomplished it as the plan required. Are we encouraged, yet?*
- *We will now look at mankind's origins and how Adam and Eve are both referred to by name in multiple places:*

**1 Tim. 2:13-14**

**13** For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

**14** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

- *Eve is mention only four times in scripture, twice in Genesis and twice by Paul:*

***Gen. 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.***

***Gen. 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 Cor. 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.***

***1 Tim. 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.***

- ***Did Paul believe that Genesis was inspired and the true and authentic historical account? Yes, indeed. For he uses the names of the first man and the first woman to underscore that the Genesis account is true and authentic sacred history.***
- ***The revelation of mankind's early history goes further as Hebrews 11 makes clear: By faith Abel, ... Enoch, ... Noah are referred to by name, and then the others according to the historical accounts we know so well. Clearly the whole is history according to Paul including the references at the beginning. And we see here how foundational this is to Paul's doctrines. Astounding, but it stands revealed and we must take God at his word by faith. Amen?***
- ***Then, we see the six creative days of Genesis with the Lord's resting on the seventh as the "type" of the believer's rest - Heb. 4:1-11***

***[READ ] Heb. 4:3-5, 9-13, 16***

***3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.***

***4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.***

***5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.***

***...***

***9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.***

***10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.***

***11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.***

***12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit,***

and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**13** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

...

**16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- *There is a clear implication here that Paul considered the first two chapters of Genesis to be the inspired and historically true revelation of Almighty God — and that it provided more than the history of the beginning of God's creation but also was the basis of his godly teaching. We see this often in Paul's letters, especially in the Romans, chapters 9-11 where we have spent much time in our studies in years past.*
- *The way that the creation accounts is linked here to the word of the living God is interesting. For we also saw in the Colossian's account and then in Hebrews how the Living Word, the Son of God become flesh in the incarnation was also the creator of heaven and earth. We are therefore to be encouraged greatly seeing the current residence of our Lord Jesus at the right hand of the Father as the Victor over all enemies. Are we encouraged therefore to hold only lightly to the things of this world since their passing indicates the power of God in drawing us ever closer to him and his eternal blessing at his right hand in heaven's glory. Paul testified that he had learned that lesson, you will recall. But have we?*
- *More on this subject next time Lord willing. But let us now look at a subject that characterizes our heavenly Lord's revelation to and through Paul, the Federal Headship doctrine.*

**II. Paul's View of Genesis — Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:**

- *1 Cor. 15:45 is a good place to start with the Pauline Teaching on this subject, for (the first) Adam is a type and so is Christ who is called here the "last Adam".*

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 15:45-49**

**45** And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.

46 Howbeit that [was] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

- *This gets to the heart of the matter and so much is included here in just a few carefully chosen words of the Spirit of God.*
- *Paul also addresses the same principle in Heb. 7:9-10 reveals where Levi paying tithes in Abraham his father who is back two generations, not just one!*

**Heb. 7:7-9**

7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.

8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he *receiveth them*, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

- *Next time this subject of critical importance to our faith and our walk will be addressed more carefully. But we should finish today on this note found in Romans chapter 5:*

**[READ ] Rom. 5:14-18**

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, so *is* the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.



- *The point of our lesson today has not been to explain these verses fully. Rather, it has been to show how in Paul's mind these heavenly doctrines are founded on the revelation of God to us found in the early chapters of Genesis. Did Paul accept Genesis as the inspired and historically accurate word of the living God and included under his edict stated so simply and powerfully in 2 Timothy?*

**2 Tim. 3:14-17**

**14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;**

**15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

**16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

**Next Time:**

***Paul's View of Genesis — The Doctrines of Redemption and the Resurrection are Also Based on the Creation truths presented in Genesis!!***

**Conclusions:**

- *The accounts in Genesis meant more to the apostle Paul than we can even imagine. He found that teaching to be foundational to his doctrines revealed by Christ to him from heaven because that was Christ's revelation to him as well.*
- *To discount those teachings either by outright denial of their teachings or by reading into them some kind of fanciful so-called "spiritual" meaning without the clear intent that they are to be taken quite literally is to tamper with scripture and destroy its power. In so doing, one also destroys the Pauline doctrine as we have seen this morning in this study.*
- *Praise God for his great gift and our Savior, Jesus Christ. He has come, he has died, he has been raised having accomplished his once for all sacrifice for the sins of the world, and he is now seated at God's right hand. And as Philippians states so powerfully:*

***Phil. 2:8-11***

**8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

**9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

**10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

**11** And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***Are we encouraged?***