

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

- ***Today we will look again at Paul’s references back to the Genesis account (and also for two more studies, Lord willing). The apostle Paul refers to the Genesis account much more than any other scripture writer (15 times altogether and 7 times in Romans alone. As the prime example of Paul’s teachings, that even take us “before the foundation of the world”, we considered Phil. 2 last time which is especially appropriate for us considering the season we are now in. There the apostle writes of 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.***
- ***There in Philippians it is the incarnation of our Lord that Paul unveils to our minds and hearts BECAUSE THAT INTERSECTION OF OUR LORD GOD WITH SIN-CURSED HUMANITY HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR US FOR NOW AND ETERNALLY.***

In this season in particular, celebrating that intersection of God into our human lives and experience and considering the theological implications of that, may we bow and worship before our Lord Jesus. Indeed, in a special way we may even see one another differently as well, since Christ sees us and did see us even in eternity past as redeemed. For, as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world, he entered into humanity to take our sin and guilt fully upon himself. Therefore we are encouraged to share his same manner of thinking. Amen and amen.

Review:

- ***Paul’s View of Genesis — The Genesis Account of Creation is Sacred History. Perhaps the greatest statement of that is in his letter to the Colossians, chapter 1:***

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.

- *So 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! So Genesis is essential to our understanding of his abundant workings under grace or Paul would not have linked them as he does here. We saw the same last time in Hebrews 1:*

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. Then, we saw how Adam and Eve are both referred to by name in multiple places and also others of the patriarchs found in later Biblical history are also named.*
- *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 and the goes on to mention Abel, ... Enoch, ... Noah and then the others and their faith.*

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, in Heb. 4 Paul teaches that in the six days of creation in the Genesis account, the Lord's rest on the seventh is the "type" of the believer's rest (see Heb. 4:1-11). 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 godly teaching.*
- *We are therefore encouraged 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. The question remains: have we?*

Our Outline Today:

- ***Paul's View of Genesis — Even the Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:***
 - *Our Hope Depends on Justification Which Is Gained through Faith*
 - *Our Justification Depends On Christ's Shed Blood*
 - *Through His Blood Sacrifice Our Reconciliation Was Accomplished*
 - *Adam's Legacy is Undeniable by All, for Sin and Death Reign*
 - *Christ's Legacy Is Offered to All that Grace Might Reign*
 - *Grace Reigns Through Christ's Righteousness More than Adam's Sin*
 - *Paul's Central Doctrinal Point - Our Personal Resurrection Is Assured*

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

- ***The Federal Headship Doctrine is fundamental to our faith as we shall see. Paul writes here that so very much of our faith is based on LEGACIES. In our world our legacies are often based on the law of the land. But in Biblical terms legacies are based on the will and working of Almighty God. And when they are recorded in our language here in his word, we are to study to show ourselves approved unto God, Rightly Dividing the word of truth. So the focus here in Romans chapter 5 is on our legacies and this revelation by the hand of our apostle is of critical importance, he writes, to our living under the blessings of his abundant grace.***

Let's look today especially into Romans chapter 5, certainly one of the greatest theological sections in the Bible and Paul's letters — and perhaps the greatest. Our goal is not to explain his teaching here but rather to underscore our fundamental topic that the teaching of Paul on Federal Headship is founded on taking Genesis literally. Enjoy!

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

I. Our Hope Depends on Justification Which Is Gained through Faith:

[READ] Rom. 5:1-5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

- ***Those who have no faith, who do not take God at his word, are not therefore justified and have no real hope in the world. You will remember these words:***

Eph. 2:12 That at that time ***[before you were saved by grace through faith — verse 8]*** ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- ***But this introductory section is about our lives and how God is working out his love for us in the NOW TIME, right now, as it were. How can that relate to the Genesis account, we may well ask. Paul will now explain himself by getting to the fundamentals of our faith, and, he will necessarily go back to Genesis as we shall now see. For even God's perfect love for us cannot properly be understood apart from the truth of the Genesis account.***

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

II. Our Justification Depends On Christ's Shed Blood:

[READ] Rom. 5:6-9

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

- *Verse 9 explains how Christ's love operated as he died for us shedding his own blood for sinners such as ourselves. We have already seen our studies how Abel's shed blood at Cain's hand as described so powerfully in the Genesis account would in God's plan ultimately be held to [even reckoned or imputed to] Israel's account. What was true as God saw it should have been known by the Pharisees to whom the Lord was speaking in Matthew chapters 23 and 24.*
- *Similarly for us today, we are expected to know what stands written about Adam's sin and how that was reckoned to or imputed to our accounts. Knowing this we understand how we are desperately in need of a savior or we shall surely die with all its many implications just as Adam was told he would die after his transgression of God's explicit command. And if we take that teaching by faith we also may know of the justification also provided through the Last Adam, our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *So Adam's one act of rebellion and sin came upon all that followed — and Christ's act of righteousness similarly brought to us who have believed his act of righteousness imputed to our account cancelling Adam's sin. It was his willing act of obedience to offer himself as our all sufficient sacrifice shedding his own blood to secure our eternal redemption. Paul goes back to Genesis and to Adam here in his teaching because the Federal Headship Doctrine is seen there in its full depth and power.*

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

III. Through His Blood Sacrifice Our Reconciliation Was Accomplished:

[READ] Rom. 5:10-11

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

- ***Now Paul adds that our reconciliation to the holy God was also part of his finished work. Through the death of God's son for us and for our sins, WHEN we were enemies in every way, we have obtained eternal redemption and reconciliation with Almighty God. He adds that this is the fullest proof of his love, that we might live together with him, now and always!***
- ***So that death not only cancelled our guilt and our sin, it also provides MUCH MORE, for he writes here that we shall be saved by his life or through his ongoing living [in us]. And so we rejoice, whatever our circumstances.***

Now to the explanation of all of this. The next verses are so very important for our understanding. And we must go back to Adam to see it!

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

IV. Adam's Legacy is Undeniable by All, for Sin and Death Reign:

[READ] Rom. 5:12-14

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

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.

- ***Now Paul gives the essence of this teaching. Even before the Law was given through Moses, when, he writes, sin was not imputed because there was no law to condemn ones disobedience, death reigned over all of humanity. So it was not personal sin that brought death ("the wages of sin are death"), but rather Adam's sin that had been imputed to all Adam's descendants. Therefore, he writes, "all have sinned (in Adam)".***
- ***This is Federal Headship indeed and it is established by all dying, he writes. So the Genesis account it true and critically important to Paul's teaching, and, he implies, it should be the same for us. One man, Adam brought sin and death to all. Similarly, Christ, as Federal Head, even "the last Adam", brings in righteousness and with it life eternal for all who have believed. Amen.***

- *A nice table that well communicates this is found in Thomas Constable's (and Newell, etc.), "Notes on Romans". The verses of our focus today are found in chapter 5, verses 12-21:*

Contrasts in Romans 5:12-21 [360]		
Two men	Adam (v. 14)	Christ (v. 14)
Two acts	One trespass in the garden (vv. 12, 15, 17, 18, 19)	One righteous act on the cross (v. 18)
Two results	Condemnation, guilt, and death (vv. 15, 16,	Justification, life, and kingship (vv. 17, 18, 19)
Two differences		
• In degree (v. 15)	Sin abounds	Grace super-abounds
• In operation (v. 16)	One sin by Adam resulting in condemnation and the reign of death for all	Many sins on Christ resulting in justification and reigning in life for believers
Two kings	Sin reigning through death (v. 17)	Grace reigning through righteousness (v. 21)
Two abundances		Of grace (v. 17)
		Of the gift of righteousness (v. 17)
Two contrasting states	The condemned are slaves of sin by Adam	The justified may reign in life by Christ

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

V. Christ's Legacy Is Offered to All that Grace Might Reign:

[READ] Rom. 5:15-19

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.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

- *Seven contrasts and similarities are listed here if we consider them closely. They are: Two men / two acts / two results / two differences / two kings with their realms of authority / two abundances / two contrasting conditions or states. This is the heart of Paul's teaching, isn't it? The subject is that of man and whether God sees him as righteous or not, whether he is "in Christ" or still "in Adam". What has been imputed or counted as true and real from the Lord God's perspective?*
- *Our purpose here is not to further explain this teaching, but to see that apart from Adam and the God-revealed history scripture presents, there is no possibility of comprehending the essence of our redemption, whether that be regarding our forgiveness, our justification, our reconciliation or our life. It all goes back to Adam.*

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

VI. Grace Through Christ's Righteousness Reigns More than Adam's Sin:

[READ] Rom. 5:20-21

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

- *And then there is the word "more", grace did "much more" abound. Verses 9, and 17 says much more, and verse 20 says the same. Yes, sin abounded and who can in their right mind deny it. But much more, grace did super-abound!! And we who receive that abundant grace offered freely, may abound in this life "reigning" over sin and death that still reigns around and in us.*
- *There is no stronger statement of the purpose of the law given anywhere in scripture than here in verse 20. But so many are blinded to this truth that is so essential to understanding the*

abundance of grace revealed through Paul. So many ignore this letter and indeed all of Paul's letters to their own peril.

- *For it is the divine prerogative to impute Adam's sin to all that follow after him — and to impute or count Christ's act of righteous obedience to the Father's will to all who will believe this gospel and take God at his word through Paul. So our entire salvation is dependent on the Genesis account and Paul's understanding as revealed here.*
- *But there is even more taught here in this passage. Even our resurrection is assured based on the Genesis account:*

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

VII. Paul's Central Doctrinal Point - Our Personal Resurrection Is Assured:

- *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.*
- *So we see here that our resurrection hope is also firmly founded on Adam and the Genesis account, so that Paul here mentions again Adam by name. In Adam all became sinners and that guilt warranted eternal judgment and separation from Almighty God and his presence forever. But in Christ his imputed single act of righteousness in offering himself freely for our sins once and for all has secured our redemption and our resurrection to glory. The chapter therefore ends where it started, with our peace and our rest*

firmly based on the deliverance from the bondage to sin and death inherited from our Federal Head, Adam. Under the realm of our Federal Head, Christ Jesus, we have been set free to enjoy the abundant liberty only available through Jesus Christ.

Yes, there are tribulations in this life due to our frail frames inherited also from Adam. But in the Last Adam we shall be fashioned in his very image. Praise God for his abundant grace. Amen.

Conclusions:

- ***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?***
- ***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 Galatians summarizes it so powerfully:***

Gal. 2:19-21

19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Next Time:

- ***Paul's View of Genesis — The Theology of the Hebrews Letter Is Based on the Creation***