

***“The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme in Genesis —
The Genesis Themes and Their Consequences for Pauline Doctrine”***

Review: “The Heart of the Matter, the Provision of a Substitute”

***Our Outline Today: “The Heart of the Matter, the Provision of a Substitute and the
Scarlet Thread of Redemption”***

Last Time:

- ***The Example of Adam — Sin Enters the World But God Offers Hope***
- ***The Example of Abel — An Animal Sacrifice Makes the Difference***
- ***The Example of Seth — Even His Name Foreshadows the Coming Substitute***
- ***The Example of Noah — True Worship Revolves Around the Altar***
- ***The Example of Abraham — From Beginning to End, Only God is Worthy***
- ***The Example of Isaac — A Quiet Life Demonstrates God’s Heart of Blessing***
- ***The Example of Jacob — The Altar Testifies of a Transformed Life***

Today — Our Final Study on Genesis and Its Themes:

Outline for Today: The Genesis Themes and Their Consequences for Pauline Doctrine:

The Transgression, The Promise; The Fire; The Judgment; The Calling; The Suffering; The Mark; The Glory — What Makes the Difference for You?

- ***The Transgression — The Fault and Its Consequence***
- ***The Promise — God’s Response***

Next Times:

- ***The Fire — The Proof***
- ***The Judgment — Sin’s Consequence***
- ***The Calling — The Election***
- ***The Suffering — The Process***
- ***The Mark — The Testimony***
- ***The Glory — The Reward***

Rom. 15:4-6

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

6 That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Often in teaching I am looking at each one and seeking a response by the questions I am asking. But sadly, so often I do not see a recognition in those faces of an understanding of what I have said. This is disappointing but more importantly, it leads me to wonder what the scripture means to those that are heading it. Is that word getting into the hearts, for if it is, then there should be some response. My favorite scriptures, if I dare to speak of them that way, with the list of favorites getting longer every week it seems, are not theirs, it would appear, and may not have even been considered seriously at all by some.

Be that as it may, if the tables are turned and they share their favorites, would they agree at all with mine. That would be a good question. Well, what is important is that there are favorites buried in each of our hearts and it is those that the Lord has already used to draw us, to encourage us, to strengthen us, and to comfort of along life's journey...

My goal for you today is this: That some of these scriptures we read and discuss would become near and dear to you like they have been for me for over 50 years. May it be so.

By the way, I have left off the creation account from our subject today and for two more Sunday mornings because it is not about the Lord God's direct dealings with humanity and his redemptive plan. But as you know, it is a truly fundamental teaching of Genesis and of the Bible as a whole. "Genesis" means in Latin "the beginning", whether that is of all things, of mankind, or something more specific such as sin and death.

I. The Transgression:

- *"That we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope". In those words the apostle Paul makes a statement that should stake to the root of our understanding of God and his ways with rebellious and sinful man. Without these scriptures and the truth contained in them we are "most miserable", as he wrote elsewhere. No wonder many believers of our current day are running to and fro and captured by every kind of lie and deception. They increasingly do not have God's word.*

Some of the earliest reformers learned that well, for the enemy

struck them down as martyrs because they held the scriptures high when possessing a Bible was a capital crime. Remember archbishop Cranmer, burned at the stake in Oxford, England, or Tyndale, hung and burned near Brussels, Belgium, or Savonarola, hung and burned in Florence, Italy, or so many others, as Hebrews 11 lists them. They all held the scripture high and in it and through it alone ultimately, did they have their hope in Almighty God.

This brings me back today to the Genesis account and how influential that has been in my life. Without it much of the rest of scripture would seem to be without foundation. Now that is a significant turn indeed.

- ***The Genesis Account:***

[READ] Gen. 3:6, 12-13

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

...

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

- ***For me personally, this account in Genesis chapter 3 has been transformational, firstly because it spoke to my heart so many times in my years of wandering, seeking the truth, but often in the wrong places.***
- ***But what is revealed here is not what one can learn through secular, human history, no matter how well studied and written it may be. For this is the sacred history preserved for our edification of how sin came into a “good” and “perfect” world that the Lord God had made with his two highest creations, Adam and Eve in the very center focus. Unfortunately they were in Lucifer’s central focus as well. And he does his damage through temptation, first of Eve and then using Eve to reach Adam’s heart. The results were devastating, creating a tear in the original creation that affected ultimately everything, including the very creation itself.***

What is the Pauline focus on this, though, and where does the apostle focus?

- ***The Pauline Teaching:***

1 Tim. 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

[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.

- ***Every line here is filled with meaning that only Paul shares with all of us. But I only want to look at one aspect of it today, as it was where I started so many years ago now, verses 12 & 13: “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 ... 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.”***
- ***So the apostle of the Gentiles, Paul, found in Genesis 3 the basis for his doctrine on imputed sin and then in Romans 5-7 founded his doctrine of imputed righteousness through Christ's finished work on that foundational teaching.***
- ***The teachings of Paul on grace and its foundational teachings are therefore based directly on the Genesis revelation regarding Adam's sin and its consequences.***
- ***For me this teaching in Romans is transformational. Without it Christianity is assumed into another religion and probably another sect in Judaism. With it Christianity is so much more than another religion — it is life, peace, and joy.***

- *In these next verses he explains how that can be:*

[READ] Rom. 5:17-21

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.

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.

- *So grace reigning in our lives is, he writes here, dependent on our understanding of the imputed righteousness of Christ Jesus on our accounts whereby we stand complete in him, our risen savior.*
- *This teaching transformed my life five decades ago and still does today. That what was accomplished once and for all made such a difference to the Lord God that he could look upon a wretched sinner such as myself as not condemned but as justified! And to take that to heart then enables me to live victoriously in the heavenly realm of his abundant grace. Praise Almighty God. What a gift. What a gift.*
- *So as Paul teaches here, from the Lord God's point of view (and isn't that what is truly important here, how God sees things), is that Adam's sin brought sin into the human race and death through sin. This is Federal Headship. We have looked into it before at some length. It is a fundamental teaching of the apostle's and without it we would be suffering a loss so great that I cannot even imagine it. Without it my own thinking would be back where it was when I was 24 years old and seeking truth but not finding it.*
- *God saw the human race "in Adam" and "through Adam" as head. Once he had fallen into rebellion and sin that brokenness came to all his offspring that now instead of being in the image of God were brought into this world in the image of Adam their father (Gen. 5:3). They also possessed a nature of sin within whereas Adam was created without that as pure and good indeed.*

- *This is critical teaching. For apart from it we cannot understand how we can be called “righteous” when we are in fact still sinners. And all the gracious exhortations that are based on this teaching are so often turned into exhortations that have no place in the realm of grace within in which in fact we dwell today under the fullness of God’s completed work thorough Jesus Christ.*

For Federal Headship brings the righteousness of Christ in dying for our sins and his glorious resurrection to all of us who are now “in Christ” and no longer “in Adam” — from God’s point of view. This teaching has been transformational for me and it is foundational for understanding chapters 6 through 8 of the Romans. Praise God for this teaching here. Amen?

- *Then we come to “the promise”:*

II. The Promise:

- *The Genesis Account:*

Gen. 3:14-15

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- *The promise is for the seed of the woman to bring deliverance; then the people of the seed, also called the seed of the promise ... then, finally, the family and nation, then the promised Seed of the Woman himself.*

Acts 13:23 Of this man's seed hath God according to [his] promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

- *So Paul preached in the beginning of his missionary journey that God had fulfilled that promise at least in part, for God had sent into this sin cursed world his only begotten son. And, he had accomplished the foundational purpose of dying for our sins, suffering our punishment, and then being raised gloriously from the dead and finally ascending back into heaven’s glory.*

- *But there are more consequences revealed in Genesis and then on the rest of scripture of this seed promise. We have looked at them in detail here and will not continue this today — more next time Lord willing.*
- *But the Pauline teaching on this has been transformational for me for so long I must touch on it here now:*
- *The Pauline Teaching:*

Gal. 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

- *Note here that the entire teaching rests on a singular/plural, so-called “collective” noun.*
- *We need to conclude from this verse 16 that much essential teaching rests on a single word! When we read this don’t we get the sense that Paul alone perhaps was given a more complete understanding of those Old Testament scriptures than others had been. I suspect that the common teaching of his day was that the nation of Israel fulfilled that promise and that any other interpretation was incorrect.*

But Paul stands firm and his entire doctrine of the risen savior depends on it. The Seed of the Woman promise is not a promise regarding the nation that would come out of Jacob and his sons in due time. It is a promise to Satan that he would eventually in God’s timing be destroyed though he would be allowed to attack all of Adam’s offspring including the faithful. His attacks seem to us unrelentless and destructive. They are, but his days are numbered.

- *This promise concerning the Seed was supplemented in due time as we have seen here in our studies by calling out Abraham and then expanding the promises to his son Isaac, Jacob, and then the twelve tribes that came from his sons. Finally an elect nation will be formed in the coming Great Tribulation.*
- *But without the Seed of the Woman (singular and specific and exclusive), pointing to the one Messiah, the one Savior, the one Redeemer, the one coming King, there cannot be any authentic promises of Almighty God to any of those ever widening groups of faithful ones that we have considered so carefully here on Sunday*

mornings. Praise God for that Seed the Apostle Paul identifies so powerfully here in Gal. 3:16 with these words: “He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ”. Paul’s teaching there changed by life and ministry so long ago, realizing that even seemingly small details of God’s revealed word make all the difference. So we need to be focused on the scripture carefully and honorably, taking God at his word and receiving it always even though we may very well feel that a full understanding of it is still waiting our future teaching. The spirit of God is our teacher ultimately, always though using his revealed word as the foundation. The revelatory work of the spirit of God that brought us the scriptures through the prophets and the apostles has ceased entirely, but his teaching of and through that word continues today. Amen.

Conclusions / Application:

Our Subject Today: The Genesis Themes and Their Consequences for Pauline Doctrine — What Makes the Difference for You?

I shared this morning some scriptures from Genesis and then Paul that the oLd has used to make the difference in my life and to focus my studies down through nearly a half century of Biblical teaching. What makes the difference to you?

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