

The Forest of Genesis 2014-05-21

Gen 3:6 & 15, 12:2-3

Gen 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Gen 12:2-3

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

We started studying Genesis in January 2015 with the living God/creation/Garden of Eden....73 messages later we ended with a dead man in his grave....picture of the condition of man & outcome of sin.

- Not attempt go thru all beginnings/1st, many doctrines/topics revealed in Genesis
 - Summary statement: Genesis tells us who God is, who we are & foreshadows God's solution to our greatest problem...sin.
 - 1. Gen tells us who God is. Gen 1:1, Heb 11:3, Jn 1:1-3.....1st message was 1 verse.
 - Eternal, all-powerful Creator who spoke universe into existence from nothing.
 - A personal God who communicates with the people He created.
 - He is sovereign/providential in all history, life...over great & small/insignificant things.
 - Chooses His servants according to grace, not human merit.....*sets the bar low.*
 - Man will never thwart the will of God, but He can fulfill it, even in our messes/sin.
 - Holy & His holiness requires His hatred of sin & demands its punishment.
 - 2. Genesis tells us who we are. Gen 1:27, 3:4-7
 - encouraging: Created in God's image (every human treated w/respect)
 - sober reality: totally corrupted by sin & unable to do anything on our own about our alienation from God due to our sin.
- Gen 3:1-6 gives meaning to the rest of the Bible & all of life/history.
- Evil is not from something/someone "out there" but within our hearts.
 - Sin begins in heart & works out thru thoughts, words, actions.
 - Saw ourselves: Adam & Eve's sin, Joseph's brothers cruelty, Abraham's deceit, Sarah's unbelief.
 - However, human inadequacy, failure, sin is met by God's intervention, sufficiency, redemption.

- BUT GOD.....forgave/transformed/used/blessed really messed up people who deserved destruction.
 - Salvation is not based on man's faithfulness/goodness/works but God's grace.
3. Gen foreshadows God's solution to our greatest problem, sin. 3:15, 12:2-3
- Loving promises of a coming Savior in protevangelium & Abrahamic Covenant (justified by faith on basis of grace) ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ's death
 - Before Jesus Christ came, faith looked **forward** to promised Savior. Since Jesus Christ, faith looks **back** to Savior who came. Rom 3:23-26, 4:3
 - Foreshadowed how He would provide redemption (payment of penalty for our sin) thru life, death & resurrection of Jesus Christ in many people/events ("types").
 - seed of woman, Adam & Eve covering, Abel's acceptable offering, ark, Melchizedek, offering up of Isaac, Jacob's ladder, life of Joseph, etc..

Gen tells us who God is: which confronts us with our need to submit to Him.

- Who we are: sinners by nature, alienated from God in need of redemption.
 - God's solution: life, death, resurrection of seed of Eve/Abe/Isaac/Jacob/Judah= Jesus Christ
 - Genesis graphically portrays the effects of sin on the human race but because of the cross, God's grace is greater than our sin. *Ps 103:10*
- If you have traveled this 2.5 year. journey but still are an unbeliever, then you've enjoyed the trees but missed the majesty of the forest. Share Gospel