

# Week 01: Intro & Jesus in Creation

## Jesus on Every Page

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### Summary

- Subject(s):** Introduce purpose of the class - cursory overview of the Old Testament scriptures, and the understanding that the ENTIRE Old Testament is alluding to, foreshadowing, prefiguring, and directly about Jesus Himself. This is how Jesus explained the 'scriptures' to His disciples, and then gave examples to them on numerous occasions, and thereafter how the Apostles explained and expounded upon the Old Testament scriptures to show that Jesus was the Christ.
  - This is not at all an exhaustive study through the Old Testament literature, but rather an overall concept and tools to understand the overall layout, major themes and imagery, and to help make sense of the Old Testament in general, and some difficult passages in particular.
  - This is not an intentional apologetic for any specific eschatological viewpoint, however, my understanding of the biblical theology of the "gospel of the kingdom" will be a part of our studies, as I don't know how to make sense of the entirety of the biblical narrative outside of it.
- Topic or Unit of Study:** Introduction to the idea of the purpose of the Old Testament writings, and to specifically begin our study with Jesus in the creation events.
- Grade/Level:** This is intended to be a laymen course. Entry level study without any special theological training or background needed. There will be some word study, terminology, and cultural background ideas that will be covered, but the goal is to keep all of the content as easily accessible as possible for everyone.
- Objective:** Help demonstrate and unpack a Christocentric lens through which to read and understand the writings of the Old Testament scriptures so that as disciples of our Great God & Savior Jesus Christ, we might learn to see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and worship Him all the more for the rest of our days.
- Time Allotment:** 45-50 Minutes

## Creating a Biblical Framework for Reading the O.T.

### Broad Context Overview:

Most of us have been part of churches and even Sunday school groups that have spoken of stories from the Old Testament in the same way: they are moral stories for us to learn a moral lesson from. Whether they were meant to show positives in historical narratives to strive for, like the bravery & faith of David standing up to Goliath, or to show negatives of those same historical figures, like David's failings with Bathsheba, as cautionary tales of things to stay away from; the focus was always on the character in the story and how they relate to US.

It was always about ME. What am I supposed to get out of this? What's in it for ME?

But is that the point? Is that what the Holy Spirit had in mind when He inspired and carried along our ancient fathers in the faith to put these words of His down and to supernaturally protect and preserve them throughout the millenia for us to have here today? Or do you think that perhaps there is a better, larger, and much more glorious reason that all of these words of our great God have been written down and kept for us, even to this day?

Thankfully for us, we don't have to go too far to get the answer to this question. Jesus answers it in many places in the New Testament accounts. Jesus, when being hassled by some of the Jews of His day regarding healing a man on the Sabbath, explains to them what the Old Testament is ACTUALLY about. In **John 5:39 & 46**, Jesus says, "*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,....For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.*"

Then again, after His resurrection while walking with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, in **Luke 24:25-27 & 44**, Jesus says, "*And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself...Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*

This is the framework for this study and the next 10 weeks of classes: looking at the various ways in which Jesus is written about in ALL of the scriptures! So this week, for our first class and dive into these new waters, we'll be taking a look at discovering **Jesus in the Creation**.

***“We do not start at Genesis 1 and work our way forward until we discover where it is all leading. Rather we first come to Christ, and He directs us to study the Old Testament in light of the gospel. The gospel will interpret the Old Testament by showing us its goal and meaning.” - Graeme Goldsworthy***

Why do we read the creation account the way that we do? Why do we see it mostly as a scientific text, rather than a theological text? Do I mean that we should not understand the account of creation in Genesis as direct or literal? Certainly not. Rather, we should approach this portion of God’s words to us in sacred scripture the same as we would the latter portions of the same book: with the expectation of finding Jesus there and deriving the meaning of these texts from the explanation given by our Lord and His Apostles.

Jesus said that the ENTIRE Old Testament was written about Him. Specifically that Moses wrote about Him. That includes, and of necessity begins with the creation account. The Apostle John writes in his gospel account John 1:1-3, that, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”*

Later in our scriptures, the Apostle Paul says it this way in his letter to the Colossians 1:15-17, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

I’d like to propose that before we begin to look at the creation of all the world and universe as we know it, that we look at it through the lens of Jesus: with the intended purpose and design of REDEMPTION.

The fall of mankind and the resultant need for our redemption and reconciliation to God was not an accident or something that caught God off guard; but instead, was something that was part of His decree, and as I believe we will see as we dive deeper into these passages, an integral part of His design of all of creation from the very start.

## The Arrangement of Redemption

1. The plan of redemption was established & decreed BEFORE there was a creation
  - a. **Eph. 1:4** - *"...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him."*
  - b. **Rev. 13:7b-8** - *"And authority was given it (the Beast) over every tribe and people and language and nation, & all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain."*
  - c. The plan of redemption and salvation was NOT an after-thought once mankind fell in the garden. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created the world with a view already to redeem it. Therefore, when we read of the creation account, we should see it as being cast into or upon the backdrop of redemption.
  - d. \*Teaser: If you want to hear more about this point in particular, be sure to be here for our sermon next Sunday!

## The Arena of Redemption

1. The design of all creation is the "set and stage" of the plan of redemption being played out.
  - a. **Jonathan Edwards** writes that this world, *"was doubtless created to be a stage upon which this great and wonderful work of redemption should be transacted."* - *A History of the Work of Redemption, p. 534*

## The Aim of Redemption

1. The bible consistently uses creation language to point to and describe the nature of our salvation, and that our restoration to the original creation is the intent.
  - a. **Col. 3:10** - *"and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."*
  - b. **2 Cor. 5:17** - *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*
  - c. **Rev. 1:6** - *"and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

## The Accessories of Redemption

1. God has made all of the varied plants and animals of creation as visual aids to help explain the nature of our salvation.
  - a. **John 10:11** - *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*
  - b. **Matt. 6:25-27** - *“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”*
  - c. **Matt. 19:24** - *“Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”*
  - d. **Song 2:1** - *“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.”*
  - e. **John 4:11-14** - *“The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

## The Assistants of Redemption

1. The angels were created to be ministering spirits for those who would be heirs of salvation.
  - a. **Heb. 1:14** - *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?”*
  - b. **Mark 1:13** - *“And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.”*
  - c. **Luke 22:43** - *“And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.”*

## The Advance of Redemption

1. God created in a logical and specific order on purpose, as a foreshadow of how the plan of salvation would progress and play out over time.
  - a. **2 Cor. 5:17** - *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*
  - b. **Eph. 2:10** - *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*
  - c. **Gen. 1:2** - *“And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.””*
    - i. **Acts 12:24** - *“But the word of God increased and multiplied.”*
  - d. **Gen. 1:3** - *“And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”*
    - i. **2 Cor. 4:6** - *“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*
  - e. **Gen. 1:4** - *“And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.”*
    - i. **1 Thes. 5:5** - *“For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.”*
    - ii. **1 John 2:7-10** - *“Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.”*
  - f. **Gen. 1:11** - *“And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.”*
    - i. **Gal. 5:22-23** - *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*
    - ii. **Luke 1:41-42** - *“And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!””*
    - iii. **John 12:24** - *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”*

- iv. **1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-43, 48-49** - “But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body....So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power....As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”
- g. **Gen. 1:27** - “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
- i. **Rom. 8:28-29** - “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
- ii. **Col. 3:10** - “and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”
- h. **Gen. 1:28-31** - “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”
- i. **Rom. 16:20** - “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”
- ii. **Eph. 1:3** - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,”
- iii. **Heb. 2:6-9** - “It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

## The Analogy of Redemption

1. The New Testament confirms that God created Adam as a representative man, like a “one for all” man for all of mankind.
  - i. **Rom. 5:12-21** - *“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
  - ii. **1 Cor. 15:21-22** - *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

## The Advantages of Redemption

1. The rest of the Sabbath in Genesis points forward to the rest of salvation and the rest we will have in eternity.
  - a. **Matt. 11:28** - *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*
  - b. **Heb. 4:1-12** - *“Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’” although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” 5 And again in this passage he said, “They shall not enter my rest.” 6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*
  - c. **Rev. 14: 13** - *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!””*
2. The marriage of the first man & woman in Genesis point forward to the marriage of Christ and His church in the garden of the new Jerusalem!
  - a. **Eph. 5:24-27** - *“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.””*

- b. **Rev. 19:9** - “And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

### The Apex of Redemption

1. A part of the dwelling place for those who are redeemed was created in the beginning along with the earth.
  - a. **Matt. 25:34** - “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”
  - b. **Col. 1:16** - “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

### The Author of Redemption

1. More than giving us ammunition for debates about creation versus evolution, the creation account tells us about our creator Himself. It tells us that He is powerful, He is wise, and ultimately and sovereignly, He is good.
  - a. **Gen. 1:20-22, 29** - “And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”  
21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth....And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.”
  - b. **Gen. 1:22, 28** - “And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth....And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
  - c. **Gen. 2:3** - “So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.”

## The Application of Redemption

“Jesus made all the arrangements for redemption at the creation.”

He planned it. He designed the arena. He created humanity in such a way that we would better understand what we ought to be and can be through His work of new creation. He has furnished us with multiple visual aids that provide us with daily sermons. He has sent angels to serve those who are and who will be heirs of salvation. He designs the stages of redemption to illustrate and explain the way salvation progresses in the soul. He set up Adam as a representative man, who sadly chose death, so that we will grasp Jesus’ representative work that brings life. He institutes marriage and the Sabbath to underline that salvation is about relationship and rest. He prepares a heavenly kingdom to house all His saved ones. He has done it all. He is so, so good.”

## Materials & Resources

**Reading Rainbow Tip:** If anyone wants to do some reading on their own about these topics as we move through this content over the next several weeks, here are some recommendations for resources to help further dig into details and explain at greater length some of these items we have merely touched on this morning:

- a. *Jesus on Every Page* - *David Murray*
- b. *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses* - *Vern Poythress*
- c. *The Scriptures Testify About Me* - *D.A. Carson*
- d. *A History of the Work of Redemption* - *Jonathan Edwards*
- e. *Biblical Typology* - *Vern Poythress*

## Study Questions:

1. Before you read this chapter, what did you think Genesis 1 - 2 was all about?
2. This chapter focuses on how the creation was created *by* Christ. In what ways was it created *for* Him? (Hint: Col. 1:16)
3. We saw how reading Genesis 1 - 2 through the eyes of the original readers, the Israelites, helps us understand why these words were written. Try to do the same with other narratives in Genesis, then in Exodus, and other books. How does it change the way you understand the scriptures?
4. In what way is creation a redemptive event?
5. How does understanding the original creation of the world help us understand the purpose of salvation, often presented as a new creation?
6. What other creatures and objects did Jesus make to teach us about Himself and His salvation?
7. In what ways do angels serve you as an heir of salvation?
8. Consider the order of creation and describe how it parallels the advance of salvation in your soul?
9. Explain how you experience salvation as (A) a Sabbath and (B) a marriage?
10. What does the Lord reveal about Himself through His creation?
11. In what ways do you show that you've been created by Jesus and for Jesus?