

# Birds Eye View of Genesis, Session 1

## Proposition

John 17:1-3 is a good place to begin.

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17:1-3*

God sent His Son to reconcile the world to Himself, so that He might have a people for His own sake. To "know" the only true God implies that one must be made right before Him and in that righteousness, enter into restored communion with his Creator. The means by which we can "know Him" is the revelation of His Son, the living Word, which is brought to our hearts by God's Spirit, through the written Word.

We believe in its totality, the central, undergirding theme of the Scriptures is the person and work of Jesus Christ. Although the OT saints may not have known the name Jesus, they were convinced of God's promise of the seed of a woman who would come, anointed of God, to destroy the works of the serpent that cast the world into sin.

God's chief purpose in creation is to manifest His glory by creating and redeeming a people for His own sake.

## Presuppositions

First, central theme of all scripture is the person and the work of Jesus Christ...

Second, that all scripture is inspired by God...

Third, that God used means to give us the Scriptures...

*Irving Jensen in his "Survey of the Old Testament posed these further presuppositions...*

"God always acts in conformity to His nature

"All history is in God's sovereign control

"Israel was God's divinely called and favored nation

"God wanted to use Israel as His channel of communication to the rest of the world

"Redemption is the key subject of the Old Testament revelation

"The Old Testament constantly points forward to the coming Savior and King, who is Jesus Christ

"Miracles in Old Testament times were one of God's ways to reveal Himself

"There is a progression of revelation in the Bible

"The Old Testament is God's voice to us today, ancient as the book is."<sup>1</sup>

## Bible Categories

One commentary<sup>2</sup> charted, in a sermonical way the Christological view for each of the Bible's categories.

**Law**, The foundation is laid for Christ

**History**, Preparation for Christ

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<sup>1</sup> Jensen, Irving L, and Samuel J Schultz. 1995. *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament*. Chicago Moody Publishers, 42-47.

<sup>2</sup> Geisler, Norman L. (1977) 2005. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Twenty-ninth. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 21-24.

**Poetry,** Aspiration for Christ is expressed

**Prophecy,** The expectation of Christ

**Gospels,** The manifestation of Christ

**Acts,** The propagation of Christ

**Epistles,** The interpretation and application of Christ

**Revelation,** The consummation of all things in Christ

## The Books of the Law

“The first five books of the Bible lay the foundation for the coming of Christ in that God here effects the *election* (Genesis), *redemption* (Exodus), *sanctification* (Leviticus), *direction* (Numbers) and the *instruction* (Deuteronomy) of the Jewish people through whom He will bring into the world its two most treasured gifts, the Living Word (Christ) and the Written Word (Scripture). It is the foundation for this task which is laid by God in the first five books of the Old Testament.”<sup>3</sup>

## Authorship

### Readers

The Torah was given to the nation of Israel who had been delivered from bondage in Egypt. In particular, it was given in its entirety to the second generation that came out of Egypt.

## Genesis

“Genesis is not so much a history of man as it is the first chapter in the history of the *redemption* of man. As such, Genesis is a highly selective spiritual interpretation of history. Genesis is divided into four great events (1-11) and four great people (12-50).

“The four great events: (1) Creation, (2) Fall, (3) Flood, (4) Nations.

“The four great people: (1) Abraham, (2) Isaac, (3) Jacob, (4) Joseph.”<sup>4</sup>

## Creation, 1-2:4a

### In the beginning, God...

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

QUESTION: Why do you suppose Moses, inspired by the Holy Spirit made no attempt to argue for the existence of God, specifically one God?

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 21.

<sup>4</sup> Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. 1983. *Talk thru the New Testament*. Nashville: T. Nelson, 8-9.

"Moses, in simple, nonscientific terms, states that God supernaturally created all things in the universe. He did not use any preexistent matter, but created the earth and the universe out of nothing."<sup>5</sup>

*By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:3*

## Order out of Chaos

Figure 1<sup>6</sup>

Days 1-3	Days 4-5
<b>Day 1:</b> Creation of light & limitation of darkness (1:4-5)	<b>Day 4:</b> Lights created: sun, moon, stars (1:14-19)
<b>Day 2:</b> Creation of sky (heavens) by separation of the waters (1:6-9)	<b>Day 5:</b> Birds and sea creatures created (1:20-23)
<b>Day 3:</b> Creation of dry land by limiting sea; creation of vegetation (1:10-13)	<b>Day 6:</b> Domesticated animals, insects, wild animals created; man created in image of God (1:24-31)
<b>Day 7</b>	
God rests from his creative work (2:1-3)	

## Creation for a Purpose

Only in our union with Christ can we be united with our holy God and Creator.

Only in our union with Christ can we do the good works for which we have been created (Ephesians 2:10).

I suggest that even before man's fall, God's intent for man was not only a created being that would bow before Him. I suggest that God's intent, even before the fall was a CREATED and REDEEMED man, in union with His Son to stand before Him in holiness and without blame.

I suggest that redemption through His Son has always been at the heart of God's purpose for creation.

God rejoices in His Son!

## Fall, 2:4b-6:8

### God's tender care, 2:4b-25

"Throughout the first unit of this account of creation the name of "God" (Elohim) is used... whereas beginning at chapter 2:4b the composite name "Lord God" (or "Jehovah God" in the asv) occurs. The former word portrays God in His relationship to the universe and all contained therein as the great Creator. The latter term speaks of God in His relationship to mankind as the One who lovingly cares and provides for them. While human beings appear only toward the end of the account in Genesis 1, it is immediately clear that they are the center of interest beginning with chapter 2:4b."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Paul. N. Benware, *Survey of the Old Testament*, Everyman's Bible Commentary Series (Chicago: Moody Press, 1993), 30.

<sup>6</sup> Baylis, Albert H. 1996. *From Creation to the Cross : Understanding the First Half of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 29.

<sup>7</sup> Samuel J. Schultz and Gary V. Smith, *Exploring the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), 15.

## Sin Enters the World, 3

"In the literary treasures of the ancient Near East no close parallel to the Fall narrative of Genesis 3 appears. This is not altogether unexpected. No fall was possible in pagan mythology because man was created evil by evil gods. He never experienced a state of innocence from which to fall. The situation, however, is quite different in the Bible. The Fall of man from an original state of purity is the silent hypothesis of the whole Biblical doctrine of sin and redemption.<sup>1</sup> The historicity of Genesis 3 is vital to the Christian view."<sup>8</sup>

### Serpent

### Deception

Chronologically, Eve ate first; but theologically Adam is declared to be the original sinner. He was the head of the race and was responsible for its actions."<sup>9</sup>

Figure 2<sup>10</sup>

	<b>Knowing Good and Evil</b>	
	Through Omniscience God Knows Good and Evil	
<b>BEFORE THE SIN</b>	TREE OF KNOWLEDGE	<b>AFTER THE SIN</b>
Awareness of Evil		Experience of Evil
Innocence		Guilt
Access to the Tree of Life		No Access to Tree
Fellowship with God		Broken Fellowship
Life		Death

## Judgment & Promise

The Woman (3:16)

The Man (3:17–19)

The Serpent (3:14–15)

<sup>1</sup> H. Bavinck, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, s.v. "Fall," II, 1092.

<sup>8</sup> James E. Smith, *The Pentateuch*, 2nd ed., Old Testament Survey Series (Joplin, MO: College Press Pub. Co., 1993), 65.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 68.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 69.