



The Good News Story – Tracing the **Scarlet Thread of Redemption from Genesis to Revelation**

Beginning today, we will trace through the Key Stories of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and discover that God's love for us, His passion to rescue and redeem us is seen in every book of the Bible and is secured for us in Jesus Christ.

W.A. Criswell said in his famous sermon... “A ‘scarlet thread of redemption’ is woven throughout scripture. It traces God's unfolding plan of love-to redeem fallen mankind. From Genesis to Revelation, this red ribbon represents our need for an innocent blood sacrifice. Ultimately, God sent His Son to die on the cross as the sacrifice for ALL OUR SINS.” (John 3:16)

Jesus is the Central Character in God's good News Story. He is The Scarlet thread of Redemption that holds all things together!

In Genesis — Jesus is the Word of God, creating the heavens and the earth; He is the promised Seed of the woman.

The following is taken from The Creation Story: Summary and Study Guide <https://www.learnreligions.com/the-creation-story-700209#:~:text=The%20creation%20story%20takes%20place%20in%20Genesis%201%3A1-2%3A3, and%20the%20gathered%20waters%20%22seas.%22%20...%20More%20items>

“Genesis 1, the opening scene of the biblical drama, introduces us to the two main characters in the Bible: God and man. Author Gene Edwards refers to this drama as "the divine romance." Here we meet God, the Almighty Creator of all things, revealing the ultimate object of his love—man—as he concludes the stunning work of creation. God has set the stage. The drama has begun. The simple truth of the biblical creation story is that God is the author of creation. In Genesis 1, we are presented with the beginning of a divine drama that can only be examined and understood from the standpoint of faith. How long did it take? How did it happen, exactly? No one can answer these questions definitively. In fact, these mysteries are not the focus of the creation story. The purpose, rather, is for moral and spiritual revelation”. (The Creation Story: Summary & Study Guide)

DAYS OF CREATION IN GENESIS ONE



EARTH, SPACE, TIME & LIGHT



ATMOSPHERE



DRY LAND & PLANTS



SUN, MOON & STARS



SEA & FLYING CREATURES



LAND ANIMALS & MAN

6 DAYS OF CREATION

Genesis 1:1-31



Key Take Aways

Who = GOD

When = In the Beginning

What = Created all the heavens and the earth

How = Spoke it into existence

Why = To have a loving relationship with us

- Creation was Good & Orderly - 6 times it is mentioned
- The Trinity” In verse 26, God says, "Let us make man in *our* image, in *our* likeness ..." This is the only instance in the creation account that God uses the plural form to refer to himself. It's interesting to note that this happens just as he begins to create man. Many scholars believe this is the Bible's first reference to the Trinity”. (Creation Story)
- Principle of Rest introduced
- Our True Identity is Revealed...Human Beings are shown to be the very apex of God’s creation and the focus of His love and special relationship. “On the sixth day God made land animals after their kind and humankind in his own image and likeness. The phrases “after their kind” for animals and “in his image” for human beings underscore the categorical difference between humankind and all other created beings—the unique ability to relate personally to God”. <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/understanding-the-creation-story-from-genesis>
- Mankind has a charge and responsibility to care for God’s created world.
- Mankind sinned and broke the relationship with God

- God provided a way to restore that broken relationship
- It took a sacrifice of blood to pay the penalty of our sin
- God has continued through time to reach out to us and provide a Scarlet Thread of Redemption , a lifeline of a sort, to bring us back out of our lost condition into a loving right relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.
- Each person must choose to accept this lifeline, Jesus Christ, in order to be saved and restored.

Tracing The Scarlet Thread

Revelation 13:8... “*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*”

1 Peter 1:19-21... “^[19] *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: [20] Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, [21] Who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*”

Genesis 1:1-3...*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness ^[a]was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face*

of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

John 1:1-5,14... 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 nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.... ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,

Genesis 2:15...¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:6,7... ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings....¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:15... “And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, And you shall [only] bruise His heel.” (AMP)

Genesis 3:21... The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

From the very beginning of human history, it is revealed. When Adam and Eve sinned, God shed innocent blood in order to make them clothes from animal skins (Genesis 3:21). This is a picture of the covering of righteousness that we receive when the Lord Jesus Christ died for us.

Genesis 4:8... Then Cain spoke to Abel his brother; and it happened when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Genesis 4:10-15...¹⁰ And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. ¹¹ So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”¹⁵ And

the LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

Genesis 4:25-26...²⁵ *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.”*²⁶ *And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.*

It is through the lineage of Enosh that our Lord Jesus Christ is descended.

Final Key Take Away

- Each person must choose to accept this lifeline, Jesus Christ, in order to be saved and restore

Invitation

Additional reading material

Why Did God Create Us

(adapted from Got Questions .org <https://www.gotquestions.org/why-did-God-create-us.html>)

The short answer to the question “why did God create us?” is “for His pleasure.” **Revelation 4:11** says, “*You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.*” **Colossians 1:16** reiterates the point: “*All things were created by Him and for Him.*” Being created for God’s pleasure does not mean humanity was made to entertain God or provide Him with amusement. God is a creative Being, and it gives Him pleasure to create. God is a personal Being, and it gives Him pleasure to have other beings He can have a genuine relationship with. Being made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), human beings have the ability to know God and therefore love Him, worship Him, serve Him, and fellowship with Him. God did not create human beings because He needed them. As God, He needs nothing. In all eternity past, He felt no loneliness, so He was not looking for a “friend.” He loves us, but this is not the same as needing us. If we had never existed, God would still be God—the unchanging One (Malachi 3:6). The I AM (Exodus 3:14) was never dissatisfied with His own eternal existence. When He made the universe, He did what pleased Himself, and since God is perfect, His action was perfect. “***It was very good***” (Genesis 1:31).

Also, God did not create “peers” or beings equal to Himself. Logically, He could not do so. If God were to create another being of equal power, intelligence, and perfection, then He would cease to be the one true God for the simple reason that there would be two gods—and that would be an impossibility. **“The LORD is God; besides him there is no other”** (Deuteronomy 4:35). Anything that God creates must of necessity be lesser than He. The thing made can never be greater than, or as great as, the One who made it.

Recognizing the complete sovereignty and holiness of God, we are amazed that He would take man and crown him **“with glory and honor”** (Psalm 8:5) and that He would condescend to call us “friends” (John 15:14-15). Why did God create us? God created us for His pleasure and so that we, as His creation, would have the pleasure of knowing Him”. <https://www.gotquestions.org/why-did-God-create-us.html>

(The following is taken from a purchased book entitled “The New Creation and the Storyline of Scripture by Frank Thielman. Crossway Books. Wheaton, IL.)

Hints of Hope

“There are, however, hints of hope within this sad story. One of the main hints lies simply in the character of the God who created the world. His immense generosity in providing for his human creatures and his clear desire to live in a close, trusting relationship with them suggest that God is unlikely to give up on humanity after their

act of defiant self-assertion. This notion receives confirmation from the ways in which God continues to communicate with and help his creatures despite their banishment from his presence. Before he sends them out from the garden, he makes proper and substantial clothing for them from animal skins (Gen. 3:21) to replace their flimsy fig-tree leaves, incompetently sewn together to hide their nakedness.

God’s expulsion from the garden of the man and woman (now called Adam and Eve) is probably also a merciful act.

To allow them to prolong their lives forever in their state of alienation from God and discord with each other by eating from the garden’s tree of life will bring only endless suffering. Like Gollum in J. R. R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*, man and woman will be in danger of devolving into an ever-deepening and destructive self-centeredness as the generations pass.

The Lord’s willingness to accept Abel’s offering (4:4), his attempt to provide Cain with instruction about the insidious nature of sin (4:6–7), the mercy that he shows to Cain even after Cain has refused to pay attention to him (4:15), and the kindness of the Lord in granting Adam and Eve another child after Abel’s murder (4:25–26) all indicate that God has not abandoned even those who have rejected him. In addition to kindnesses such as these, God’s human creation continues to bear God’s image, to possess God’s mandate to rule over the earth’s animals, and to benefit (when they obey them) from God’s mandates to balance work with rest and to organize human society around the marriage partnership of one man and one woman.

Although in Psalm 8 God has enemies that must be stilled (8:2), the psalmist can still praise the majestic name of the Lord on the basis of his creation (8:1). He can still express amazement that God has crowned human beings with glory and honor (8:4–5) and given them dominion over the animals (8:6–8). Similarly, in Psalm 104, the psalmist praises the Lord for the wonders of the natural world, including the blessings that God has provided to human beings in creation—plants to cultivate for their food, wine to make their hearts glad, oil to beautify their faces, bread to give them strength, and the moon and sun to regulate their work (104:14–15, 23).

Psalm 104 ends with a prayer that “sinners” will be “consumed from the earth” and “the wicked” will “be no more” (104:35), but the world is still a majestic and wonderful place that points to its Creator and to the grace and goodness he has shown humanity.

Conclusion

By the end of Genesis 4, then, the world is a complex mixture of God’s gracious, undeserved blessing and the grim results of human rebellion against God. The man and the woman have turned away from the trust that they once had in God and his goodness and have placed their confidence instead in their own ingenuity. God has allowed them and their descendants to go their own way with all the consequences that doing so entails. They can no longer live in God’s presence, and discord among themselves has gone from bad to worse.

The direction of humanity by the end of Genesis 4 is clearly one of ever-greater alienation from God and

more and more social violence and disintegration. Their newly gained knowledge of good and evil has not improved the lot of human beings but pushed humanity far down the road of self-destruction.

Human society, left to its own devices, has not improved in the many years since that fateful conversation with the serpent. Despite the beauty and blessing of our world, it is still a place marked by an unwillingness to trust in, or often even to believe in the existence of, God. Human society, moreover, is characterized by greed, hatred, and violence on a scale so massive that the health of the entire planet is threatened and that there seems to be no end in sight to human suffering. The Scriptures, however, do not leave us there”. “The New Creation and the Storyline of Scripture by Frank Thielman. Crossway Books. Wheaton, IL.)