

BIBLE OVERVIEW: 1 Creation and Fall

1 Key to Unlocking the Bible: Jesus Christ

“Beginning with Moses and all the prophets he (Jesus) explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself “. Luke 24:27

“He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms’. Then he opened the minds so they could understand the Scriptures”. Luke 24:44-45

“For no matter how many promises God has made they are yes in Christ” 2 Corinthians 1:20

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope”. Romans 15:4

“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven”. 1 Peter 1:10-12

- What do these verses tell us about the Old Testament?

- What do you think the average ‘person in the street’ thinks the Bible is about?

2 Implications:

- All the Scriptures point to Jesus and find their fulfilment in him
- All the promises in the Old Testament find their ultimate fulfilment in him.
- The Old Testament must always have a sense of incompleteness, seeming paradoxes, unfulfilled promises. When you read it – look for these
- If we think God's promise is fulfilled in some way other than with reference to Jesus, we have misunderstood it.
- The Old Testament is not a Jewish book but a Christian book.
- It's a message about a person and what he has done – more than a book teaching morality for us to live by. It is a book about how God has come to rescue us, not a self-help book for us to do it ourselves.

3 Creation: Important Themes Genesis 1-3

- Created by design not accident – life has meaning and purpose
- By the power of God's Word (Psalm 33:6)
- The Structure: God 'forms' and then 'fills'
- The creation was good (repetition in chapter 1)
- Creation 'speaks' to us of God Psalm 19

- Human Beings – crowning glory of creation & God’s vice regents to care for creation
- Men and Women equal but different (1:27)
- Not good for man to be alone (2:18)
- Marriage – God’s intention priority over all other human relationships
- Sabbath Day – culmination of God’s creative work
- Glimpses of the Trinity - 1:1,2,3 &26

4 The Fall (Humanity’s rebellion against God): Its Consequences

Breakdown of Relationships:

- Between humanity and God – alienated and hiding
- Human relationships – intimacy no longer a delight but a source of pain and shame 2:25, 3:7, 3:16. Blame shifting 3:12,13. 6
- Beginning of ‘works righteousness’
- Creation 3:17-19. Now in a world which is out of sync
- Humanity now under the sentence of death

5 BUT – Words of Hope

- God takes of fig leaves and clothes them
- Genesis 3:15 the first promise of the gospel - ‘the serpent crusher’

For next time – read Genesis 22

- Why do you think this chapter is in the Bible?
- Do you think God is cruel/sadistic to Abraham/Isaac?
- If our sinful natures have ‘exchanged the truth of God for a lie’ how might this incident appear to provide ammunition for such a view
- From what we have seen at the beginning of this week – how might we begin to understand what this chapter is about?