

Remnant Life Church
November 12, 2017
Genesis
The Book of Beginnings – Pt 2
Genesis 15:12-18

- Genesis
 - Is the first of a collection of the first 5 books – Pentateuch
 - The word Genesis is a translation from the Greek meaning “source” or “origin”
 - Hebrew – “in the beginning”
 - The book is divided into 2 main sections
 - First – chapters 1-11 – primeval history
 - Origin of the universe and the world we live
 - Of man, sin, and judgment
 - From creation, to Noah, to the Tower of Babel
 - Second – chapters 12-50 – patriarchal history (37-50 about Joseph)
 - Origins of redemptive history
 - God’s election of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)

- The Beginning of all things is presented in Genesis –

1. **The Universe**

2. **Humanity**

3. **Paradise**

4. **Sin**

5. **Judgement**

6. **Redemption**

- a. Redeem – to buy or get back; it is the loss or absence of something that is then reacquired
 - i. First time we see the word used God is speaking to Moses – **Ex 6:6** -
“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.
 - ii. Then Paul in **Titus 2:11-14** - *For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*
- b. And so we are given a promise of hope in the midst of the darkness of sin from the start...

- i. **Gen 3:15** – *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will his heel.*
 - ii. The first foretelling of the plan of salvation is revealed
 - c. Even the punishment for the sins committed show God’s great love
 - i. Three judgements are passed: serpent, Eve, Adam
 - ii. The serpent has a curse pronounced on him directly – *Cursed are you... – Gen 3:14*
 - iii. But Adam and Eve are not cursed by God directly but have aspects of their lives cursed
 - 1. Childbirth; the ground to produce hard work; thorns and thistles, relational conflict...
 - 2. God’s mercy is evident from the start
 - d. God’s love for us prevented Him from forever casting us aside

7. Blessings

- a. Blessing means favor
- b. Adam and Eve
 - i. **Gen 5:1-2** - *...when God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind” when they were created.*
- c. Noah and his sons
 - i. **Gen 9:1** - *Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.*
- d. Abraham
 - i. **Gen 12:2** - *I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you*
- e. But in most every case it was conditional on obedience – it still is today
 - i. When God is giving instructions to Moses for the people; (**Ex 19:5** - *...if you obey me fully and keep my covenants...*)
 - ii. David in **I Sam**; Solomon in **I Kings**; **Jeremiah**

8. Covenants

- a. God’s promises to man
- b. Two types of covenants
 - i. Unconditional regardless of what man does
 - ii. Conditional on man’s actions and, in every case, his obedience
- c. The almighty, great God binds Himself to small, insignificant man
 - i. **Edenic** - In the Edenic Covenant, God promises Adam life and blessing, but that promise is conditional upon Adam’s obedience to God’s command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (**Gen 2:15-17**)
 - 1. It is the covenant of creation
 - 2. It was the covenant of innocence but it was conditional
 - ii. **Adamic** – as a result of man’s sin a covenant of judgement is made (**Gen 3:16-19**)
 - 1. This is the covenant of grace

2. The curses or punishment have been pronounced
3. But there is also the promise of salvation to come through Jesus Christ - unconditional
- iii. Noahic – the promise of God never to destroy the world again with a flood (**Gen 8:21**)
 1. It was given not only to a man but to all living creatures
 2. It is sealed with a sign – the rainbow (**Gen 9:13**)
 - a. To remind of us of God’s mercy and love
 - b. Just as Noah was saved from God’s wrath with the ark so too we are saved from God’s wrath through Jesus Christ
 3. It is unconditional
 - a. No matter the sinful condition of man
 - b. The next time judgement on the world comes it will be by fire (**Rev 18** – Babylon)
- iv. Abrahamic – the promise of the nation of God’s people from his descendants (**Gen 12:2-3**)
 1. Unique in the way it was sealed
 2. **READ - Gen 15:12-18a**
 - a. God is foretelling the captivity in Egypt of the nation of Israel
 - b. The descendants of Abrahams 12 great-grandsons
 3. Then God makes the covenant with Abraham alone not in conjunction with him
 - a. Flaming pot signified a binding agreement
 - b. This was God’s alone
 4. Unconditional

9. Israel

- a. The beginning of His nation
 - i. The 12 tribes through Jacob and his 12 sons – **Gen 35:23-26**
 1. Leah – Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun
 2. Rachel – Joseph and Benjamin
 3. Bilhah – Dan and Naphtali
 4. Zilpah – Gad and Asher
 - ii. Israel is not a side story but the main setting for the story of God’s love

10. Revelation

- a. He begins to reveal Himself in Genesis
- b. Extends from Genesis through to Revelation
 - i. The importance of context
 - ii. God always had a plan for all that He did, is doing today, and will do in the future
 - iii. That plan includes YOU
- c. Should be read with the entire Scripture in mind – an eye on the end
 - i. The Bible, beginning in Genesis, is the revelation of God told as a love story

- ii. His love for His creation – you and me!
- d. The ultimate expression of that love was manifest in the person of Jesus Christ
 - i. The coming of Jesus to die for all humanity and pay for the sin of all mankind is foretold in the very beginning
 - ii. Before God was done making the pronouncement of the punishment He was pouring out His mercy, His grace, and His love
 - iii. For you!