

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 7 – The Message in Names

October 21, 2025

Biblical principles/truths thus far in our study that provide a framework for the “one story” of Scripture:

“In the beginning God...” – The Bible focuses on GOD! (The ENTIRE BIBLE!)

God is separate and apart from His creation.

God is above time and space and has placed man in time and space.

God is a plurality - “Elohim” – the Hebrew for God is in the plural (Gen. 1:1).

We read of the Holy Spirit hovering - A vibrant moving and a protective hovering, picturing the work of the Holy Spirit in creation while foreshadowing His work in regeneration.

We read of the Word of God in Gen. 1:3 (God “said”; John 1:1).

Man was made in the image of God: intellect, will, and emotions (Gen. 1:26).

God gave man dominion (rule) over His creation. Man was to nurture, serve and rule as God’s representative on earth (Gen. 1:26, 28). Established at creation; forfeited at the fall; dominion returned to man (Dan. 7:13-14, 27).

Model for marriage (Gen. 2:24).

God desires to have a relationship with man (brought animals to Adam to name (Gen. 2:19-20).

God, Who is Spirit walked with man in the cool of the day (Gen. 3:8).

God gave Adam a directive for the purpose of exercising his freedom to choose to depend upon God or to exercise independence from God’s wisdom (Gen. 2:17-18).

The “seed of the woman” – the physical descendants through which the Redeemer will come
Who will undo the effects of sin introduced in Eden and Who will restore God’s relationship with humanity.

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God has a plan and a purpose. I’m suggesting that undergirding all, is God’s purpose to create a world in which His glory could be manifested in all its fullness. God’s wrath and God’s mercy display the riches of His glory, but we cannot see either without the fall of mankind. We would never know grace if we had never needed grace! The Fall magnifies our NEED of God’s grace! If we don’t grasp this truth regarding the glory of God...ALL WHO HE IS...we won’t comprehend the Bible moving forward. Therefore, all of God’s plan, including the fall redemption, and restoration, serves the purpose of glorifying God!

Why did God tell Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? The fruit was not harmful or evil. God’s command, His divine directive, established the principle that God alone is the source of moral knowledge and authority. Adam and Eve were given the freedom to demonstrate trust in God by obeying His instruction. The consequences of disobeying God’s authoritative instruction, of choosing independence from God’s wisdom, would result in loss of paradise and separation from God.

We have understood CREATION and the FALL. We are entering the third plot – REDEMPTION - which will take us through Revelation 20!

Man sinned and IMMEDIATELY God promised the resolution for sin. And, it appears that the One promised Who would be born of a woman (Isa. 7:14; Gal. 4:4), would enter the world via a supernatural birth. We know the resolution for sin as the “Seed of the Woman” at this point in

Scripture. The “Seed of the woman,” born of a woman, would be 100% human/in the flesh, but with no sin nature; not capable of sinning. And this One promised is 100% God – EMMANUEL – God in the flesh (Isa. 7:14).

From Gen. 3:15 through the remainder of the Old Testament, into the NT through the Millennial Kingdom, God continues to develop the theme of the “seed,” promising the physical descendants of Abraham through Isaac, and Jacob, narrowing the line to the tribe of Judah, and ultimately to David, shaping Israel’s hope for a royal deliverer (Jesus’ genealogies: Matthew 1:1-17 [through Joseph but w/ a roadblock]; Luke 3:23-38 [through Mary]). This lineage becomes the backbone of Scripture’s unfolding story: the expectation of the Redeemer Who will undo the effects of sin introduced in Eden and Who will restore God’s relationship with humanity.

From Gen. 3:15 – the plot of REDEMPTION begins and continues through Revelation!
FORESHADOWING OF RESTORATION:

Gen. 3:20 - *And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

And then God made tunics of animal skin...God having shed the blood of an animal. God then clothed Adam and Eve...He covered Adam and Eve. “Atonement” means a covering! Here was a substitutionary sacrifice...an animal dying in place of Adam and Eve. But God had told Adam that he would die because of his sin (Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:19 - *you will return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.*) Physically, Adam died 930 years later (Gen. 5:5). But he also died spiritually through immediate separation from God due to the consequences of sin entering the world:

Gen. 3:23-24 - *Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

WHY? Why the driving out of Adam and Eve? Gen. 2:17! Why were the cherubim at the east of the garden? Cherubim were the angels who guarded God’s throne (Psa. 99:1; Isa. 37:16). Why was a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life placed so that Adam and Eve could not return and possibly eat from the tree of life...thus making them immortal and living forever in their fallen state. The Lord drove them out of the Garden!

NOTE: Although the text primarily mentions Adam by name (“the man”), the narrative context clearly includes Eve since both had sinned, both were clothed with animal skins (Genesis 3:21), and both were subject to judgment.

The tree of life was intended to grant ongoing renewal and immortal life, making those who ate from it live forever. After the fall, God specifically barred Adam and Eve from accessing it to prevent them from being eternally locked in their sinful/fallen condition. God’s provision of animal skins to clothe Adam and Eve involving the shedding of blood pointed to the unfolding of the plan of redemption fulfilled in the “Seed of the woman.”

Gen. 4:1 - *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man: the LORD (Jehovah).”* (Cain means “acquired”). Based on the hope

announced in Gen. 3:15 (the destruction/doom of the adversary/Satan), and based on the Hebrew rendering of Eve's announcement in Gen. 4:1, Eve seems to have connected the birth of her firstborn son with the immediate fulfillment of the promise concerning the "Seed of the woman"!?

In Gen. 4 & 5 we are introduced to the heart conditions of mankind through Cain & Abel: wickedness (separated from God) and righteousness (right relationship with God).

Gen. 4:2-5 - *Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel* (breath, vapor, fading away) (How quickly Eve must have been disappointed. Her first born didn't appear to be the resolution for sin). *Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.* ³ *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.* ⁴ *Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,* ⁵ *but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.* Sacrifice had already been introduced because God had sacrificed an animal in the garden.

Cain seems to have disregarded God's instructions. And, Cain's heart attitude - hostile toward God. YET, God pursued Cain. And, God warned Cain and provided the way to Himself. Cain rejected God's word and was not sorrowful.. Additional Scriptural insight: Heb. 11:4 – *by faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous. God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.*

Abel's heart attitude spoke of a relationship with the Lord. God unfolded more of His plan of redemption. PLEASE READ I John 3:10-12!!!!

In Cain and Abel we see two people groups within "mankind" – the wicked/children of the devil and the righteous/children of God (I John 3:12).

Gen. 4:25 – *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.'* Through Seth the One would come Who is "the" Seed. Seth is recorded in Jesus' genealogy through Mary in Luke 3:38: Seth is noted as the son of Adam, the son of God!

Gen. 4:26 - *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.* WHY?

We've been introduced to a severe spiraling downward – more and more into sin – through Cain's line. Even in Adam's line – what are we observing?

Gen. 5:5-11 – what is the repetitive happening – aside from births? DEATH! "...and he died." When we check out the meanings of the names within Adam's line, Seth's son,

Enosh, Enosh's name means mortal/frail. People were dying! *Then men began to call on the name of the LORD!* Man was faced with dying – faced with their mortality. Man realized their NEED of God – to DEPEND upon Him.

Some have suggested the following message in the names of Adam through Noah:

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow; a dirge
Mahalalel	The Blessed God; God be praised (“el” – God)
Jared	Shall come down (from verb <i>yaradh</i>)
Enoch	Teaching (Enoch was the first of four generations of preachers [Jude vv. 14-15 – teaching judgment])
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	To the low; the despairing;
Noah	Rest, or comfort.

Man was appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching and His death shall bring the despairing rest.

In the midst of judgment and death, God’s GRACE prevails – looking toward REDEMPTION and RESTORATION!

QUESTIONS

What did you learn that was new to you? What was its impact on you?

What did you not understand?

How does Genesis 4 & 5 fit into the “one story”?

What are your questions?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 7 with Bible references.

With whom will you share this lesson?

Read Week 8 when you receive it.