

## UNDERSTANDING THE "ONE STORY" OF SCRIPTURE

Week 6 – JROC – AMAZING GRACE How Sweet the Sound that Saved A Wretch Like Me!!!

June 14, 2026

God created man knowing we would sin. In eternity past God the Father and God the Son spoke about God the Son offering Himself as an offering for sin:

Isa. 53:10 - (NASB) - *But the Lord desired to crush (bruise) Him (God the Son), causing Him grief; if He (God the Son) renders Himself (offers Himself) as a guilt offering (dying as the substitute for man who is guilty – “for all have sinned”. Jesus is the substitutionary sacrifice for man’s sin).*

Rev. 13:8 - We read of Jesus as the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world and we read about the book of life in that timeframe – eternity past. (Rev. 13:8; Rev. 3:5; Rev. 17:8 – book of life (those written in...those blotted out)

God made man for His glory so that God’s character, His attributes...ALL Who God is – His grace, mercy, justice, power, love, wrath against sin, forbearance (Psa. 78:38-39), longsuffering (II Pet. 3:9), patience, faithfulness....could be FULLY known. (I Sam. 17:46 – David told Goliath as he was about to slay the giant, *...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel*)

Jer. 9:23-24 - *Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; <sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness (goodness; common grace), judgment (justice; discernment), and righteousness (right relationship w/ God) in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord.*

How can God’s grace be fully known if man didn’t sin? How can God’s mercy shine forth if man didn’t sin? If man didn’t sin, would there be the need for God’s justice...the need for His wrath against sin to be exercised? And, God’s love...how would that be SO MAGNIFIED if there was no sin? BUT what about man?

For a loving God to create beings capable of giving and receiving His genuine love, they had to be free to choose. Genuine love cannot be forced or programmed.

CONSIDER: for God to fully manifest Who He is...for God to fully demonstrate the ultimate depths of His love and redemption that we as believers know full well through Jesus’ death on the cross, sin must exist. How often have we sung, “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me”? Do we sing that hymn REJOICING? WHY? In what are we rejoicing?

Let’s understand Genesis 1 through Genesis 3.

Gen. 1:10 – re: creation, *and God saw that it was good.*

Gen. 1:26, 28 - Because man was the pinnacle of God's creation, *God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness (intellect; emotions; volition/will); let them have dominion (Heb. "ra-da" – to rule) over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' ... Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it (to dominate it); have dominion (to rule) over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'* Dominion – to rule over – on behalf of God.

2

Gen. 1:31 - *And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.* The world was perfect. (Gen. 2:1-3 – and God rested – God ceased from His labor. His physical creation was finished. We're not aware of sin in Gen. 1 & 2. Gen. 2:4-25 fills in the details of man's creation on day 6.

Gen. 2:8 – *The LORD God ([Yahweh [personal name; covenantal name]; [Elohim – majestic; Creator]) planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed - Adam.*

Gen. 2:15-17 - *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded (God is in control) the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> 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.'*

What did Adam know about death? What does "death" mean? "Death" means separation. Separation from what...from Whom? GOD! BUT man knew fellowship with God. AND God had laid out His plan.

Gen. 2:18-24 - *And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.' <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one ("echad" – composite unity; not absolute unity) flesh. <sup>25</sup> And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

Gen. 3 – time lapsed...doesn't appear to be a long stretch of time as Eve hadn't become pregnant. But, in Gen. 3 we read that man exercised his choice and chose the path that would lead to death!

An outside entity had come into the garden – a serpent – walking upright – possessed by whom? Satan (adversary; accuser).

Man rebelled against God. Man sinned. Man chose his own way – not God’s way. If man ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God told man that he would surely/certainly/assuredly die! Death – could equate to physical death immediately. BUT GOD had a plan – from eternity past!

Consider: when man sinned – the cross of Jesus was FAR OFF – in the future! What did man know about God – about ALL Who God is – ALL God’s attributes - at that time – from creation?

How are we understanding man’s sin and God’s provision for sin?

Man sinned while in the Garden of Eden. Jesus had not come to earth to die as yet. There were many yet’s to come! WHAT, in Adam & Eve’s timeframe, did they know?

Let’s look at Psa. 19 – recorded by King David (approx. 1,000 BC -3,000 years after Adam and Eve!) – *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork...*

**David HEARD the glory of God...The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork.** How could David have heard? When have the heavens declared the glory of God? What is the timeframe of this declaration?

*Declare* – in the Hebrew means to retell (to tell again...and again). *Declare* – this verb is in the present tense. That is, the heavens “are declaring,” and the sky “Is proclaiming” the creative work of God. God’s creative work has been a continual display **SINCE CREATION**.

David heard the continual declaration – since God first declared – when God created the heavens and the earth!

3

*Psa. 19:1-4 - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament (the expanse dividing the waters above and the waters below) shows His handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech nor language where their voice (the message of creation of the glory of God) is not heard. (It’s heard in every language) <sup>4</sup> Their line (that which gathers this message that is being announced – about the glory of God) has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

God makes Himself and His handiwork known to everyone, everywhere, at all times simply through the existence of the universe – since creation!

Psa. 19 God caused me to think about...Rom. 1:20 - <sup>20</sup> ***For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they (mankind is) are without excuse.***

Yes, Jesus' gift of redemption is far off chronologically from man's first sin...BUT GOD's plan of redemption was laid out in eternity past.

Until next week, consider the action on the part of God in Genesis 3:

Genesis 3:8 – God pursued Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:15 – Immediately after Adam and Eve sinned, God IMMEDIATELY promised the Seed of the Woman – the One Who would suffer, crush Satan's head! We have the unfolding of God's promise-plan and from Genesis 3:15 the battle rages!

Genesis 3:21 – ... *for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

AND we can PROCLAIM...

Romans 3:23-24 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

Man's sin...God's redemption through Jesus shed blood

INTERTWINED – all to the GLORY OF GOD!