

OT Narratives Bible Study Series

Genesis 1-3 - Beginnings

Read Genesis 1-3

In our previous study, we saw that Genesis 1-3 lays the foundations for the Christian understanding of pretty much everything - that is, for the Christian's worldview. It tells us about who God is and who we are. It tells us about how we and the world came into being, and about why the world and mankind are the way they are today.

-Briefly review:

-What does Genesis 1-3 tell us about God?

-What does Genesis 1-2 tell us about the origins of the universe and of Man?

-What does Genesis 1-3 tell us about the nature of Man (i.e. mankind)?

-How does Genesis 1-3 speak to issues of sexuality, gender identity, and marriage (1:26-31; 2:4-7, 15-25; 3:1-21)? How does this run counter to what is being taught in the world? (you might also consider Deuteronomy 22:5; Matthew 19:1-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4 with Leviticus 18:1-30 & 20:7-23; 1 Cor. 6:18)

-What happened in Genesis 3, and what implications did it have? (you might also consider Romans 5:12-14; 8:18-21) Why does so much that Genesis 1-3 says about God, mankind, the universe, etc. run counter to what the world around us teaches? (consider also Romans 1:18-25)

-In the face of the disastrous events and aftermath of Genesis 3, what hope does God provide in Genesis 3:14-15?

For further reflection

As we've seen over the past 2 studies, Genesis 1-3 lays the foundations for the Christian worldview. It tells us about who God is and who we are. It tells us about how we and the world came into being, and about why the world and mankind are the way they are today - fallen, and subject to bondage to death and decay. And it tells us of a loving and gracious God who promises one day to send a Savior that would set things right. The rest of the Bible is the unfolding and outworking of this promise.

As we've seen, the truths of Genesis 1-3 are very much at odds with much of what the world thinks and teaches. This should not be surprising, as this conflict traces its origins all the way back to the Garden of Eden, when the Serpent came to Adam & Eve with the question, "Did God really say...", and when mankind chose to listen to the Serpent rather than to God. Since that time, as Romans 1:18-25 tells us, mankind has walked in rebellion against our Creator, refusing to glorify Him as God or to give thanks to Him, but choosing instead to go our own way, exchanging the truth of God for a lie, and setting our own standards of right and wrong instead of submitting to God's.

Reflect again on your own worldview in light of Genesis 1-3. Is the way you understand the world and the issues facing our society today informed by God's Word, or by those who would question and oppose God and His ways?

Additional Resources

CGYG/LIFE website: www.cgygfellowship.com (Resources section)

- Genesis Bible study series: http://www.cgygfellowship.com/BBS_Genesis.shtml
- OT Daily Devotional series

CGC website

- OT Survey and Genesis adult Christian education materials: <http://www.cgctorenglish.chinesegospelchurch.ca> (Resources section)