

Seeing Only Jesus

1) Seeing Jesus in Creation

- ✓ **The OT was the Bible used by Jesus and the Apostles. It was the basis of their teaching**
- ✓ **But they taught that its central message is Jesus Himself (Luke 4:21)**

'And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself...Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures'

(Luke 24:27, 44-45)

'Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ"'

(Acts 17:2-3)

The people who knew their Bibles best in the days of Jesus, the Pharisees, missed this central message

'You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life...For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me'

(Jn.5:39,40&46)

If our reading and study of the Bible doesn't bring us to focus and have faith in Him we have missed the point!

✓ **The only way to understand the OT is to understand that it's main message is Jesus. It is not a mere history book - it is HIS STORY!**

✓ **The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is by the New revealed**

✓ **The New is in the Old contained; the Old is by the New explained**

Paul states that the Old Testament is for our benefit. It was written:

1) That we may be instructed

'...all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come'

(1 Cor.10:11)

2) That we might have hope

'For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope'

(Rom.15:4)

- ✓ **The Hebrew word for 'Genesis' is *bereshith*, which means origins or beginnings. Only when we know the beginning of a subject can we understand its full meaning**
- ✓ **Genesis is the book of beginnings. It is the seed-bed of the Bible. It contains, in seed form, many of the great doctrines of the Bible. Throughout the rest of Scripture these doctrines are developed and brought to maturity**
- ✓ **Genesis, then is the source of all major truths which run throughout the Scripture and consummate in the Book of Revelation**

**Four Great Events
(Chapters 1-11)**

**CREATION
(1&2)**

**THE FALL
(3)**

**THE FLOOD
(4-8)**

**THE NATIONS
(9-11)**

1) Seeing Jesus in Creation

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'
(Gen.1:1)

- ✓ **The Hebrew word for 'created' is *bara*, i.e. to create out of nothing. It is only ever used of God. When God created the universe, He brought it forth out of no pre-existing matter**
- ✓ **There is another word used for 'create' in the OT, i.e. *asah*. This word is used 631 times and is applied to God and man creating. It means to form or make out of pre-existent matter. But only God can create out of no pre-existent matter**

How God did this we are not told

Creation is understood by faith

'By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible'

(Heb.11:3)

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God'

(John 1:1-2)

This states 3 important doctrines:

**1) The Word existed before creation or time,
'And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was' (Jn.17:5)**

2) The deity of Christ

3) The Trinity

'All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made'

(John 1:3)

The Word created all things that were created

Therefore, He Himself is an uncreated Being

'For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him'

(Col.1:16)

The pinnacle of God's creation is mankind, who was made in God's own image

'Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion 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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them'
(Gen.1:26-27)

**Everything else God created, He did so by
commanding...**

**...when He made mankind He did so by
consulting: *'let us...'***

**All other forms of creatures were created 'after
their kind'...**

...but we were made in the image of God

***'And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being'
(Gen.2:7)***

□ God made the body of Adam from pre-existent matter, the dust of the ground

The body is the part of us that is world-conscious

Through the five senses of sight, smell, touch, taste and sound, we relate to this world

Then He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, which became the human spirit

The spirit is the faculty by which we can know God, thus making possible God-consciousness

The spirit is the dwelling-place for God in us. It is the unique capacity which God has given to us, which enables us to both receive and be motivated by the very life of God Himself

It is our capacity to receive God, enjoy God and be enjoyed by God. It is only as we are indwelt by God that we are enabled to function as He intended us to function

□ Mankind became a living soul. The soul is a result of the union of the body and the spirit.

We have a spirit, we live in a body, but we *are* a soul

The soul is the part of our nature that makes us feel our individuality. It enables us to have self-consciousness

The soul consists of 3 principle parts - emotions, mind and will. Our personality is the unique combination of these in each individual person

**God did something greater than all He had
done before**

**Out of the overflow of their unity, joy, love and
perfection, the Godhead began to paint their
glory on the canvas of creation**

**This gave the greatest dignity possible to
mankind**

We are the crown jewel of God's creation

***'When I consider your heavens, the work of
your fingers, the moon and the stars, which
you have ordained, what is man that you are
mindful of him, and the son of man that you
visit him?'***

(Psa.8:3-4)

I am not God; but I am His image-bearer

**I am not the great I Am; but I am what I am by
the grace of God – created in His image**

**We are able, on a finite scale, to communicate
socially and intellectually, to reason, invent,
create, etc.**

And, we possess the moral attributes of God

**While God is not dependent on any other being,
we are totally dependent on Him**

**Our deepest sense of identity can only be
found in understanding and embracing our
Creator/creature status**

But this is our glory

'And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place...'

'...Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said:

"This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'

(Gen.2:18-24)

- ✓ **The term 'man' is generic and refers to humanity as one being, which then became divided into two parts, i.e. male and female (just as light and darkness, heaven and earth, waters above and below the earth, night and day, etc.)**
- ✓ **Thus, creation involved separating one thing into two separate parts**
- ✓ **The Hebrew word for 'rib' is *sela*, which can also mean side, flank or half**
- ✓ **Possibly, Eve was not made from a single rib, but from a whole side, Adam's 'other half', 'a helper comparable to him'. One flesh with him**

“The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

(Matthew Henry)

A Great Mystery

'So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband'

(Eph.5:28-33)

- ✓ **When God created man on the 6th day, He had finished His creation. But Eve was not yet created. She already existed – in Adam**
- ✓ **God put Adam to sleep, opened his side, extracted a part from it and created the woman**
- ✓ ***'This is a great mystery'*. Eve was in Adam as long as Adam lived**
- ✓ **In the mind and eternal purpose of God the church has always been in Christ, (Eph.1:4)**
- ✓ **In order to bring forth Eve, who was in Adam, an operation was performed on the side of Adam. His flesh was opened and a part extracted, and Eve was built from this**

- ✓ **Likewise, God performed an operation on the side of Jesus to bring forth the Church (Jn.19:34), the new creation**
- ✓ **Eve was made from the rib of Adam. She shared his life. Marriage is a shared life**
- ✓ **So is the Christian life, *'...he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him'* (1 Cor.6:17)**
- ✓ **As Adam was incomplete without Eve, so the Church is *'the fullness of Christ'* (Eph.1:23)**
- ✓ **The woman *'...is the glory of man'* (1 Cor.11:7). The Church is the exhibited glory of Christ**