

A Christian Worldview

Study #1 God, Man, and Creation

This series of studies we will try to get an understanding of the plan of God for mankind. This first study will look at God the Creator and man, His ultimate creation. In it we will see how God loved and provided for Adam and Eve. We can get a glimpse from the garden experience of the plan God had before Man rejected that plan in Genesis 3.

I. Creation (Genesis 1:24-31; 2:7-9, 15-17)

1. How is mankind distinct from the other animals God created? What does it mean that they are created in the image of God? What are some ways in which man is like God?
2. How did God relate to Adam and Eve?
3. How did God provide for Adam and Eve?
4. What restrictions did he place on Adam and Eve?

II. The First Marriage (Genesis 2:18-25)

1. What insights does this more detailed account of Eve's creation give as to God's plan for the relationship between a man and a woman in marriage?
2. What were some of the purposes of uniting man and woman?
3. What was the relationship between Adam and Eve in the garden?

CONCLUSION:

- What was God's summary of His creation (His Kingdom in the garden)? (1:31)
- What was good about creation as He intended it?
- What is God's desire for mankind? (Matthew 22:37-39)
- Are you experiencing the blessings of God's Kingdom?

Study #2 The Fall

In Genesis 3 tragedy strikes as man rejects the provisions of God and goes his and her own way with horrific consequences.

I. Genesis 3:1-24

1. Who was the serpent? (cf. Revelations 12:9, John 8:44)
2. What was the temptation?
3. Why was it wrong to eat of the fruit?
4. How did their disobedience affect their relationship with each other?
5. How did their relationship affect their relationship with God?
6. What were the consequences of their disobedience?
7. Did God give them any hope?

II. Genesis 4:1-8

1. What was the consequence of the Fall in the next generation?
2. What motivates such horrible activity of a man against his brother? (cf. James 4:1, 2)

CONCLUSION:

- How does the story of Adam and Eve help explain the problems in our world today?
- Do you think God is pleased with what we have done with His creation?
- God pursues you as He did Adam and Eve. Where are you? (3:8, 9)

Study #3 God pursues Man (Old Testament)

The rest of the Bible is a story of God's rescue story for man, the re-establishment of His Kingdom, in the Old Testament through Israel and in the New Testament through local, visible communities living out His love for one another. This study will focus on God's pursuit of establishing His Kingdom in the Old Testament. Use your table of contents in your Bible to find the different books.

I. Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-7, 18; 17:1-8

1. What were some of the covenant promises to Abraham?
2. What did Abraham have to do?
3. What was God's purpose in choosing Abraham and His offspring (the nation of Israel) to be His People? (12:3)
4. How does this fit in with the plan He had for His first people Adam and Eve? (cf. Genesis 1:28)

II. The rest of the Old Testament needs to be understood as God keeping and revealing further his plan to gain for himself a covenant people.

1. Exodus 2:23-3:12

- A. How did Israel respond to bondage?
- B. Why did God respond to Israel?
- C. What was His plan for Moses?
- D. What did He desire from His people? (cf. Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1)

2. (Psalm 106) This song recounts God's faithfulness to Israel throughout several events in Israel's history.

- A. How did God provide for His people?
- B. In what ways did God's people fail to live up to the covenant?
- C. What did they do when problems came upon them due to their disobedience?
- D. How did God respond to their repentance?

CONCLUSION:

- What has been your response to God's seeking you?

Study #4 God's Solution to the Sin Problem

Man's sin is a problem if we are going to be in relationship to a Holy God. This week we will look at how God dealt with this problem in the Old Testament. We will see how this points to Jesus as the sole and final solution for the problem of sin.

1. How does God see man? What evidence do you see of this? (Psalm 14:1-3)
2. What are the consequences of man's sin? Do you see evidence of this? (Isaiah 24:4-6)
3. What are the consequences of man's sin with respect to God? What is man's problem? How bad is it? (Isaiah 59:1, 2)
4. Leviticus 16:15-19; 29-34; 17:11
 - A. According to Deuteronomy 24:16 what is the consequences of sin?
 - B. What is God's solution for sin under the old covenant?
 - C. How does the life of an animal substitute for the life of a man in the Old Testament sacrificial system? (cf. Hebrews 9:18-22)
 - D. Do you think that the life of an animal is an equal substitute for the life of a man?

CONCLUSION:

- Are the sacrifices under the old covenant really effective at solving the problem? (Hebrews 10:1-4)
- What is the full solution to the sin problem? (Heb. 10:9-14)
- Have you received forgiveness for your sin?

Study #5 The Messiah and the New Covenant

This week we will look at the New Covenant whereby forgiveness and relationship with God is established through Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

1. Read Isaiah 53:1-12
 - A. Who is this passage talking about? (cf. Acts 8:29-35)
 - B. What did men do to Him?
 - C. What evidence can you find in this passage that God received Him as a sacrifice?
 - D. What was the consequence for those who would rely on that sacrifice for their sin?
2. Matthew 1:18-25
 - A. What supernatural events surrounded the birth of Jesus?
 - B. What was special about His name?
 - C. What was the purpose of His life? (Matthew 20:28)
 - D. How does this fit with the prophecy of Isaiah about 700 years before His birth?
3. Matthew 27:45-54
 - A. What supernatural events surrounded the death of Jesus?
 - B. Why did He have to die?
 - C. What was the purpose of His life? (John 10:10-18)

CONCLUSION: John 5:19-29

- Have you passed out of death into life? (v. 24)
- If not, why not?

Study #6

In this study we will look at how one enters into the life of the Kingdom.

1. John 10:1-16, 25-28.
 - A. How does Jesus describe Himself here?
 - B. How are we described?
 - C. What does the thief offer the sheep?
 - D. What does the Good Shepard offer the sheep?
 - E. What is the distinguishing mark of Jesus' sheep? (v. 27)
2. Matthew 7:13-27
 - A. How many gates are there and how many ways?
 - B. What is the end of each?
 - C. How do you know which one you are on?
 - D. What might the storms symbolize? (vs. 25, 27)
 - E. Which house stands?
 - F. What is the difference between the two?

CONCLUSION:

- Have you heard the voice of the Shepherd? Are you following?
- Will your house (life) stand up to the storms of life?

Study #7 Kingdom Communities

As in the Old Testament God's plan is that Salvation should result in a Kingdom, a people that exist for His Name. This study will look at the New Communities of the Kingdom.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:10-21
 - A. What motivated Paul to preach the gospel?
 - B. Who was Paul living for?
 - C. How did this affect him? (cf. 11:23-28)
 - D. What does it mean that God "reconciled us to Himself through Christ"? (5:18)
 - E. What impact did this have on Paul? Has it had an impact on you?
2. Acts 4:32-37
 - A. Describe what life in this Kingdom community was like?
 - B. Is this different from what you see in the world? How?
 - C. What is necessary to have this kind of community?
 - D. Is this God's desire? (cf. John 13:34, 35)
3. Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:23-25
 - A. Is there danger to those who are in Christ? What is it?
 - B. What has God provided to offset the danger?
 - C. How can others help you in this way?
 - D. How can you help others?

CONCLUSION: I Peter 2:1-5, 9, 10

- Are you part of God's people?
- Does God want you to participate in His community?
- Are you participating in His community?

Study #8 The End of All Things

This week we will look at where all of History is headed and see how this should affect the way we live.

1. 2 Peter 3:3-18
 - A. What will be the end of this world? (10)
 - B. What do unbelievers think about this? (3-7)
 - C. Why do they think this?
 - D. What should Christians think? Why?
 - E. How should Christian's lives reflect this thinking?
2. The Apostle John is recounting a vision he had of the new heaven and new earth. (Revelation 22:1-21)
 - A. What has happened to the curse of Genesis 3 after the Fall? (3)
 - B. What about the restriction on eating of the Tree of Life? (14)
 - C. What attracts you about this picture?
 - D. What are we who are in the Kingdom to be doing until He comes? (17)

CONCLUSION:

- Are you living for the hope of God's Kingdom, crying out daily "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven"? (Matthew 6:10)
- Do the activities of your life reflect this hope?
- Are you inviting others to join you in this hope?
- Is there any other way to Salvation? (cf. John 14:6; Acts 14:12)