

Jesus in Genesis 5-4-08

Luke 24:44-45

We have completed our tour through the book of Genesis. It only took 6 months longer than I thought, but I hope you didn't mind. It is the source of nearly every major Christian doctrine. It explains man's condition and the nature of God. It shows God's desire for intimacy with man as Enoch and Noah walked with God. We see the first covenants of God with man and especially those with the patriarchs. The bloodline of the coming Messiah is revealed. Throughout the stories we see human nature in an ancient setting but entirely the same as that which we experience. We just touched the surface of this amazing, divinely inspired work of literature. One could spend a lifetime probing its depths.

If you were here a year and a half ago, you might recall that I encouraged you with the fact that we would see Jesus in every sermon. Well, 67 sermons later, I can say that we never failed to see something of our Savior in every passage. There wasn't one of those 67 sermons in which I did not find a connection with our Lord. Wherever you go in the Word of God there is something of Jesus to be discovered, and no wonder, for He is the Word made flesh. **John 1:14** God has forever been satisfied with His fellowship with the Son, **John 1:1-2**, so of course His revelation to man, the Bible, would be filled with pictures of Him. Talk to me about my grandsons and pretty soon I'll be showing you the pictures in my wallet of those three handsome boys. God couldn't wait to start showing you Jesus even in the primeval and patriarchal history.

The Apostle Paul did not have the New Testament to preach from. His texts were always Old Testament and he wrote, ⁵ *For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.* 2 Corinthians 4:5 (NIV) Over and over again the New Testament writers preached Christ from the Old Testament. Why not? After all, isn't that what He taught the two on the road to Emmaus. ²⁵ *He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"* ²⁶ *Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"* ²⁷ *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.* Luke 24:25-27 (NIV)

Jesus began with Moses to explain the life of the Messiah. Wouldn't you loved to have been in earshot of that Bible study? When it says Jesus started with Moses, it is understood to mean the Torah, the first five books of our Bible. We just finished the first one, and maybe we got a little taste of that teaching Jesus gave those two.

A short time later, Jesus appeared to the disciples and spoke the words of the text for the message today. He reminded them that He had told them before the crucifixion, *"Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses..."* The Law of Moses begins with Genesis. The next verse says, *He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.* That is what we wanted Him to do in us as we studied this past year and a half, and I hope your minds were opened to a greater extent to see Jesus in all the Scriptures. (Psalm 119:18)

Commented [notes1]: 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14 (NIV)

Commented [notes2]: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was with God in the beginning.
John 1:1-2 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: 18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
Psalms 119:18 (NIV)

What was the affect on those disciples? If you read through the book of Acts, you will see over and over again that the disciples taught the people from the Law and prophets about Jesus. (Acts 3:18,24, 10:24; 15:15-18, 24:14, 26:22-23, 28:23) And if the early church preached Jesus from the Old Testament, it certainly should encourage us to do the same. For our review of Genesis, we are going to do a brief summary of what we saw of Jesus in the book of Moses, Genesis.

We saw right in the beginning of the book of beginnings that the word for God, Elohim, is plural. (Genesis 1:1) God left room for the plurality of His existence in the very word man used for God. We continue to see the plural reference to God throughout the creation story. "Let us make man in our own image."

As the act of creation began, He spoke creation into existence. We've already seen that Jesus is the Word made flesh. The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus is the instrument of creation. (Colossians 1:16) John the Apostle said that all things were made by Him and without Him nothing came into being. (John 1:3) The Word created all things. "Let there be... and it was!" The Word God utters is Jesus.

The very first recorded utterance of God represented Jesus. "Let there be light." (Genesis 1:3) God had created the heavens and the earth (matter and space) and the first thing He sent into creation was a picture of His Son in the form of light. Light is a unique creation of God. It acts like particles and waves. Nothing travels faster than light. Light is needed for almost every form of life. Light gives us the ability to see and distinguish the world around us. Light gives warmth and energy. No wonder Jesus compared Himself to light. "I am the light of life," he taught. (John 9:12) What a declaration! Do you believe that without Him you cannot see or truly live?

We saw that it was Jesus who walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden, for God the Father is a spirit, intangible and unseen. (Genesis 3:8; John 4:23) The Apostle Paul tells us the manifestation of the invisible God is Jesus. (Colossians 1:15) It could be none other than the preincarnate Christ who walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Then we saw the disastrous fall of man. God's word of judgment to the serpent and the woman promised a Deliverer would come from the woman who would crush the head of the serpent. (Genesis 3:15) This was the first promise that God would manifest Himself as a man and destroy the authority and power of Satan. Death and thorns were some of the curses on the sin of rebellion, but the One who was coming would take the curse of the thorns upon His own brow and defeat death. He is called the seed of the woman, giving us an indication that He would be born of a virgin. This was so clearly a promise of the Messiah that it is called the *protoevangel*, the first Gospel.

There are so many pictures of Christ that for the sake of time I'm going to have to skip some of the minor ones like Adam, the tree of life, the covering, Abel, and Enoch.

Commented [notes4]: 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. Acts 3:18 (NIV)

Commented [notes5]: 24 "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. Acts 3:24 (NIV)

Commented [notes6]: 24 "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. Acts 3:24 (NIV)

Commented [notes7]: 15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: 16 "After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, 17 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things" 18 that have been known for ages. Acts 15:15-18 (NIV)

Commented [notes8]: 14 However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, Acts 24:14 (NIV)

Commented [notes9]: 22 But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen-- ... [1]

Commented [notes10]: 23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning ... [2]

Commented [notes11]: 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1 (NIV)

Commented [notes12]: 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and ... [3]

Commented [notes13]: 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ... [4]

Commented [notes14]: 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Gen 1:3 (NIV)

Commented [notes15]: 12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. ... [5]

Commented [notes16]: 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walki ... [6]

Commented [notes17]: 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will wors ... [7]

Commented [notes18]: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Col 1:15 (NIV)

Commented [notes19]: 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your ... [8]

The story continues with the effects of sin in the world, the first murder, Lamech's song of the sword (Genesis 4:23-24), the utterly fallen condition of man where the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5), until God would let man torture himself no longer. Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6:9) God spoke to Noah. In that speaking we again see Jesus, the Word. The Word told Noah to build an ark. In that ark, we see what the author of Hebrews describes as a shadow of Christ. (Hebrews 10:1; 1Peter 3:20-21)

Listen to the description of the ark and see how it applies to our Savior. There was only one ark. It was God's plan. The only way to escape the coming judgment was to be in the ark. There was only one door into the ark. It meant salvation for all who would enter in. All life was in the ark. The ark bore the brunt of God's judgment so those inside could be carried to a new life. What a picture of the coming Savior of the world. (Psalm 42:7)

Then we come to the promises to the Patriarchs. It began with the word that came to Abraham. God promised He would multiply his descendants and give him the land of Canaan, but most important was the promise to bless the world through him. (Genesis 12:3) This is when we began to follow the family line to see through whom the Messiah would be born. This One that was coming was to bless the entire world. Surely He would be the promised descendent of Eve.

Perhaps Abraham thought the fulfillment of the promise would be through his own future son. But as He grew older and older, his wife encouraged him to have a child through her servant, Hagar. God told Abraham the promised child would be born through Sarah, even though she was 90 and Abraham was 100. (Genesis 17:16) It was truly a miraculous birth. Isaac was the son promised to Abraham but he wasn't that promised seed of Eve. He does however in many ways foreshadow Him and he is the ancestor of the One that was coming.

Isaac was the only son of Sarah as Jesus is God's only Son. Both births were miraculous. Abraham loved Isaac, just as God called Jesus His beloved Son. God told Abraham to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice there. (Genesis 22:2) Jesus presented Himself a sacrifice for mankind on Mount Moriah. (Luke 23:33)

Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place in the distance. (Genesis 22:4) The prophets did the same as they looked through the distance of time to the atonement God would provide. (Acts 3:18) When they arrived at the base of the mountain, Abraham took the wood and placed it on Isaac (Genesis 22:6) just as Jesus carried the wood for His sacrifice on His own back. (John 19:17)

As they climbed the mountain, Isaac asked where the lamb was for the sacrifice? (Genesis 22:7) Abraham answered, "God will provide Himself the Lamb." (Genesis 22:8) John the Baptist said of Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29)

Young Isaac must have been shocked when he was told that he was the sacrifice, and apparently yielded to his one hundred something-year-old father. Abraham had

Commented [notes20]: 23 Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. 24 If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times." Gen 4:23-24 (NIV)

Commented [notes21]: 5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. Gen 6:5 (NIV)

Commented [notes22]: 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Gen 6:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes23]: 1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Heb 10:1 (NIV)

Commented [notes24]: 20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah wh... [9]

Commented [notes25]: 7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. ... [10]

Commented [notes26]: 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ... [11]

Commented [notes27]: 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so th... [12]

Commented [notes28]: 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and g... [13]

Commented [notes29]: 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, al... [14]

Commented [notes30]: 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Gen 22:4 (NIV)

Commented [notes31]: 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. ... [15]

Commented [notes32]: 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, ... [16]

Commented [notes33]: 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ... [17]

Commented [notes34]: 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Ab... [18]

Commented [notes35]: 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. ... [19]

Commented [notes36]: 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ... [20]

told his servant that THEY would return. (Genesis 22:5) The book of Hebrews tells us Abraham believed the promises of God and therefore reasoned that God would raise Isaac from the dead. (Hebrews 11:19) Jesus believed the same and told His disciples numerous times that after three days He would rise again. (Mark 8:31)

Isaac laid down on the wood of sacrifice just as Jesus laid down on His cross on the same mountain. Here we have a break in the parallel. God stopped Abraham, but He did not stop those who drove the nails and thrust the spear into His own Son.

In the story of Isaac, God did provide a ram caught in a thicket for a sacrifice. In the story of Jesus, Jesus was the ultimate lamb God provided for the sins of the world. Then in the Isaac story, we do not see Isaac again until he receives his bride. Is it just a coincidence that we will not see Jesus again until he receives us, His bride? What a picture God painted for us of our Savior in the son of promise, Isaac! There is another picture of someone else in this story, but I'll save it for last.

If you thought the picture in Isaac was amazing, we also have the life of Joseph. We spent a fourth of our time in Genesis on this one character. Do you think perhaps God was pulling out His wallet and saying, "Would you like to see my Son?"

Joseph is one Bible character who never has a fault mentioned. Though the order of similarities is not the same, there are so many that it cannot be mere coincidence. Like Isaac, Joseph was his father's beloved son. The Father called Jesus His beloved Son. Joseph predicted his exaltation declaring that the family would bow before him. Jesus predicted He would ascend to the right hand of the Father. (Luke 22:69)

Joseph brothers betrayed him because they were jealous of him. The Pharisees, who were related to Jesus, betrayed Him for the same reason. Both were sold for the price of a slave. Both were taken down into Egypt, which spared their life. Though both served their master faithfully, both were falsely accused, judged by a foreign power, convicted, and imprisoned. Both dealt with two other notable prisoners. In both cases one was condemned and the other exalted. Both were eventually elevated to power.

Their ministry began at the age of 30. Their ministry had to do with feeding a starving world. Both literally fed the multitudes. In both cases, without coming to them, you could not survive the famine, one physical and the other spiritual. The world owed its life to Joseph. The world owes its very life to Jesus who gives the bread of life. Every knee bowed before Joseph. Every knee will bow to Jesus. (Philippians 2:10)

The brothers did not recognize Joseph, just as the world did not recognize Jesus. (John 1:10) Finally, Joseph revealed himself to them. One day, Jesus will reveal Himself to the world. (Revelation 1:7) The brothers trembled in fear. The world will fear the wrath of the Lamb. (Revelation 6:16) Joseph was gracious and forgiving. Jesus is even more so. Joseph declared that he was sent ahead to save many lives. Jesus came to give His life a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28) Both have a Gentile bride whose children are name "twice fruitful" and "forget" because God has made us

Commented [notes37]: 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."
Gen 22:5 (NIV)

Commented [notes38]: 19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.
Heb 11:19 (NIV)

Commented [notes39]: 31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.
Mark 8:31 (NIV)

Commented [notes40]: 69 But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."
Luke 22:69 (NIV)

Commented [notes41]: 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
Phil 2:10 (NIV)

Commented [notes42]: 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
John 1:10 (NIV)

Commented [notes43]: 7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.
Rev 1:7 (NIV)

Commented [notes44]: 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!
Rev 6:16 (NIV)

Commented [notes45]: 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Matt 20:28 (NIV)

fruitful and helped us forget the old life of our past. Finally, Joseph prepared a place for his family and told them there was no need to worry about their stuff because the best of the land was theirs. Jesus has prepared a place for us, and we certainly don't need to worry about our stuff. (John 14:2)

There is one more picture in God's wallet, the one we skipped earlier so that we could see all the pictures of Jesus first. The other picture is of us, the bride of the Father's Son. We see it in the bride of Isaac. Isaac was a picture of Christ and so it is no wonder that we, the bride of Christ, can be seen in Rebecca.

The servant that went to seek the bride for Isaac had angelic assistance. He was unnamed and behind the scenes. He is a picture of the Holy Spirit seeking out the bride of Christ with angels that assist those who will be heirs of salvation. Rebecca was beautiful and that is how Christ sees His own. (2 Corinthians 11:2); (Revelation 21:2) The servant gave gifts to the bride just as the Holy Spirit gives gifts to all those who wed themselves to Christ. He assures her that Isaac is the heir of all Abraham's wealth. Consider the comfort we should have in knowing our groom, Christ Jesus, is heir of ALL!

She chose to leave her family and follow the servant to Isaac. We have left all to follow Jesus. (Matthew 19:27) She went on a long journey to join her groom. We are on this long journey that will end at the wedding feast of the Lamb. Two babies were jostling in Rebecca's womb. We have two natures in us, one fighting the other. It's our old nature at war with the new nature in us. (Galatians 5:17) Aren't you glad our picture is in the Father's wallet, right next to His Son's pictures?

If God the Father was so eager to share these pictures of His Son that He wove them into early history, don't you think we should be excited about sharing the Son as well? If you aren't, I can say you just don't know Him well enough yet. It's all about Jesus. Genesis to Revelation, creation to its consummation is filled with the Son. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and Last. (Revelation 21:6)

This concludes our study in Genesis. I hope you've seen that the Old Testament is just as exciting, just as powerful, and just as full of Jesus as the New Testament.

Commented [notes46]: 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. John 14:2 (NIV)

Commented [notes47]: 2 Corinthians 11:2 (NIV) 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

Commented [notes48]: Revelation 21:2 (NIV) 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Commented [notes49]: Matthew 19:27 (NIV) 27 Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

Commented [notes50]: Galatians 5:17 (NIV) 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Commented [notes51]: Revelation 21:6 (NIV) 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Page 2: [1] Commented [notes9] Paul Wallace

22 But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen--
23 that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."
Acts 26:22-23 (NIV)

Page 2: [2] Commented [notes10] Paul Wallace

23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.
Acts 28:23 (NIV)

Page 2: [3] Commented [notes12] Paul Wallace

16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
Col 1:16 (NIV)

Page 2: [4] Commented [notes13] Paul Wallace

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
John 1:3 (NIV)

Page 2: [5] Commented [notes15] Paul Wallace

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12 (NIV)

Page 2: [6] Commented [notes16] Paul Wallace

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
Gen 3:8 (NIV)

Page 2: [7] Commented [notes17] Paul Wallace

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.
John 4:23 (NIV)

Page 2: [8] Commented [notes19] Paul Wallace

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
Gen 3:15 (NIV)

Page 3: [9] Commented [notes24] Paul Wallace

20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,
21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
1 Peter 3:20-21 (NIV)

Page 3: [10] Commented [notes25] Paul Wallace

7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

Psalms 42:7 (NIV)

Page 3: [11] Commented [notes26] Paul Wallace

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Gen 12:3 (NIV)

Page 3: [12] Commented [notes27] Paul Wallace

16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Gen 17:16 (NIV)

Page 3: [13] Commented [notes28] Paul Wallace

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

Gen 22:2 (NIV)

Page 3: [14] Commented [notes29] Paul Wallace

33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left.

Luke 23:33 (NIV)

Page 3: [15] Commented [notes31] Paul Wallace

18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

Acts 3:18 (NIV)

Page 3: [16] Commented [notes32] Paul Wallace

6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

Gen 22:6 (NIV)

Page 3: [17] Commented [notes33] Paul Wallace

17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

John 19:17 (NIV)

Page 3: [18] Commented [notes34] Paul Wallace

7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Gen 22:7 (NIV)

Page 3: [19] Commented [notes35] Paul Wallace

8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

Gen 22:8 (NIV)

Page 3: [20] Commented [notes36] Paul Wallace

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29 (NIV)