

# BIBLE OVERVIEW: 1 THE BEGINNINGS

## Key to Unlocking the Bible: Jesus Christ

"Beginning with Moses and all the prophets he (Jesus) explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" Luke 24:27

"He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms'. Then he opened the minds so they could understand the Scriptures". Luke 24:44-45

"For no matter how many promises God has made they are **yes in Christ**" 2 Corinthians 1:20

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach **us**, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope". Romans 15:4

"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the **Spirit of Christ in them was pointing** when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that **they were not serving themselves but you**, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven" 1 Peter 1:10-12

- What do these verses tell us about the Old Testament?
- What do you think the average 'person in the street' thinks the Bible is about?

### **Implications:**

- All the Scriptures point to Jesus and find their fulfilment in him
- All of the promises in the Old Testament find their ultimate fulfilment in him.
- The Old Testament must always have a sense of incompleteness, seeming paradoxes, unfulfilled promises. When you read it – look for these
- If we think God's promise is fulfilled in some way other than with reference to Jesus, we have misunderstood it.
- The Old Testament is not a Jewish book but a Christian book.
- It's a message about a person and what he has done – more than a book teaching morality for us to live by. It is a book about how God has come to rescue us, not a self-help book for us to do it ourselves.

### **Creation: Important Themes Genesis 1-3**

- Created by design not accident – life has meaning and purpose
- By the power of God's Word (Psalm 33:6)
- The creation was good (repetition in chapter 1)  
(The idea that 'spiritual' is good – 'physical' bad is not biblical)
- Human Beings – crowning glory of creation (1:27)
- Human Beings – God's vice regents to care for creation
- Men and Women equal but different (1:27)
- Not good for man to be alone (2:18) – needs relationship (Pre-Fall)
- Marriage – God's intention priority over all other human relationships
- Sabbath Day – culmination of God's creative work
- Already we see the Trinity - 1:1,2,3 & 26 (OT – Trinity in creation and salvation)

## **The Fall (Man's rebellion against God): Its Consequences**

Evil – not explained but stated

Satan's method of temptation – doubt God's Word (Genesis 3:1,4 – compare Matthew 3:17, 4:3)

Sin = rebellion against God

### **Breakdown of Relationships:**

- Between humanity and God – alienated and hiding 3:8-11, banished from Garden 3:23-24 (judgement or mercy? – see Rev 22:1-5)  
The separation between us and God is on both sides
- Human relationships – intimacy no longer a delight but a source of pain and shame 2:25, 3:7, 3:16. Blame shifting 3:12,13. Subsequent chapters show complete breakdown 4:1-8 1<sup>st</sup> murder, Gen 6:5-6
- Beginning of religion – man's attempt to cover sin and shame without Christ 3:7. Religion is hostile to the gospel.
- Satanic battle 3:15 that will run through the Bible Rev 12
- Creation 3:17-19. Now in a world which is out of sync
- Man now under the sentence of death – Bible's question Gen 2:17 – why are we allowed to live? Very important verse for understanding suffering.

**But always in the Bible even in the midst of Judgement there is mercy and hope:**

- God clothes them Gen 3:21 – Romans 13:14, Gal 3:27, Romans 3:21-22
- The promise of one to come – born of a woman who will defeat satan but will be wounded in the process - Genesis 3:15 – the first promise of the gospel

This is the reason for the genealogies – not normal family trees – they are searching for the 'serpent crusher'.

At the end of Genesis Chapter 3 –  
Man is now 'spiritually dead' – banished from the garden, cut off from God and under the sentence of death – unable to get back to the garden or restore a right relationship with God.

Why doesn't the Bible end at the end of Genesis 3?  
- because of Genesis 3:15

**For next time – read Genesis 22**

Why do you think this chapter is in the Bible?

Do you think God is cruel/sadistic to Abraham/Isaac?

From what we have seen at the beginning of this week – how might we begin to understand what this chapter is about?