

Genesis 3 – 11:

The Fall and Degeneration of Man & GOD'S ONE WAY OF SALVATION

Ch.3

The Fall

- A. Serpent's interaction with Adam and Eve
 - 1. Questioning what God said; this is where it begins.
 - 2. Mixtures: knowledge of good and evil / lies stuffed in the skin of the truth.
- B. The result of sin – shame and God's wrath
- C. God's plan of salvation
 - 1. His promise of the victory of the Seed of Eve over the serpent
 - 2. God's provision of animal skins
- D. The results of sin: what happened to man's identity?
- E. 3:22 "...the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil..."
What is the problem of being like God in this sense? Why didn't God permit man to take also from the tree of life?

Ch.4

The First Murder and the Fallout

- A. Cain wanted to worship his way – a bloodless way.
 - 1. God's rejection
 - 2. Progression versus repentance
 - 3. Anger with his brother, blame, and eventually murder
 - 4. God's rebuke and curse: observe His mercy and kindness in the midst of wrath and judgment. "Come, let us reason together..." (Is.1)
- B. Cain's descendants: the first builders of human culture who were gangsters at heart.
 - 1. The complexity of human culture does not equate to goodness.
 - 2. Lamech: example of self-righteousness which first showed up in Cain.
 - 3. Lamech was the 7th from Cain – the personification of evil.
 - 4. Then, men began to call on the **name of the Lord**. Here, we see that there were people who did not seek their own **names** but rather God's identity; those of Seth's lineage were in a sense, the remnant of mankind who sought **the image of God**.
From that line, Enoch appeared and also Noah.

Ch.5

The Descendants of Adam and their Deaths

- A. Note, everyone died.
- B. **Enoch**: example of true righteousness – the personification of godliness.
 - 1. Heb.11:5 Enoch did not see death because he walked with God and God took him.
 - 2. Jude 14, 15 – Enoch prophesied about the ultimate judgment of God.

C. Methusaleh

1. Enoch's son, announced the coming of the Flood. Methusaleh means "when he is dead it shall come." He was the grandfather of Noah. As always, God announced way in advance what He planned to do, albeit, it was a little vague.

Chs.6-9

The Corruption of Man, the Flood & God's only WAY of salvation

- A. God was sorry He had made man and through the flood, He baptized everything into destruction.
 1. Every intent of man's heart was evil continually. Contrast this with what God intended for man in the garden.
 2. The flood reveals God's frustration and grief which displayed His personal connection with humankind. His sovereignty operates in the deepest connection with our existence.
 3. The Scripture reveals a God who is not transcendentally emotionless but rather infinitely compassionate and empathetic with our infirmities. What kind of God is this?
 4. 7:21, 22 God denied Himself in destroying everything with the breath of the spirit of life. He would ultimately even destroy His own Son for the cleansing of the world!!!
 5. DISCUSSION: How many of us have felt in the midst of despair, like tossing in the towel? How does it make you feel to know that God is so connected that He grieved over decisions and the results of decisions gone awry. He knows each hair on our heads. He knows our struggles intimately beyond our comprehension. He goes to extreme lengths to connect with us; this is supremely demonstrated and proved in Jesus Christ.
- B. However, God identified one particular generation that would be saved. Noah alone found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
 1. In a world where we may not think we have anything to offer, how do we stand in the eyes of the Lord?
 2. What do the eyes of the Lord find when He examines our lives? Does the **name of the Lord** (His identity) mark our lives? Are we a part of the generation of Jesus Christ (the true ark) which are saved?
 3. Note that in this unit on man's downfall and sinful condition (chs.3-11), only ONE WAY of salvation is revealed – the ARK. The ark was a prototype of the true ark – JESUS CHRIST, the ONE WAY is be saved from the human problem identified and described in these chapters.
 4. DISCUSSION: Consider Noah's identity. What was he known for? What are we known for? What do we want known about us?
 5. Ultimate consideration: What SINGULAR, unique identity does God accept as righteous?

Ch.10

The Descendants of Noah

Ch.11

The Tower of Babel: Universal language...leads to Confusion