

The True Story of the Whole World, pp 1-30, January 10, 2016

Act 1 --- God Establishes the Kingdom

Scene 1 --- "Creation" (Genesis 1 - 2:3)

Creation	Rebellion & Fall	<u>Abraham and Sara</u>	Egyptian Captivity	Promised Land
All creation Adam and Eve	The Garden Cain and Abel Babel Flood (Noah)	Isaac Jacob and Esau 12 sons (tribes) Joseph in Egypt The above = "The Patriarchs"	Moses Plagues Exodus Mt. Sinai Wilderness	Joshua Judges Kings Saul David Solomon Divided Kingdom

In a nutshell.....

Genesis offers an unforgettable snapshot of what a "normal" world looks like. Though you and I have never seen it just like this, we somehow know that this is the way our world was meant to be. The biblical story describes this world as a marvelous home prepared for humankind, a place in which men and women and children may live and thrive and enjoy the intimate presence and companionship of the Creator himself.

We are God's royal stewards, put here to develop the hidden potential in God's creation so that the whole of it may celebrate God's glory. Above all things, human caretakers are accountable to the divine Creator for the world entrusted to their care. Created in the 'image of God', we 'image' God in creation precisely as we develop its potential and cultivate its possibilities in agriculture, art, music, commerce, politics, scholarship, family life, church, leisure, and so on, in ways that honor God.

Sound familiar?

"In the beginning God created..." Gen1:1
 "And God said, let there be..." Gen 1, various
 "Let us make man in our own image" Gen 1:26-27
 "God saw all he had made, and it was very good "
 Gen 1:31
 "On the 7th day he rested....and blessed the 7th day
 and made it holy" Gen 2:2-3

Hymns

HWB 46
 HWB 50
 HWB 53
 HWB 104
 HWB 325
 HWB 414
 STJ 24
 STJ 25

Art

"The Creation of Adam" a painting by Michaelangelo.
 'Google' this to view this unforgettable image.

Main Ideas of "The Creation" (Genesis 1 -2:3), "True Story" pp 17-30

- God created the supposed 'gods' of surrounding cultures (sun, moon, sea monsters), and thus is God of all. The Genesis creation story stands in sharp contrast to those of surrounding cultures
- We are created in the image of God, the 'masterpiece', yet this image has become defaced and deformed.
- Jesus is the "Second Adam"
- God has taken a personal interest in the 'goodness of all creation

Other Biblical references

I Timothy 4:1-5
 John 1:1-3
 Romans
 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
 Luke 3:38

General questions for Biblical reflection

1. What do you notice about God in this text?
2. Is there any part of the text that is surprising? Why?
3. What in this text encourages, troubles, surprises, or confuses you?
4. Is there anything in this text you had never noted before? Why do you think it stood out to you this time?
5. How does the action in this passage fit into God's salvation plan?

Specific to the texts for this Sunday

1. What 'day' would you have most liked to have witnessed?
2. What do the following Psalms (8, 19,33,65,104) say about God's presence and involvement in this earth?
3. What significance does it have to believe that God created the entire cosmos?
4. In Moses' time, only the Pharaoh was thought of as being in the image of a god. What does it mean for you that we are all made in God the Creator's own image?
5. How do you connect God's Word speaking the world into being (Genesis 1), and "The Word" being "In the beginning" (John 1). How does what we call "The Word" (Scripture) form/shape us today? Is this the same creative and divine power as Genesis?
- 6.. Which is your favorite part of the Creation, that speaks to your heart as you live out your days on this earth?