**The True Story of the Whole World pp 1-42**

Lesson 4

January 31

***“God’s restoration project”***

**Interlude and Summary**

**Creation** **Rebellion & Fall** **Abraham and Sara Egyptian Captivity Promised Land**

 All creation The Garden **Isaac** Moses Joshua

 Adam and Eve Cain and Abel **Jacob and Esau** Plagues Judges

 Babel **12 sons (tribes)** Exodus Kings

 Flood (Noah) **Joseph in Egypt** Mt. Sinai Saul

 The above = “The Patriarchs” Wilderness David

 Solomon

 Divided Kingdom

Genesis 1 – 11:26

In a nutshell.......

*Thus far in our drama, we have come from ‘in the beginning”, to Adam and Eve, to the brink of the introduction of Abraham and Sara and the formation of God’s chosen people (The Hebrews). In order of appearance, we have seen:*

Hymns

HWB 483

HWB 577

STJ 82

*-The creation of the whole earth, plant and animal*

*-The creation of the first human couple (Adam and Eve)*

*-Sin and rebellion in the Garden of Eden*

*-Cain and Abel (jealousy and murder)*

*-Various aspects of culture (city building, literature)*

*-The great depravity of humans, resulting in God’s judgment (a great flood)*

*-God’s determination to remain with, and restore Creation, (beginning with Noah and symbolized by the rainbow)*

*-continuing tension between God and prideful humanity (Tower of Babel)*

 ***God’s restoration project is underway, and the next great act will be to form, and enlist the assistance of, a chosen people to testify about God, and bless the entire world.***

**Seven Major themes**

1. God establishes the creation as his own vast kingdom, and God is the Great King over all creation

2. God’s creation is ‘good’. The created goodness mirrors the Creator’s own incomparable goodness, wisdom and justice. Genesis offers an incomparable snapshot of what a ‘normal’ world looks like, what the world was meant to be.

3. Men and women are made for intimate relationship with God.

4. Humankind is given huge freedom and clear responsibility. We are God’s royal stewards, put here to develop the hidden potential in God’s creation to that the whole of it may celebrate God’s glory. We ‘image’ God in creation as we develop its potential and cultivate its possibilities in agriculture, art, music, commerce, politics, scholarship, family life, church, leisure, etc., in ways that honor God.

5. Sin has entered the world and distorted all of Creation. Sin is a decision to choose our own way instead of the way God has built into Creation.

6. God refuses to give up on the creation and His Kingdom. God’s salvation does not stop with humankind: it embraces the whole creation.

7. God acts in and through Noah to fulfill what God had always intended for Creation.

1. What have you noticed about God thus far?

1. Which passage has been most interesting to you?

1. What have you noticed about human beings so far?

2. What have you noticed about God so far?

3. How would you map or graph what has happened thus far?

4. Describe the ‘natural order of things’ before sin distorted the creation. What was the intended (normal) relationship between plants, animals, earth, and human beings?

5. How would you feel (God as a parent) to see your children (Adam and Eve) giving in to sin?

6. What questions do you still wonder about?