

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 6 – What About People Before the Cross? AND, Spiritual Warfare?

October 13, 2026

Man is appointed to mortality and sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching. His death shall bring the despairing rest/comfort.

What does it sound like? _____

Psa. 19:1-4 – Are the heavens continuing to declare the glory of God? Is the earth continuing to show forth God’s handiwork?

Rom. 1:18-21 - *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

How were people saved before Jesus?

How do you define “before Jesus”? _____

Isa. 53:10...God the Father and God the Son speaking in eternity past. The Son of God declared that He would come to earth and offer Himself as a sin offering for man! Rev. 13:8...*Jesus is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.* Before the creation of heavens and the earth Jesus existed. Jesus is the eternal Son of God. John 1:1- *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* AND, Jesus created this world! Col. 1:16-17 - *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.* Jesus created and He sustains.

We read of no sin in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. In Genesis 3, what occurred?

_____ Where did that leave them?

How were people saved during OT times?

By grace alone through faith alone in God’s revealed message!

...and, in the Hebrew Scriptures, God revealed His message regarding the Redeemer following His introducing the Trinity (Gen. 1:1-3).

Let’s understand what we are reading when man rebelled against God’s directive to not eat of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... How did God respond? While our holy God needed to deal with Adam and Eve’s sin...

...GOD PURSUED THEM – Gen. 3:8 - *...they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ Adam stated that he hid because he was naked – Adam knew he had rebelled against God.*

...GOD PROVIDED FOR THEM – Gen. 3:15 - the Redeemer was promised – the Seed of the woman. Supernatural birth! The Seed of the woman (“The” – unique); woman does not have a seed. Man would not participate in this birth! Gen. 3:21 - *Also for Adam*

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and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin (the blood of the animal was shed), and clothed them.

...GOD PROTECTED THEM – Gen. 3:24 - *So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

- The Banishment: God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden so they could no longer walk freely in that specific sanctuary of His presence.
- The Guardians: God placed supernatural cherubim and a continuously turning flaming sword at the east of the garden to block the way back to the tree of life.
 - The Tree of Life: The primary stated reason for blocking access was to prevent them from eating of the tree of life in their fallen state.

Did They Still Have Any Access?

- Broken Communion, Not Total Annihilation of Relationship: While intimate fellowship and physical presence in Eden were severed, the narrative shows God still communicated with them (such as pronouncing judgment, listening to them, and providing animal skin garments as a covering in verses 21–23).
- The First Sacrifice of Grace: Before driving them out, God clothed them with animal skins. God still cared for them and established a temporary way of mercy/sacrifice rather than wiping them out completely.
- Indirect Access via Faith: Later chapters in Genesis show that Adam and Eve and their children (Cain and Abel) could still offer sacrifices and call upon the name of the Lord.

Progressive revelation – God revealed Himself (Creator; Trinity; personal God) and His redemptive plan to humanity gradually over time through the Bible, rather than all at once. We are seeing it already through Genesis 1 through 3! We are seeing/ understanding a gradual unfolding from the Hebrew Scriptures through to the book of Revelation! Genesis and Revelation are the bookends of the one story! AND, there are no contradictions throughout. Later revelation builds upon and clarifies earlier revelation without changing God's character or contradicting previous truths.

And, in the first Messianic prophecy, that God had already announced in Gen. 3:15, God, after He had told Satan, *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed*, God IMMEDIATELY promised the Redeemer...the third chapter of Genesis! The Redeemer is the One Who would pay a ransom price for man’s SALVATION (deliverance; rescue)! Man was given HOPE in Gen. 3:15 - the first Messianic prophecy...presenting ultimate victory throughout the Bible. Further confirmation...

Heb. 11 – labeled as “the hall of faith” – the faith of OT saints/OT believers in the Messiah! Heb. 11:13, 16 - *These (all the OT saints mentioned in Hebrews 11) all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth... and now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.* ONE STORY!

There is one way of salvation...by grace through faith in God’s revealed message through the promised Messiah, Jesus!

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Jesus Who has come, fulfilling prophecies regarding His first coming, will come again to fulfill prophecies regarding His second coming!!

At the moment Adam and Eve sinned, Satan was put on notice! God told Satan that there will be One coming, the Seed of the woman, Who will take your head and crush it! Satan is destined to receive a fatal wound. Do we think Satan would idly stand by???

And spiritual warfare began. The “enmity” (hatred; blood feud) between the seed of Satan (accuser; adversary) and the Seed of the woman (Redeemer; Jesus) speaks of an ongoing conflict. Genesis reveals the beginning of the battle with Satan. Spoiler: the book of Revelation closes the battle with Satan’s final defeat!

Genesis 4 – We read of the consequences of sin reflecting the effects of spiritual warfare: Adam and Eve’s first son, Cain, disobeyed God...killed his brother, Abel, who had obeyed God. Cain’s lineage was unrighteous. We read of the wicked and the righteous!!

- Cain and Abel: Gen. 4:3-5...Heb. 11:4; *Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden (Gen. 4:16) – separating himself from God (I John 3:12 – wicked one; Jude 1:11 – “the way of Cain.”*

- BUT GOD... Genesis 4:25-26 - *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed. ²⁶ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh (frail; mortal man – subject to death). Then men began to call (cry out for help) on the name of the Lord (I AM [Yahweh]; Jehovah; the*

existing One/the eternal One)...due to the mortality of man. Man recognized his personal need to plead with his Creator, his personal God (Elohim).

Genesis 5 – The names in Adam’s genealogy through Seth...from Adam to Noah present the Gospel: “Man was appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching and His death shall bring the despairing hope.”

Genesis 6 – Gen. 6:8-10 - *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

⁹ *This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect (blameless; having integrity) in his generations (Noah is being contrasted sharply with a global population whose every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time [Gen. 6:8]) Noah was not corrupted by the heinous sin that was raging due to Satan’s plan! Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

What was Satan’s plan? Do we think that Satan was going to idly stand by?

Gen. 6:1-4 (the direct outworking of Gen. 3:15) *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. ³ And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’ ⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.* Satan is the cause of fallen angels engaging in sexual relationships with humans to create a hybrid race – to create a race that is not fully human!! WHAT? Since Gen. 3:15 – Satan is bent on the Messiah NEVER entering this world! There were giants (Nephilim) on the earth in those days (multiple days) and also

afterward, (before the flood – still in the process of these hybrid babies being born – half

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man/half fallen angels) *when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.* It appears that the Nephilim were the mighty men of renown. Satan, it is suggested, genetically tampered with humanity...with man’s DNA – to corrupt mankind!

We are given insight through three NT references:

II Pet. 2:4-5; I Pet. 3:18-20....Jude 1:6-7 - *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, (angels are spirit beings) but left their own abode (taking on human flesh; going after human flesh. It appears that these angels possessed human hoses and procreated with human women). He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day, (These fallen angels who appear to have possessed male humans as hosts and procreated with human women are reserved in everlasting chains until the judgment of the great day! ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these (Jude is comparing Sodom and Gomorrah with the angel activity in Gen. 6), having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, (the angels of Jude v. 6, and the words ‘gone after strange flesh’ refer to their unnatural sexual union) are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

Genesis 6:5-7 – *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Sin intensified! The global, catastrophic flood destroyed all but 8 people – Noah, Mrs. Noah, their sons and their sons’ wives...and enough animals for food, for sacrifice and for beginning again.*

Gen. 9:18-19 – *Now the sons of Noah who went out from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. The whole earth was populated with all who were scattered from the Tower of Babel – all who disobeyed God. And they were scattered among the 70 nations from Noah’s sons about whom we read in Gen. 10!*

BUT GOD had already promised the Redeemer to enter the world. AND...in Gen. 9:26-27 we already read of a narrowing...a narrowing from among all the 70 nations to one man, Shem – a son of Noah. *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, and may He dwell in the tents of Shem; and may Canaan be his servant.”* And we read of Shem’s lineage...to Terah, the father of Abram (Gen. 11:26, 31-32).

QUESTIONS

Is anything shocking jumping out at you? If so...what?

Are you embracing that there is only one way of salvation? WHY?

What stood out to you as most helpful in understanding Scripture?

Do you have additional questions? Where are you going to look for the answers?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 6 with Bible references. Continue to jot down your observations and questions. You might want to answer some of your questions by cross referencing.

Pray about sharing this lesson with someone.

Read Week 7's handout when you receive it.