

## Food for thought from J

July 19, 2020

Last week we kicked off our study of Genesis, and I began by making the claim that Genesis is the most important and foundational book in the Bible for preparing us and the world for understanding the nature of God and God's plan for creation. As such it also provides an invaluable resource for teaching us how we should live as part of creation and even preparing us to participate in God's plan of redemption, for the coming of Jesus, and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God!

But I also suggested that one of the great benefits of studying Genesis is that learning how to approach and think about Genesis can make us better students of the Bible, in general. How is that so? Well, Genesis, as it consists of some of the most ancient texts in the Bible, requires us to dig into the cultural, historic, and literary context surrounding it if we really want to glean the most important messages it has for us. For sure, it is important to study and understand first century life in Israel and the Roman Empire to grasp all the nuances of the teaching of the gospels and other New Testament writings, but this deeper contextual consideration is absolutely essential to gaining more than the most superficial understanding of the lessons in Genesis.

For example, while much of the content of Genesis may come from an oral tradition that was handed down over the course of many generations, current scholarship holds that Genesis, in its current written form, may date to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. If this is the case, this would mean Genesis was written to Israelites living under Babylonian captivity who were struggling with the implications of having been conquered and oppressed by foreigners who worshipped gods other than Yahweh, the one true God of Israel. Even assuming the more traditional view of Moses as the author of Genesis would suggest that the Israelites, as they wandered in the wilderness, also needed reassurance of their ability to trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Regardless of which position one may hold on the authorship and dating of Genesis, this book provided the necessary reminder of not only the Israelites' special covenantal relationship with God, but also, of the sovereign nature of their creator God.

Considered in this additional contextual light then, it becomes clear that the purpose of Genesis is unlikely to be focused on the how and the when of creation and all that followed. Rather, it is more rightly viewed as a theological message to those Israelites living in times of trial and uncertainty – and future generations of those who follow in the Judeo-Christian ethic – that despite whatever difficulties may surround us, the God who created the universe and who has demonstrated, repeatedly, a covenantal commitment to that creation, remains in control and worthy of being trusted, worshipped, and loved.

What a valuable and valid lesson, even today, for people living in a world that constantly promotes a message that there are any number of "gods" who offer the means of finding success and fulfillment in life. But we as Christians must know better, and we are called to remember the roots of our faith that stretch back to the earliest chapters of Genesis when God told those first humans that despite the dire implications of their disobedience, one would eventually come who would crush the serpent's head. Thousands of years later, God fulfilled that promise in the person of Christ Jesus and now we can rest on the new covenant promising that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but shall have eternal life.

And that is a great lesson from the context of Genesis!

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Louie Willett** by Gloria Toelle; Linda & Wallace Twiggs; Susan & Tommy Hudson; Martha & John Johnson; Lynn & Wes Ezzell; Doris Rowe; Suzanne Supple; Oz White; Ann & Henry Moon; Sue & Bill Pope; Mary Mims; Nancy & Jim Buntin; William J. Smith; Margaret & Don Goodroe; Deborah Yates

In memory of **Mary Killough** by Gloria Toelle

In memory of **Jennifer Meacham** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs; Margaret & Don Goodroe

In memory of **Carolyn Belk** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs

In memory of **Joe Pope** by Pat & Bob Jones

In memory of **Kristi Tidwell** by Susan & Tommy Hudson

### GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Walker Hyneman** on his high school graduation by Lynn Christenson

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### Sunday, July 19

10-10:30 a.m. Virtual Sunday School  
Rev. Greg Harrison - Facebook Live

11:00 a.m. Live Streaming Sunday Worship  
Rev. J Grantham - Facebook Live

#### Wednesday, July 22

6:00 p.m. Midweek Check-In  
Rev. Kim Evans - Facebook Live

#### Thursday, July 23

6:00 p.m. Youth Zoom Call with Justin Mead

#### Friday, July 24

11:00 a.m. Phone Conference  
Phone number – 669-900-6833  
Code – 4745976652#

### Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Bob and Judy Ottman	Jan Pittman
Jennefer Spell	Jim Dryman & family
John and Saunders Richey	Joy Forlines
Kim Evan's children –	Janet Stafford
Lexie & Kenny	Bobby & Cloie Porch
Brad Trim	Jean Adams
Rob Garrett	

### Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Carolyn Belk  
Family of Mary Killough  
Family of Jerry Gooe  
Family of Louie Willett

### READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

**July 19:** 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, 1 Kings 20, Amos 4:4-13

**July 20:** 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, 1 Kings 21, Amos 5

**July 21:** 1 Corinthians 8, 1 Kings 22, Amos 6

**July 22:** 1 Corinthians 9, 2 Kings 1-2, Amos 7

**July 23:** 1 Corinthians 10, 2 Kings 3, Amos 8

**July 24:** 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, 2 Kings 4, Amos 9

**July 25:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, 2 Kings 5, Obadiah

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

19	Jim Creek, Renee Ragan
21	Georgia Wise
22	Karen Emory, Brittany Haines
23	Bob Ottman
24	Joy Graham, Mike Kocian
25	Diane Crisp

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Unified Budget.....	15,428.90
Endowment Fund.....	960.00
Other Income.....	120.00

### SUNDAY'S SERMON

*Genesis: You Look Marvelous*  
Genesis 1:26-28  
Rev. J Grantham

### PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies July 17-19,  
Rev. Kim Evans 843-598-0707