

## The Greatest Story (Part 1):

The Glorious God of Creation & Fall

*Genesis 1-11*

*Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:4-6*

### OUTLINE

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Welcome to what we are calling Year of the Bible. Here at Third Avenue Church we believe that the Bible is our standard not a suggestion. If you look behind you, you can see on the wall is our key verse for the entire year. **2 Timothy 3:16-17, which says "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."** We believe that every bit of the Bible is profitable.

So... This year we will be following the thread of redemption from the fall of mankind to the redemption of mankind throughout the entire Bible. Over these next 52 weeks we will be encouraged to read through the entire Bible together, to memorize a scripture each week, and to truly immerse our church in the waters of the Word of God. You will find in your worship guide a Bible reading plan so you can keep up with us and read through the Bible this year with us as a church. Also, not only will I preach each Sunday in Chronological order through the Bible in a series called "The Greatest Story," I will also be doing a short devotional each weekday at 11am on Facebook live that goes along with our daily reading. So starting tomorrow at 11am look for me on the official Third Avenue Church Facebook page. Not the group, but the page. And I will be sharing a short devotional from what we've been reading in our daily reading. Over the course of this year I will be doing over 250 of these devotionals.

So... if you partake in Year of the Bible with us, after this year you will have read through the entire Bible, memorized 52 scriptures, and soaked up the preached word of the God in 52 sermons and 250 devotionals. It's going to be a great year for our church so let's commit to Year of the Bible and dive right in to the book of **Genesis**. **So look with me at verse 1.**

It says, "**In the beginning... God.**" Now I want you to stop there. Just imagine that you don't know anything about the Christian faith. Immediately, in reading this verse, you would already be aware of the fact that this entire book is about one person... God. You would already be interested in finding out more about who he is. The point is simple... The

Greatest Story is God's story. From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, all 23,145 verses in between point to our deity known simply as God. The world believes in all kinds of different gods which have names such as Allah, Buddah, Vishnu, Krishna, Muhammad, and on and on. But our god merely is referred to as God... because there is only one God.

And even though we've lived in the buckle of the Bible belt and have been in church... the struggle for some of us will be this... we don't really believe in the God of the Bible. We simply cannot understand an all powerful deity who allows suffering, and pain, when he can prevent it. We cannot understand a God who pours out his wrath on mankind. We cannot understand a God that we cannot see or touch. So, how could we ever fathom his will. And all of that, from my standpoint, is reasonable. We all have had our doubts, we've all questioned God's will.

But I want to offer you this. The Bible makes it clear in **Psalm 34:8** that if you taste of the Lord you will find that he is most definitely good. Also in **Matthew 7:7-8** the Bible tells us; "**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**" So, the challenge is this. If you are struggling with believing in God, or if you have been a church goer for many years but have refused to submit yourself to God as your Lord; would you taste, seek, ask, and knock and give God a chance to reveal himself through his story; the Greatest Story that has ever been told.

So as we go through the Bible this year, you will inevitably learn more details about who God is. But this morning we want to simply lay a foundation to build upon. This morning we want to give you the simple nuts and bolts of who God is and more importantly why God is. This morning we want to start by helping you to see one of the most important aspects of God; his good and perfect will. And, we recognize his will by looking into two of the defining acts of Genesis; the creation and the fall. And what we will see is this; that **The Glorious God of Creation is The Sovereign God of the Fall.**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing I want us to see here is this... **The Purpose of God Is to Proclaim His Glory Through All Creation (Gen. 1:1-2:25).** Let's read a couple of verses in Genesis 1 and 2. Look with me at **Gen 1:1, 1:26-27, 1:31-2:3.** God made the earth, light, heaven, oceans, vegetation, stars, planets, living creatures, and man and everything God made was good. It was good. And after God created this good world and all of the good things in it he rested; he took a break. You ever need to just take a break and rest? Because you work hard right? Because sometimes life is stressful

and burdensome and you just need to get away. Well, I don't think it's exactly the same with God... but he did take a break, which makes us wonder.. why did he go through so much work to create us and this world?

The answer that is often given is... because he loves us and wanted to create us in his love; he wanted to create the world for us because of his love for us. But that answer isn't entirely correct. Look with me at **Psalm 19:1**. Here you see that God created the universe, not for us, but for HIS glory. No doubt God loves us and created us and the universe in his love... but we are not his first priority... we are not his first purpose. First and foremost God is for his glory. And, how does creation bring him glory? **Romans 1:20-21** tells us that creation displays his invisible qualities, mainly his eternal power and divinity. In other words... the ridiculous enormity and beauty and complexity of the universe undoubtedly points to the grandeur of the God of the Bible.

But that's not all. You were created to point to the Glory of God as well... even more so than all the rest of creation. Look at **Genesis 1:26-27** again. Mankind was created in the image of God. What does it mean to be created in "the image of God?" It means you were created to reveal his image. You were created to show the rest of the world who God is and how great he is. As the creation in his image we reveal the creator. Need more proof? Look at **Isaiah 43:6-7** "whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

So how does mankind bring him glory? I mean if the universe is meant to display his glory how can we... minuscule peons in comparison do that? Well, first off, we don't give God glory per se. Meaning, we can't give God any more glory than he already has. God is as glorious as he will always be and has always been. Rather, we magnify him. Meaning, we magnify his glory in the same way a telescope magnifies the snow capped peaks of a mountain range in the distance. This very large thing is brought into view where we can now see it's detail. So we as mankind bring God glory, by celebrating the glory see in God. We worship him for his glory and we dive deeper into him and the word to understand his glory more so we can reveal it more. Get this... nothing on Earth is able to tell of the glory of God like you can! You can sing it, preach it, shout it, tell it, show it, and live in it. All of creation, especially us, reveals the glory of God because **it is extremely difficult to look at all of creation, even the creation of ourselves, and not see a glorious God behind it all.**

The next thing we see is this... and it is a somewhat hard pill to swallow... it's that ... **The Plan of God was to Permit the Fall (Gen. 3)**. Look at **Genesis 2:15, 3:1-14**. Sin is rebellion to God as our Lord and authority. Even if it had not been Adam or Eve, it would have been someone. Had it been us there in the garden, it would have been us who

would have been deceived and sinned. The blame does not land on Adam and Eve... it lands on us all. For one, our flesh is too weak to not be deceived. We are prone to wander, we are prone to want what we're told we can't have. It's not as if the Tree of Good and Evil was irresistible. It wasn't even the greatest Tree in the Garden. They were already able to eat of the Tree of Life. No, it wasn't that it was too great a temptation, rather, it was that it was forbidden. It was a test. A test of loyalty, but also a test of humility. The Tree of Good and Evil was in essence the tree of who is God? You or God? It was there to determine if mankind would seek control of his own life or if he would relinquish control to God.

There was no way mankind could ever choose God on their own... and God knew it... and God allowed it. There are only two options. Either God couldn't have stopped the sin of Adam and Eve, or he didn't want to. We know that God is all powerful so it couldn't be the first option.. it can only be the second. And so we are left with a question... perhaps the greatest of questions.. Why? Why would God allow the fall of man into sin and judgement? Why does God do anything he does? That's right? For his glory! **the only reason God allows anything whether we understand it or not is to bring himself greater glory** . Therefore, the fall must have been a part of God's plan from the very beginning and we see that **The Glorious God of Creation is The Sovereign God of the Fall.**

And so we see this one thing... **The Ultimate Goal of God is the Glory of His Grace in the Redemption of Mankind (Gen. 3:15)** Look at **Gen 3:15**. This verse is referred to as the Proto-Evangellion (the first Gospel). Here we see that; yes, the serpent succeeded in causing mankind to fall... but in that deed he was merely playing his part. The seed of woman (not all seeds but The Seed) shall bruise his head while the serpent merely bruises his heel. Meaning, Jesus (The Seed) would be struck but not mortally, while Satan would ultimately be defeated forever. Who is the seed that destroys Satan forever? JESUS. Not 3 chapters into the story of God and we already see the plan of salvation. **The first mention of the savior of mankind was in the beginning of the story... all of the Bible points towards Jesus Christ.**

**You see... If God's glory** is the whole point, then how does God display his glory the greatest? Through his creation? NO. But, through his grace... through his sacrifice, forgiveness, and the redemption of mankind. God knew, that only through redemption in Jesus Christ could He reveal his true glory. So he planned not just the fall, but the crucifixion of Christ before time even began. Look at our key verses for today. This is our memory passage for the week. **Ephesians 1:4-6**. A few key points to recognize here... First, he chose us in him (Christ) before all things. He also predestined us in Christ according to the purpose of his will & to the praise of his glorious grace. His glorious grace always refers to the death of Jesus

Christ. Do you see this. **Before the 6 days of creation the main thing on God's mind was the death of Christ for the sins of the world.** In his sovereignty God knew that creating man was not enough to magnify his glory. He also needed to save man. God reveals his glory not only in creation but also, and mostly through salvation. **If he had merely created us we would have strayed away from him... but in salvation we can never stray again.** And stray we surely did. Just look at what happens through Genesis 11. In Chapter 4 Cain kills Abel. A couple chapters later the world grows so evil that God sends the flood. And even then in his mercy he still redeems the righteous. Then in chapter 11 mankind tries to reach the heights of God at the tower of babel and is scattered. It is clear... on our own we will always stray from our creator. And so we have always needed a savior. Thank God his plan was always to give us one. **The Glorious God of Creation is The Sovereign God of the Fall.**

### **Application (Resolution, You)**

So my questions this morning are simple. God has created all that we see and all that we are. Are you in awe by the creation of our God? Do you merely marvel at the grandeur of his might? He is the glorious God of creation. And in that... He also created us so that we would give him glory. But... how often do you praise him for his creation? How has enjoying his creation brought you closer to him?

And, are you awestruck by the salvation of God? Are you enthralled by his purpose? That his plan was always to give the life of his only begotten son so that you would have eternal life? How often do you dwell on the redemption of your soul in Christ? He has bruised the heel of the devil and conquered sin, satan, and death for us forever.

### **Conclusion**

So, do you know the creator savior today? If not, today is the day of salvation.