

# GOSPEL BEGINNINGS IN GENESIS

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**INTRO:** Theologians talk about the *Law of First Mention* – the first time a word or concept is mentioned in Scripture is important. Seven words/concepts found in Genesis provide the basis for the entire Gospel!

## 1. GRACE

- a) **Gen. 6:5-8:** <sup>5</sup>*The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.* <sup>6</sup>**The LORD was grieved** that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, **“I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.”** <sup>8</sup>**But Noah found favor** [“grace” – KJV] in the eyes of the LORD.
- b) Noah didn’t work for or earn grace – he found it!

## 2. FAITH

- a) **Gen. 15:1-6:** <sup>1</sup>*After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”* <sup>2</sup>*But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can You give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”* <sup>3</sup>*And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”* <sup>4</sup>*Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.”* <sup>5</sup>*He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”* <sup>6</sup>**Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.**
- b) Paul quotes this passage to establish his whole doctrine of justification by faith in **Rom. 4:1-5:** <sup>1</sup>*What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter?* <sup>2</sup>*If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.* <sup>3</sup>*What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* <sup>4</sup>*Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.* <sup>5</sup>*However, to the*

*man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.*

- c) This first instance of faith did not result in a healing or a miracle – it resulted in righteousness!
- d) Grace and faith are the whole basis of salvation (**Eph. 2:8-9**):  
*<sup>8</sup>For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith**—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>**not by works**, so that no one can boast.*

### 3. WORKS

- a) **Gen. 1:31-2:3**: <sup>31</sup>*God saw all that He had made, and it was very good...* <sup>1</sup>*Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.* <sup>2</sup>*By the seventh day **God had finished the work** He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all **His work**.* <sup>3</sup>*And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the **work of creating** that He had done.*
- b) The emphasis here and throughout the Scriptures is on *God's* works, not ours!
- c) The greatest work of all was Christ's work of redemption on the Cross where He cried, "It is finished." (John 19:30)

### 4. SEED OF THE WOMAN TO BRUISE SATAN

- a) **Gen. 3:15** (NKJV): *And I will put enmity between you [serpent] and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed [Christ]; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.*
- b) A clear prediction of the Cross and how, through suffering and death, the Messiah would destroy Satan and death (Heb. 2:14)
- c) Throughout the Bible, reference is normally to a *man's* seed, not a *woman's*; this emphasizes that the coming Messiah would be born of a woman

### 5. LOVE

- a) **Gen. 22:1-2**: <sup>1</sup>*Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.* <sup>2</sup>*Then God said, "Take your son, **your only son, Isaac, whom you love**, and go to the region of Moriah. **Sacrifice him** there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."*

- b) First mention of love is not that between a husband and wife, but the love of a father for his son; the first love that existed before the creation of the world was the Father's love for His Son (John 17:24)!
- c) First mention of love in the Gospels:
  - i) **Mat. 3:17:** *And a voice from heaven said, "This is **My Son, whom I love**; with Him I am well pleased."*
  - ii) **Mark 1:11/ Luke 3:22:** *And a voice came from heaven: "You are **My Son, whom I love**; with You I am well pleased."*
  - iii) **John 3:16:** *For **God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
- d) Abraham's love for his son, like the Father's love for His Son, was a sacrificial love

## 6. LANGUAGE/UNITY

- a) **Gen. 11:1-8:** <sup>1</sup>*Now the **whole world had one language** and a common speech...* <sup>4</sup>*Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."* <sup>5</sup>*But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.* <sup>6</sup>*The LORD said, "If as **one people speaking the same language** they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.* <sup>7</sup>*Come, let us go down and **confuse their language** so they will not understand each other."* <sup>8</sup>*So **the LORD scattered** them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.*
- b) On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were "with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1 – NKJV); they spoke in other tongues and the Lord eventually scattered them over all the earth preaching the Gospel & building His church for His glory!

## 7. MARRIAGE IN PARADISE

- a) The first wedding took place in the Paradise of Eden (**Gen. 2:21-24**): <sup>21</sup>*So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.* <sup>22</sup>*Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man.* <sup>23</sup>*The man said, "This is*

*now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.*" <sup>24</sup>**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

- b) Paul quotes Gen. 2:24 to teach about a profound mystery, the marriage between Christ and the Church (**Eph. 5:22-32**): <sup>22</sup>*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.* <sup>23</sup>*For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior.* <sup>24</sup>*Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.* <sup>25</sup>**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her** <sup>26</sup>*to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,* <sup>27</sup>*and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* <sup>28</sup>*In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* <sup>29</sup>*After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—*<sup>30</sup>*for we are members of His body.* <sup>31</sup>**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.** <sup>32</sup>**This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.**
- c) **Rev. 19:6-9:** <sup>6</sup>*Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.* <sup>7</sup>*Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.* <sup>8</sup>*Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)* <sup>9</sup>*Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

**CONCLUSION:** Genesis is the seed-plot for the whole Gospel – it reveals: a salvation that is by grace through faith, not works; Christ, the One who would bruise Satan & redeem us from the curse of sin & death; the Father's love for His Son and His supreme sacrifice on Calvary; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost that scattered disciples to the end of the earth preaching the Good News; our blessed hope of soon meeting Jesus at the Wedding of the Lamb as His Bride!