

A History of the Future

How the Bible fits together
Lent 2018
Week 1

*For the Son of Man came not to be served,
but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many*
Mark 10:45

*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son,
that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*
Rom 8:29

INTRODUCTION

Imagine you could predict the future....

Jesus expects us to interpret the signs: Red sky at night (Matt 16:2-3)

We cannot properly understand what's going on in the world *today* except by reference to the past. And we cannot properly understand what's *going to happen* in the world *tomorrow* except by reference to the past.

The Bible: an extraordinary book.

66 books

40 human authors

Over 16 centuries

Sold more copies worldwide than any other book in history!

The story of God's action in the world, and his purposes for mankind.

Literary genres: narrative, dialogue, proverb, parable, song, allegory, history, law, prophecy.

But ONE BOOK! ONE PLOT!

The Bible... a history of the future!

Four Cycles of Salvation History

CYCLE 1

Creation Days 1-7

CYCLE 2

Abel to Babel

CYCLE 3

Abraham to Exile

CYCLE 4

Jesus to New Creation



Mark Twain "*History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme.*"

A History of the Future

How the Bible fits together
Lent 2018

CREATION

Gen 1-3

GOD'S WORK (Father and Son Partnership)

Genesis 1

The earth is *formless* and *empty*.



Genesis

Days 1-3 ORDER AND STRUCTURE

Day 1 Separation: Light/dark

Day 2 Separation: waters above/ waters below

Day 3 Separation: sea/ dry ground.

Boundaries

Creation: A cosmic temple

Days 4-6 FILLING

Day 4 Fills the sky with sun and moon and stars

Day 5 Fills the sea, land, and sky with fish, birds and animals

Day 6 Mankind

God's (firstborn) son given to the world

Gen 1:26-28 states man's purpose on earth. Why am I here?



The image of God (male and female)

The pinnacle of creation. The best of all God's creatures: "...very good".

Designed to be the visible representation of God on earth.

The dwelling-place of God. A living, walking temple.

1. To multiply and fill the earth [FILLING]

2. To rule the earth (dominion). [ORDER]

i.e. To be 'as God' on earth!



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders
God's plan: 'to bring many sons to glory'.

A History of the Future

How the Bible fits together
Lent 2018

Sabbath Rest

Gen 2:1-3



REST: The climax and goal of God's work

7th day: holy and special

Sacrifice: A Victim



The Son's turn to take responsibility 'as God' on earth.

Birth of the firstborn

Gen 2:4-7 describes Adam's birth, from the 'womb of the earth'.

'Adam' from Hebrew word *Adamah* = ground

God breathed his *ruah* (God's Spirit/breath) into Adam's nostrils, man became a living creature.

Firstborn Son redeemed...

from the ground

through baptism.

REDEMPTION (A New Family)

A nation is born...

The human race.



Gen 1:18

Sleep = death (a temporary state).

God creates Eve, Adam's wife (the mother of all the living).

She's taken from within, from Adam's rib.

We are all 'in Adam' by natural descent.

A Divine Sanctuary – The Garden of Eden

Gen 2:8-14

Two trees:

The tree of life

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil



Eden: a holy sanctuary (a dwelling place for God on earth)

Where true worship takes place

Located on a mountain



A History of the Future

How the Bible fits together
Lent 2018

The Command

Gen 2:15-17 *to work it and take care of the Garden*



To 'work' (serve, cultivate) and 'take care of' (or guard, keep) = duties of Levitical priests (Num 8).
To extend the garden and guard it. No snakes allowed!

Adam is a priest

A generous God: A full larder for Adam and Eve!

Gen 2:17:

You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Will Adam obey and put God first in all things?

Disobedience = death. Then who will inherit the earth?!

Obedience = life. Paradise forever. Adam's sons will inherit the earth and enjoy God forever!

A problem Gen 3:1-13

The serpent. The Father of lies.



A trick of the devil – to question whether God has said something.

'Does the Bible really say that?!'

'Yes, but it's all a matter of interpretation.'

She *saw* it, she *wanted* it, she *took* it, she *ate* it. That's exactly how sin is conceived, grows and born.

The woman was deceived.

The man disobeyed knowingly!

The Firstborn Son sells his Birthright

Adam and Eve try to hide.

They are naked and they feel shame.

Fig-leaves

They make fig-leaves to hide their nakedness = self-justification.

Excuses: She made me. It was his fault. She was flirting with me... I couldn't help it.

Another will inherit the earth and become God's firstborn Son.

A History of the Future

How the Bible fits together
Lent 2018

What went wrong?

Adam failed to care for the garden and guard it properly.

He allowed the slugs to get in... a *snake* in the Holy Sanctuary!

He listened to the serpent's voice instead of God's.

THE RESULT

God's work is not advanced (not as intended)

Man's work = burdensome toil and a misery (thorns and thistles)

Death enters the world.



God banishes Adam and Eve from the garden, and guards its entrance with flaming swords.

Adam and Eve are permitted to live and procreate and work.



The image of God: not obliterated entirely, but marred.

Now, a twisted vision of God gets propagated.

Instead of dominion, it's domination.

THE REWARD

This cycle does not end well.

