

January 17, 2010

“The Gospel According to Genesis” pt. 3 of 4

A Tale of Two Gardens

- I. Introduction- Where we are in launching off
  - a. Great stories
    - i. Danyel’s love for novels
      1. Great Books
    - ii. We all love great stories
      1. Short Stories
      2. Screenplay/ Movies
      3. Situational Comedy/ Hour Dramas
      4. Epic Novels
  - b. A Tale of Two Cities
    1. ***A Tale of Two Cities*** ([1859](#)) is a [novel](#) by [Charles Dickens](#), set in [London](#) and [Paris](#) before and during the [French Revolution](#). With 200 million copies sold, it is the [most printed original English book](#), and among the most famous works of fiction.<sup>[1]</sup> It depicts the plight of the French peasantry under the demoralization of the [French aristocracy](#) in the years leading up to the revolution, the corresponding brutality demonstrated by the revolutionaries toward the former [aristocrats](#) in the early years of the revolution, and a number of unflattering social parallels with life in London during the same time period. It follows the lives of several [protagonists](#) through these events, most notably [Charles Darnay](#), a French once-aristocrat who falls victim to the indiscriminate wrath of the revolution despite his virtuous nature, and [Sydney Carton](#), a dissipated British [barrister](#) who endeavours to redeem his ill-spent life out of love for Darnay's wife, [Lucie Manette](#). The novel was published in weekly installments (not monthly, as with most of his other novels). The first installment ran in the first issue of Dickens' literary periodical [All the Year Round](#) appearing on 30 April 1859; the thirty-first and final ran on 25 November of the same year.
  - c. Genesis is the beginning of the greatest Epic story ever, since we are still in the story
    - i. What this means in reading the Bible
    - ii. What this means in perspective for where we are in history now
    - iii. What this means for you personally
  - d. Public Reading
    - i. Psalms

## II. Commentary

- a. The beginning is a critical thing
  - i. Beginning of life
  - ii. Beginning of Education
  - iii. Beginning of a Love Relationship
  - iv. Beginning of an Interview
  - v. Beginning of the Day
    1. Personal time with God
    2. Prayer time with God
    3. Reading through the Bible this year
- b. Beginning of the Bible is no different
  - i. Introducing Genesis
    1. Draw out timeline on board
      - a. Adam
        - i. Fall
      - b. Noah
        - i. Babel
      - c. Abraham
      - d. Isaac
      - e. Jacob
      - f. Joseph
    2. Story starts off beautifully
      - a. Gen. 1:1- General
      - b. Gen 29:20- Specific with Jacob-So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.
    3. Time slows down as you make your way through the book
      - a. General overview
      - b. Specific family and how God works with and through Abraham
    4. For some, Genesis is a book of characters
      - a. Moses isn't in Genesis
      - b. 5 Characters to get to know: (God being the first!)
        - i. Adam
        - ii. Abraham
        - iii. Joseph
        - iv. Jacob
        - v. Noah
    5. Breakup for this series
      - a. Ch. 1-11: God reveals His character through His creation

- b. Ch. 12-50: God reveals His character through His people
  - 6. Read this book!
    - a. 3-4 hour read in one setting
    - b. Moses could have included a lot to the people of Israel, but he was told this information as our foundation
    - c. Foundational teaching is critical
      - i. Ravi Zacharias at Ohio State
  - ii. Four Major Themes in today's study of the first 11 chapters:
    - 1. God's Holiness and Judgment against sin
    - 2. God's Mercy
    - 3. God's Sovereignty
    - 4. Our Response: Obedience and Faith
- c. Holiness and Judgment against Sin
  - i. The First Garden:
    - 1. God creates
    - 2. Man un-creates
    - 3. God Recreates
  - ii. Fall sees that God cannot stand by and let sin go unpunished
    - 1. Genesis 3:23-therefore the Lord God sent him out from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.
  - iii. This goes through to chapter 7
    - 1. Flood
    - 2. What is taking place
      - a. Angels and Demons on Wednesday night @ 7.
  - iv. Why these few first chapters have come under such scrutiny
    - 1. If this was just a fable, then our very beings and purpose would come under subjective judgment where we could live however we wanted to!
    - 2. This is naturalism
      - a. Killing Babies is ok
      - b. Killing off our Elderly is ok
      - c. Strongest survive, and Social Darwinism prevails
  - v. God will return and judge sin
- d. God's Mercy
  - i. In the First Garden
    - 1. Man has un-created
      - a. God could have gotten rid of the creation right then, and still been right and just!
  - ii. While pronouncing sin, we see hope
    - 1. The Gospel According to Genesis
      - a. 3:15- "proto-evangellion"
  - iii. God is merciful in the flood

1. 8:1-But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.
2. 9:15-16-I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”
- iv. It is important for us to see God’s mercy as a characteristic for us in our favor.
  1. The early church got this and we see it in early Christian art
    - a. Ark and the cross
- e. God’s Sovereignty
  - i. In the First Garden
    1. He is over all and created all
  - ii. In the Flood
    1. 7:21-23-And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.
  - iii. Acts 4
    1. Peter’s testimony before the Sanhedrin
  - iv. Jesus and Pilate
    1. John 19:10-11-So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” Jesus answered him; “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”
    2. John 10:17-18-For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”
    3. This isn’t Gandhi, or Martin Luther King Jr.!

### III. Conclusion- Our Response

- a. Obedience and Faith
  - i. How do we connect the two times? Beginning of Genesis and now?
    - 1. Matt. 24:37-39-For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
  - ii. Obedience that we see in Genesis
    - 1. Noah
      - a. 6:9- Noah was a righteous man
      - b. 6:22- Noah did everything that the Lord commanded him
      - c. 7:5- Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him
      - d. Was he sinless?
      - e. Like all men, his “heart was evil” (8:21)
  - iii. Faith that we see in Genesis
    - 1. Noah simply believed the promises that God had given him
    - 2. He is then seen in Hebrews 11:7 as a man of faith
- b. The Second Garden
  - i. We have talked about the two Gardens
    - 1. Eden
    - 2. Gethsemane
  - ii. 2 Adams
    - 1. One disobeyed
    - 2. One did His Father’s will
  - iii. Which Garden do you live in today?

#### IV. Benediction

- a. Isaiah 26:8
- b. “Let the water swim around with living creatures, and let the birds fly around you and every living creature that comes in contact with you, every creature that crawls, swarms, flies; from the sea-creatures that eclipse our size to the tiniest insect. May these creatures remind you that you are the pinnacle of His creation, the One who made us in His image. May this God, the one True God, the One who gave His Son for you and I so that we could live once again in the garden of fellowship, may this lord bless you and keep you...”