

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

B0512 – March 20, 2005 – Major Bible Themes
Chapter 03 – The Bible: Its Subject and Purpose

This week we have a very broad chapter. This chapter is really an overview of the entire Bible. What I've decided to do is to intertwine the major subjects of this chapter into a chronology. The focal point is Christ and the purpose is the glory of God.

A. Creation

1. Jesus Christ is the Creator – This is taught three ways in Scripture. *First*, by the plural use of the name for God, ***elohim***, in Genesis 1:1. Second, by the plural pronouns, ***us*** and ***our***, as in Genesis 1:26. Third, by explicit verses such John 1:3 and Col 1:16.

a. ***elohim***

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning ***God [elohim]*** created the heavens and the earth. The plural shows that Jesus Christ is one who was included in the creation of the heavens and the earth which is a Hebrew idiom referring to the whole universe (2 Peter 3:1-7).

b. ***us*** and ***our***

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let ***Us*** make man in ***Our*** image, according to ***Our*** likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Shows that Jesus Christ was involved in creating man and that man is made in the image of the Triune God.

c. All things made by Christ

John 1:3 ³ **All things** came into being (Aorist Middle) through Him, and apart from Him **nothing** came into being that has come into being.

All things came into being “by means of” Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ **nothing** came into being. Jesus Christ is the one who did the creating. He is the Word of God

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, *from whom* [*ek ou*] are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, *by whom* [*di ou*] are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

Notice the distinction between God the Father’s role in creation and the Lord Jesus’ Christ’s role in creation. Creation comes from God the Father but *by* or *through* the Lord Jesus Christ. All three members of the Trinity are involved in creation but the ultimate source of creation is God the Father and the means of creation is Jesus Christ. This would be similar to an architect-contract laborer relationship. The architect draws the blueprint and the contract laborer builds the blueprint. In a similar way God the Father sent the Son to do the work of creation. The creation plans came from the Father but the building was done by Jesus Christ. This is the consistent testimony of Scripture. I like to say it this way. God the Father was the planner and Jesus Christ was the executer of the plan. Now turn to

Colossians 1:16 For **by Him** [*en* with genitive] all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him [*di* with genitive] and for Him [*eis* with accusative].

Notice here all things were created **by Him, through Him** and additionally here, all things were created **for Him**. In other words, Jesus Christ created the universe for Himself, for His own pleasure. He didn’t have to create anything but He did create, not for us, but for Himself. Creation was not a necessary act of Jesus Christ but an act of His own choice.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

The means Jesus Christ used to create was the word of God. The Father's words are the invisible blueprint of creation and were spoken by the son to make visible the creation from the invisible words of God.ⁱ

2. Jesus Christ is the Supreme Ruler of the World
 - a. As Creator He is also Lord

Psalm 89:11 The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them.

Notice the connection between creating something and being the owner of something. That which Christ created He also owns.

B. Fall

The Fall of man from innocence occurred shortly after creation when Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Adam ate "both of their eyes were opened". At that moment the entire human race somehow sinned in Adam. **Romans 5:12** says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, *because all sinned.*" Adam was acting as both the natural and federal representative of the entire human race. In this act the whole human race was plunged into sin such that the imputation of Adams sin to his posterity became the ground for the just condemnation of the entire human race. However, God graciously revealed good news in Genesis 3:15 of a coming redeemer. This is the first messianic promise. It is often known as the *protoevangelium* or the "first good news". **Genesis 3:15** "And I will put enmity Between you [Satan] and the woman, And between your seed [Satan's seed which is the Antichrist] and her seed [Messiah]; He [Messiah] shall bruise you [Satan] on the head [a deadly wound], And you [Satan] shall bruise him [Messiah] on the heel [a non-deadly wound]."

C. Noahic Flood

The Noahic Flood was a universal cataclysmic judgment of God. It was sent because of the intermarrying of fallen angels and the daughters of men who were trying to destroy the promised seed of Gen 3:15 that had to come through a woman. Eight people were preserved in the Ark through the flood; Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives. Shem's descendants include the

Arabs and the Jews. Ham's descendants include the African, Asian, and Native Americans. Japheth's descendants include the Europeans.

D. Noahic Covenant (2,343BC)

This is an unconditional covenant made with Noah and all flesh (animals, birds, fish, etc...) where God promised He would never destroy all flesh again as He had done in the Flood. The Noahic Covenant provides stability of nature. It is the basis of all science. Apart from God's promise here there is no uniformity in nature.

E. Tower of Babel (2,343-2,200BC)

Man rejected God's covenant promise of stability in nature and united forces against God by building a Kingdom of Man to create *peace* and *national security*. The center of the Kingdom of Man was a city known as Babel. God judged man for building a Kingdom of Man by confusing the language. Now men could not communicate and were forced to scatter and re-populate the earth. It was during this time after Babel, that pagan man, because he was depraved, took the revealed truth of God and distorted it, turning it into what we know as mythology.

F. Call of Abraham (1,950BC)

Because of the distortion of truth by the pagan mind God graciously elected one man, Abram, and deposited His truth in this one man and gave him three promises. First, God promised him a Land, a certain Real Estate that is outlined in Gen 15 and Ezekiel 47-48. Second, God promised Abraham a Seed. Here's the seed promise again and the promise is that through Abraham's offspring the promised redeemer would come. Third, God promised Abraham that he would be a Worldwide Blessing because the Savior and salvation would come through Abraham's loins. These promises are known as the Abrahamic Covenant and the Abrahamic Covenant is positional truth for the nation of Israel. No matter what happens, God has promised to fulfill these promises to the nation of Israel. This event corresponds to the Top Circle in the Christian life. This is a keystone event for understanding history along with Creation and the Fall. These three events are crucial to understanding Jesus Christ and Salvation and Last Things.

G. Exodus (1,440BC)

Now God was dealing with one specific people group. He promised to be faithful to this people while God remained sovereign over the nations. During this time Abraham's people grew in number in Egypt even though the Egyptians tried to decrease their numbers and after 400 years they came out of Egypt as the nation of Israel.

H. Mt. Sinai (1,400BC)

God gave Moses the Law for Israel on Mt. Sinai. The Mosaic Law is God's express will for the people of Israel. It is a conditional covenant. If you obey me I will bless you, if you disobey Me I will curse you. Blessings and Cursings are outlined in Lev 26 and Deut 28. This is experiential truth for the nation of Israel. This event corresponds to the Bottom Circle in the Christian life.

I. Reign of King David (1,010BC)

David is a preview of the Messiah Himself.

J. Golden Era of Solomon (970BC)

Israel's culture reached its high-point under King Solomon. They enjoyed great wealth, advanced technology, wisdom, and engaged in studying every area of life from botany to engineering. This culture was the highest developed biblical culture ever known in history

K. Kingdom Divided (930BC)

Solomon's rebellious son Rehoboam caused a civil war which divided the Kingdom into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. This sent the nation into a spiritual and cultural decline.

L. Kingdom Decline (930-605BC)

The northern kingdom went into captivity in Assyria in 722BC and the southern kingdom lasted until 605BC when they went into captivity to

Babylon. This is where we have another major turning point in history. Though many of the world's religious ideas began after the Noahic flood most of the world's major world religions began in the 6th century after the Exile. So, here we have Judah's Exile and the Times of the Gentiles begins (Luke 21:24).

M. Exile

M. Times of the Gentiles

Judah remained in Exile for 70 years in Babylon and underwent a partial restoration following.

1. Babylon

N. Restoration

In the meantime the Gentiles went through four major Empires, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome as Israel's Divine Calendar of 483 years ticked down to the time of the Coming Messiah.

2. Medo-Persia

3. Greece

4. Rome

O. Birth of Christ

Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and was born in 5/4BC. His supernatural birth was the fulfillment of the seed promise made in Gen 3:15 and it was the means by which Jesus Christ avoided a sin nature. Jesus Christ was God come in the flesh.

P. Life of Christ

Then we have the sinless life of Christ where Christ did signs to verify that He was the promised Messiah, where He ministered to the lost sheep of Israel and taught His apostles. During this ministry Christ claimed that He was the physical embodiment of God. In John 10:30 Jesus said, "I and the Father are one". What Jesus meant was that He and the Father were one in essence. Jesus Christ did not give up any of His divine attributes while on earth. What He did was give up the independent use of His divine attributes. He only used His divine attributes at the command of the Father. He had to meet temptation the same way you have to meet temptation, under the power of the filling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was the zenith of God's revelation according to Heb 1:1-3.

Q. Death of Christ

Then we have the death of Christ on the cross. This is the central theme of Scripture. Everything in the OT points to the cross. From the promised seed of Gen 3:15 to being the sin bearer of the world in Isa 53:4-6 (cf John 1:29). He died on a cross and suffered the judgment of sin for the whole world (1 Cor 15:3-4; 2 Cor 5:19-21; 1 Pt 1:18-19; 1 John 2:2; Rev 1:5). He is the High Priest for all who trust in Him (Heb 7:25-27) and there is no other name under heaven by which men can be saved than the name of Jesus Christ. No one comes to the Father except by Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

R. Resurrection of Christ

At the resurrection of Christ Jesus shows that He has power over death. He overcame death. It also demonstrates that the wrath of God the Father was satisfied in the death of Christ. His sacrifice was perfect and immeasurable in value. Therefore, His sacrifice was sufficient for all men but only applied to those who trust in Christ alone for eternal salvation. The bodily resurrection of Christ is a crucial doctrine to Christianity. Paul says that if Jesus didn't bodily rise from the dead then your faith is futile, you are still in your sins and you are of all men most to be pitied (1 Cor 15).

S. Ascension of Christ

After walking on earth for 40 days Christ ascended to heaven. This is recorded in Acts 1:9-11. Jesus Christ visibly and bodily ascended to the right hand. When He ascended He passed through the heavens (Heb 4:14; 7:26) and He sat down at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:34) because His work was finished. Jesus Christ paid for every sin past, present and future and so He sat down, there is no more need of a sacrifice for sins. Jesus Christ did it once for all and now He has taken the high ground in the universe while He waits for the Father to put all enemies under His feet (Ps 110).

T. The Church (an intercalation in Israel's calendar)

Then something significant happened. The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to baptize and indwell believing Jews and

Gentiles. Those who are baptized by the Holy Spirit are a part of the Church (1 Cor 12:13), which is Christ's body (Eph 1:22-23). This people is not Israel, is not the new Israel, is not a spiritual Israel, but is, according to God's written word, a "new man" composed of believing Jews and Gentiles in Christ (Eph 2:15). There are three peoples in the world; Gentiles, Jews, and the Church (1 Cor 10:32) and this unique body called the Church began on the Day of Pentecost and will end at the next great event of prophecy, the...

U. Rapture of Church

The rapture is pre-tribulational and imminent because the Church is not on calendar time like Israel. The Church cannot enter the Tribulation because the Tribulation is known as Daniel's 70th week, and Daniel's 70th week is for Israel and Judah, not for the Church. The Rapture is Christ's catching up to Himself the dead and the living Church age believers to ever be with the Lord. This is when Church age believers will receive a resurrection body. I don't know when it will happen so don't ask me. No one knows when it will happen because it's not revealed in the word of God. After that we have the...

V. Tribulation (Israel's calendar re-starts; 70th Week of Daniel)

The Tribulation lasts for 7 years of 360 days each. I will seek to prove this from Daniel 9 in our next hour. The Tribulation has two purposes: 1) to punish the nations that hate Israel and 2) to purge the nation of Israel to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. During the last three days of the Great Tribulation, all Israel will call on the name of Jesus Christ and will be saved (Hos 6:1-2; Rom 11:26). Jesus Christ will not come back until all Israel says "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matt 23:39).

W. Second Coming

When all Israel calls on the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ will swoop down from the right hand of the Father and will slay the Antichrist and his armies at the Campaign of Armageddon. Then He will touch down on the Mount of Olives and there will be a 75 day interval in between the Tribulation and the earthly Millennial Kingdom during which preparations will be made for the Kingdom.

X. Millennial Kingdom

The earthly Millennial Kingdom is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. Christ will reign on David's Earthly Throne (Luke 1:31-33; Rev 3:21-22) for 1,000 years. He will resurrect all the OT saints and Israel will finally enjoy the Promised Land. During this time the Church will also be present on earth ruling outside of the Promised Land in their resurrected bodies.

Y. Great White Throne Judgment

After the 1,000 year kingdom Satan will be loosed for a short time. Christ will put down this revolt quickly and then all those who never trusted in Christ from all ages will go to the Great White Throne judgment where they will be cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

Z. Creation of New Heavens and Earth and New Jerusalem (Eternity)

Lastly, God will create a New Heavens and New Earth where there will be no more mourning and no more tears. We will dwell in the New Jerusalem as described in Rev 21-22 for all eternity.

Now, how could all this come to pass if God is not sovereign? What is the purpose of this plan?

The Purpose of the Bible

- A. Glorify God
 1. Not to solve angelic conflict
 2. Not salvation – not all men saved, angels not offered salvation
 3. Not to sanctify believers
 4. Angels, men, salvation, etc... all designed to glorify God
 5. Material universe reflects God's glory (Ps 19:1)
 6. Man uniquely made in God's image to glorify Him (Gen 1:26)

- B. What is the glory of God?

1. One's glory is the summation of his attributes, one's essence. Everyone has a glory. The thing is that God's glory is perfect and infinite and man's glory is imperfect and finite. Therefore, God is the only one in the universe who is to be glorified. God actually demands that His creation glorify Him. But isn't this selfish of God that He would want men to glorify Him? No, it is an honor for us to glorify God because His glory is a benefit to His creation. When we glorify God it reveals the only Person who is a worthy object of our love and devotion. But what does it mean to glorify God? When we glorify God we are not adding anything to God, God is self-contained and complete. What it means to glorify God is to reflect God's essence. How do we reflect God's essence? Whatever you do, if you do it unto the Lord you are reflecting God's essence and revealing God to the world around you. That's what it means to glorify God. The more we understand that all things were designed to glorify God the more we realize that God is the alpha and the omega, He is everything that we can imagin and so much more. He is beyond all that we can ask or even think Paul says. The more we understand this the more we worship Him in spirit and in truth

Revelation 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

ⁱ **John 1:10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

The Creator of the world came into the world and yet the world did not recognize its own Creator.

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through** whom also He made the world.

See, God the Father made the world **through** the Son. Consistent testimony of Scripture.

Hebrews 1:10 And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

Here, the author of Hebrews quotes from Psalm 102:25 and applies it to the Son of God (v. 8). He most certainly sees the creator in Ps 102:25 as the Son.

Psalms 102:25 "Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

[Back To The Top](#)

Click [Here](#) to return to other lessons.

[Return to Fredericksburg Bible Church Web Site](#)