

The Glory of Christ and the New Covenant: God, Creation, and Adam #1

1. Why is a Study like this Important? Understanding the Full Story of Bible.

- a) *1st*: It is essential to knowing our Triune God.
- b) *2nd*: It is essential to “putting together” the pieces of the Bible. 2 Tim 3:15-17.
- c) *3rd*: It is essential to knowing our Lord Jesus better, thus better grasping the Gospel.

2. Approaching Scripture *On Its Own Terms* to Fully Grasp the Whole.

- a) *1st*: *What is Scripture?*
 - a.i) God’s Word written through human authors unfolding God’s eternal plan.
 - a.ii) Scripture is God’s Word written over time (=progressive revelation).
 - a.iii) Scripture is God’s Word written centered in Christ (Heb 1:1-2; Luke 24).
- b) *2nd*: *Given what Bible is, how do we read it, put it together, relate parts to whole?*

Answer: Context, Context, Context: Three Questions to Ask When Reading Scripture.

 - b.i) *Context #1: What is this specific text saying?* (=Immediate context).
 - b.ii) *Context #2: Where is this text in the unfolding story?* (=Looking back).
 - b.ii.a) Chronology is important because God’s plan is revealed *over time* – it builds.
 - b.ii.b) No text is written in a vacuum. Bible has a structure to it, tied to *unfolding plan*.
 - b.ii.c) Most helpful way of placing ourselves in the story: Covenantal location. Covenants are *not* window dressing: *backbone to the entire storyline*.
 - b.ii.d) *What is a covenant?* A sworn agreement between two parties establishing a relationship ordered according to specific promises with binding obligations.
 - (b.ii.d.1) Agreed upon terms. Relationship is established.
 - (b.ii.d.2) Consequences for falling short. Obedience demanded.
 - (b.ii.d.3) Ratification (see Gen 15; Jer 34:18, 20; Heb 9).
 - (b.ii.d.4) Built on “promises.” God as Promise-Maker/Keeper.
 - (b.ii.d.5) Heart of covenant: “I am your God, you are my people.”
 - b.ii.e) Covenants *reveal/unfold* God’s *one* plan. *6 Covenants*.
 - b.iii) *Context #3: How is this text understood in light of Christ?* (=Canon).
 - b.iii.a) At the canon level, we discover “God’s intent” and how the “full story” fits.
 - b.iii.b) Some of the *glue* that holds the canon (=God’s plan) together.
 - (b.iii.b.1) *Plot movements* of the story: Creation, Fall, Redemption, New Creation.
 - (b.iii.b.2) The Bible’s *covenantal unfolding*. Within this are *two* other areas.
 - (b.iii.b.2.a) *Promise-fulfillment centered in Christ*.
 - (b.iii.b.2.b) *Typological patterns centered in Christ*.

3. Creation [Covenant]: The Beginning of the Story (Gen 1-2).

- a) *1st*: *Why Creation is so Important for Understanding the Bible’s Story.*

- b) *2nd: Is there a Creation Covenant? Yes.*
- b.i) *Genesis 1-2 Context* (=Lord/vassal relation; Adam, Image/Likeness).
 - b.ii) *Theologically.* Adam-Christ typological relation. 2 most significant heads.
 - b.iii) *Name of Yhwh (LORD) in Genesis 2.*
 - b.iv) *Goal of the covenant* [?] ‘rest’ (=7th day; Sabbath; cf. land, temple-sanctuary).
 - b.v) *Hosea 6:7.*
- c) ***3rd: 7 Crucial Truths Taught in the Covenant of Creation, Later Developed.***
- c.i) *1st: “Creation” identifies the God of the Bible. Triune God = “The Covenant Lord.”*
 - c.ii) *2nd: “Creation” identifies who humans are and our exalted position in God’s plan.*
 - c.iii) *3rd: “Creation” establishes the Adam-Christ typological relationship.*
 - c.iv) *4th: “Creation” establishes the goodness of creation (=sets us up for the problem).*
 - c.v) *5th: “Creation” establishes the importance of God’s Rest (7th Day).*
 - c.vi) *6th: “Creation” establishes Eden as a temple-sanctuary, the throne room of God, which eventually leads us to the new creation.*
 - c.vii) *7th: “Creation” establishes importance of marriage*[?] *greater reality (Gen 2; Eph 5)*
- d) ***4th: The Fall: A Day Full of Death with Long-Lasting Consequences (Gen 3).***
- d.i) *Key Points.*
 - a.i.a) *Genesis 3, rooted in history, describes what has gone wrong.*
 - a.i.b) *Creation order is overturned; rebellion/revolution at the heart of the universe.*
 - a.i.c) *Sin is universal/pervasive precisely because of Adam’s role as covenantal head.*
 - a.ii) *Impact of Genesis 3 on the 7 points of creation.*
 - a.iii) *Promise: Is there hope? Yes! (Gen 3:15).* How does God’s promise unfold? Through the biblical covenants, the seed of the woman is given fuller definition – seed of Abraham; Judah (Gen 49:10), David (2 Sam 7:12-13).

4. **The Noahic Covenant (Genesis 6-9).**

- a) *What is the context of the Noahic Covenant? What has come ‘before’ it?*
- b) *What is the scope of the covenant? “Creation.”*
- c) *The covenant is described as ‘everlasting’ (= ‘as long as the earth endures’ (8:22)). Given Adam’s role picked up in Noah, we have the grounding for a ‘2 kingdom’ notion – kingdom of God vs. kingdom of man. Timeline – The ‘present age’ characterized by*

sin/death will continue until the end, despite God acting to bring redemption and ultimately Christ.

d) *We also see failure, lack of obedience on Noah's part (Gen 9).*

e) *Biblical-Theological Significance of the Noahic Covenant in the Bible's Storyline.*

5. Concluding Reflection.