

Genesis—Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

The book of Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Grieve the Horror of Death! This may seem like a really strange application point, but in our modern lives we do so much to avoid even thinking about death. Take some time to consider how horrible it is that the good Creation God made had to be subjected to futility and death.

Call upon His Name! Salvation is found in no other name. It is to Him that we need to cry out and seek deliverance from the sin that so easily entangles us in the web of death and destruction.

Praise Him! Thank Christ for delivering us from death. Seek to work in all that He gives you to His glory and in life-affirming truth.

Ezra-Nehemiah—Series Overview

A Community Restored for Worship

The book of Ezra-Nehemiah was written to encourage God's people returning after exile to believe the covenant promises and restore the temple in Jerusalem. God's people were being restored in the place of promise as a worshipping community. The restoration of purpose was far greater than their real estate. The place always has to do with what God promised would happen there.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
February 3rd, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 4: 25 – 5: 32

How Did Seth's Seed Point to the Gospel?

1. The Rhythm of Humanity—Life, Multiplication, and Dying Death.
2. The Startling Exception of Enoch (21-24).
3. How Will We Escape Death and the Painful Toil of Our Hands?

Seth was a replacement for the murdered Abel and his line provides a stark contrast to Cain's. In its poetic listing we see the awful specter of death and the mysterious exception of one who walks with God and experiences life with Him. The hope remains for One of the woman's seed to rescue us from death and the repetition of painful labor to no avail. But who will it be and when will they come? Praise be to the Lord, Christ has come and conquered death and given our hands purpose. Come join us in praising Him and working together to the glory of God.

Evening Service:

Nehemiah 10: 1 – 39

Renewed Together

1. The Basis for Renewal Is God's Faithfulness.
2. The Result of Renewal Is Repentance and Obedience.
3. We See God's Faithfulness Most Clearly at the Cross of Jesus.

God tells us in His Word that He is restoring His people as a worshipping community—a people of praise for His glory—and calls us to repent and believe. Are you tired of trying to worship well enough? Have you despaired of trying hard enough? Then come to Jesus and live. Live for all the glory the King of Creation designed you for, worshipping Him together with His people. Worshipping Him with all of our lives so that many others might come and join our Redeemer's song of praise. He is faithful and bids us come.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What seems *normal* is just what we are used to experiencing. But how do we know what should be normal? God is the only One outside our common experience to tell us what is real and what normal should be. We are seeing in Genesis just how off the entire universe really is because of the rebellion of our first parents.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 4:25-5:32; Jude 14-21**. DISCUSS: Why does sin result in death? How are we to “wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ” and what is the eternal life He will bring? PRAY for God to help us a congregation to more and more trust Christ by faith.

Sunday PM

READ today’s passage: **Nehemiah 10:1-39**. What is the role of community in caring for the house of the Lord? Why is it necessary? PRAISE God for His kindness. REPENT of ways we cheat Him.

Monday

READ **Genesis 4:25-5:32**. DISCUSS: Why the repetition of death? As you read this passage, what stands out to you? Why? PRAY for godly grief rather than just upset at being caught in our sin. REPENT of ways you (we) disobey God and treat sin lightly.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 4:25-26; Acts 2:14-36**. What does it mean to call upon the name of the Lord? How do you (we) do that? MEDITATE on the name of Jesus—how does calling on His name rescue us? PRAY, “Lord Jesus, our Heavenly Father has given You the name that is above every other name. You have all authority in heaven and earth. You alone are our salvation. Teach me (us) what it means to trust in You alone and to the neglect of everything else. Show us how there is life in no one else!”

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 5:1-3; 1:26-31**. DISCUSS: God made us in His image. Why does He repeat that here at the beginning of Seth’s line? While we still bear His image, how has it changed? REJOICE for God’s grace in us and the privilege we have as image-bearers to the King. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for Your rule over all Creation. Teach us what it means to bear Your image and rule over Creation as deputies of Your sovereignty.”

Thursday

READ **Genesis 5:3-31; Romans 6:23**. How does this passage of Genesis say the same thing as this one verse in Romans? What strengths do each have in communicating the point? How do they differ? GRIEVE over the horror of sin and death. PRAY, “Lord, You said from the beginning that disobedience would bring us death, but we did not believe You. When we consider all the horror we have brought through our rebellion, Lord, we want desperately to undo our sin, but we are trapped in the futility of our dying death. Thank You for doing in Christ what we could not.”

Friday

READ **Genesis 4:25-5:32**. DISCUSS: What have you been learning this week? How does seeing the litany of death and the futility of the painful labor of our hands help you (us) to better appreciate all that we have in Christ? REJOICE for Christ has set us free from this bondage of death. PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Reach out in friendship.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. READ **Genesis 6-9**. DISCUSS: What surprised you? PLAN AHEAD: Do what you can today to free you up tomorrow to concentrate on worshipping Christ with His people. INVITE someone you know to join you for the worship service tomorrow. Ask Christ to draw them to Himself.