

The "So What" of Genesis to Revelation

2 Timothy 3:14-17

May 23, 2020

Last week we concluded our 3 ½ year journey through the Bible, but why did we even go on this journey? How did it all start?

I have some sort of a reading comprehension disability so reading and writing are difficult for me. Even thinking up topics to write about is a challenge, so in December of 2016 I decided that it would be easier for me to just go through the Bible – that way I wouldn't have to come up with something every week.... I really believed it was my idea. Then I met Ron.....

We were well into Exodus by mid-March when Ron walked into church. After the service he told me his story. He had been coming back from a business trip to Europe. On the plane he was reading the description of the Sanctuary in the book of Exodus, but didn't understand what he was reading. When he got home, he somehow found us on the internet and joined us the next Sabbath ---- the VERY SABBATH we were discussing the Sanctuary in Exodus.

That's when I fully realized that this journey was not my idea at all and that God had bigger plans than simply making it easier for me.

If you have looked at the sermon list – you will notice that we did not go from Genesis to Revelation in an orderly fashion – again I believe God was working in that. You see, as we were approaching the end of Exodus and I began to look at Leviticus, I just simply couldn't figure out how to preach through Leviticus – total brain block, so I cut up all the books of the Bible and put them in an Altoids can and I asked the congregation to pick the books – when Alvin finally drew Leviticus, no more brain block and I have been awed by how God has timed each book perfectly.

So here we are 3 ½ years later and I hope it has been as worthwhile for you as it has been for me.

Okay..... Let's go!

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

This very God, Who created the universe did not leave us to grope in the darkness - but how do you communicate that you have come to save someone who has no ability to understand your intent and doesn't know they need to be saved? Well, you use words they understand. So, over a period of 1500 years, this Creator God inspired more than 40 authors, who wrote in 3 different languages and lived on 3 continents – But, in a day and age when so many, even so-called Christians, question the validity of Scripture, can we know for sure that it **IS** the Word of God?

- **2 Timothy 3:16** - All Scripture is God-breathed.....
- **Hebrews 4:12** - For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- **2 Peter 1:16-21** - For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible contains poetry and prose, history and prophecy. Some books are dry, while others are page-turners. And yet, with all this variety, the Bible has one unified theme – God's love for humanity. It is the story of creation, betrayal and the price of redemption - **We learned:**

God is creator . . . we are created..... in the image of God {we did not crawl out of the ooze} – Genesis 1 and 2

- **Genesis 1:27** - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

There is a Villain in the story - humanity chose sin - the impact was immediate and devastating – Genesis 3-6; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12: 9.....

- **Genesis 3:1** - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" / **Revelation 12:9** - The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- **Genesis 3:12** - The man said, "The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."
- **Genesis 4:8** - Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.
- **Genesis 6:5-6** - The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

The only way out of the mess we chose is death AND a "Substitute" was promised – Genesis 2:16-17; 3:14-15; Isaiah 53; Romans 5:1-10; Hebrews 9:11-28.....

- **Genesis 2:16-17** - And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
- **Genesis 3:15** - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
- **Isaiah 53:4-5** – Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

The history {both the good stuff and the bad stuff} of an old married couple God chose to become the nation that would represent Him in the world and through whom the "Substitute" would come – Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:1-5 – Malachi 4:6

How to live in obedience while we wait for the end of the story – Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 6; Micah 6:8; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:1; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:9; 2 Peter 1:3-7; Revelation 14:12.....

- **Micah 6:8** - He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
- **Romans 12:1-2** - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- **Hebrews 12:1-2** - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

That the "Substitute", who created the vast universe and inspired all those writers' stepped into our space and time to redeem us – not because He HAD to, but because He WANTED to do – Matthew, Mark, Luke John.....

- **John 1:1-3, 14** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

About Godly Wisdom – Proverbs

The importance of honesty before God and Praising and Worshipping Him in every situation - Psalms

About the Judgment and Justice – Genesis 6:1-8; Exodus 12:12; Deuteronomy 32:41; Psalm 1:5; 9:7-8; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 9:24; Ezekiel 20:35-36; 33:11; Matthew 12:36-42; John 5:22; Romans 2:1-6; Revelation 14:7.....

- **Exodus 12:12** - On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn-- both men and animals-- and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.
- **Psalm 1:5** - Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- **Jeremiah 9:24** - But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.
- **Ezekiel 33:11** - Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'

About Mercy and Grace – Exodus 34:6; 2nd Samuel 24:14; Nehemiah 9:31; Psalm 25:6-7; 51:1; Isaiah 55:7; 7:18-19; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 2:4-5; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 4:15-6.....

- **Exodus 34:6** - And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
- **Nehemiah 9:31** - But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

- **Micah 7:18-19** - Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. ¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.
- **Hebrews 4:15-16** - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

About Forgiveness and Reconciliation – Psalm 130; Isaiah 55:7; Micah 7:18-20; Matthew 26:26; Mark 1:4; Luke 1:68-79; Acts 2:38; 10:42-43; 13:38-39; 26:18; Romans 5:11; 2nd Corinthians 5:18-19; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-17; Philemon.....

- **Isaiah 55:7** - Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
- **Romans 5:11** - Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
- **Ephesians 1:7-8** - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

That the Word of God brings life now as well as the promise of eternity – Deuteronomy 32:45-47; John 10:10; 14:2-3; 20:31; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-17; 1st Corinthians 2:9-10; 2nd Timothy 2:8-10; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 19:1; 21:1-4.....

- **Deuteronomy 32:45-47** - When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶ he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. ⁴⁷ They are not just idle words for you-- they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."
- **John 10:10** - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- **John 20:31** - But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- **Revelation 21:1-4** - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

We can't just be "Hearers" of the Word – We have to be "Doers" – Luke 6:46-49; James 1:22-27

For all the things we've learned and the abundance of evidence that supports that the Bible is exactly what it says it is, probably the greatest evidence – the real proof – that the Bible IS the Word of God – is a transformed life:

- **Deuteronomy 30:6** - The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.
- **Ezekiel 36:25-27** - I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
- **2 Timothy 3:14-16** - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul is the poster boy for a Transformed Life

- **Galatians 1:13-14** - For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
- **Ephesians 3:14-21** - For this reason I kneel before the Father, ... ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may **strengthen you with power through his Spirit** in your inner being, ¹⁷ **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**. And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, ¹⁸ **may have power**, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, ¹⁹ **and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God**. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The only explanation for the radical change in Paul's life is Jesus.

Jude 1:24-25 - To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.