

The Bigger Story: Week 47

THE SEVEN C's IN GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN



Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, **Christ, Cross**, Completion/New Creation

CHRIST

God's perfect creation was corrupted. Adam's disobedience brought sin and death into the world. Because of this, and because we have all sinned, we are all deserving of the death penalty and therefore need a Savior (Romans 5:12). God, in His mercy, promised to send One who would take away the death penalty for sin (Genesis 3:15, Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23). ***Why do we need Him? Why can't we save ourselves?***

God killed an animal in the Garden of Eden because of the sin of Adam. After this, Adam's descendants sacrificed animals. But these sacrifices could only cover sin...they couldn't pay the penalty owed. They couldn't clean us from sin. They pointed to the ultimate sacrifice would be made by the One whom our Creator God would send (Hebrews 9).

Why don't we have to make sacrifices anymore? Because the Lamb of God (John 1:29, Revelation 5:12) was sacrificed once for all (Hebrews 7:27). Jesus bore God's wrath on our sin by dying in our place (Isaiah 53:6). So all those who believe in Him will be saved from the ultimate penalty for sin (eternal separation from God) and will live with Him forever!

Likewise, when God gave Moses the Law, it was a tool but not something that could offer salvation. ***What was the law's use?*** Through the law, people began to see that they could never measure up to God's standard of perfection (Romans 3:20, James 2:10). The law is a thermometer, but not the cure. Jesus is the cure. We all need the One to take away our imperfection and present us faultless before God's throne (Romans 5:9, 1 Peter 3:18). ***What do you learn about God here?***

Because we are all born in sin (Psalms 51:5) with a sin nature (Romans 7:19) our Savior had to be perfect, as well as infinite, to take away the infinite penalty for sin. Only God is perfect and can pay this due. The Creator of the universe (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-3, 14) became part of His creation so that He might save His people from their sins! ***Why would God do this?***

God sent Jesus, in accordance with His plan and promise and in His perfect timing (Galatians 4:4). Jesus was born to a virgin over **2,000** years ago in Bethlehem, as the prophets Isaiah (7:14) and Micah (5:2) foretold **700** years previously!

- Jesus fulfilled **50+** prophecies made about Him centuries before, including the first promise God made over **4,000** years before (Genesis 3:15).

Jesus is called the "Last Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45) as He came to restore the fellowship with God which was broken by the first Adam's sin.

- The first Adam brought death into the world through his disobedience.
- Jesus, the Last Adam brought eternal life with God through His obedience (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). Jesus fulfilled the Creator's purpose that He die for the sin of the world.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

THE CROSS

“Christ Jesus ... who, being in the form of God..., was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”
([Philippians 2:5-8](#)).

Jesus was not defeated by death. He rose **3** days after He was crucified, proving He has power over all things, including death, the “last enemy” ([1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 26](#)).

“O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? ... But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” ([1 Corinthians 15:55, 57](#)).

Why is the cross and the physical death and literal resurrection of Jesus essential?

Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin. When we believe in Christ and understand what He has done for us, we are passed from death into life ([John 5:24](#)). The names of those who receive Him are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life ([Revelation 13:8, 17:8](#)), so when we die, we will go to be with Him forever ([John 3:16](#))!

The Bible is **66** Books, written in **3** continents in **3** languages... yet it is all harmonious...all pointing to Jesus.

- *How can you see Jesus throughout the Bible?*
- *How can you see God as Creator and Covenant keeper?*

*What did you learn about our Creator God?
Where did you see / What did you learn about King Jesus?
What did you learn about man?
Is there any action to take?
How can you share what you read today?*

For Further Study:

- [Genesis 3:15](#): This is the first Messianic prophecy in the Bible. God announced that the serpent’s head (Satan) would be crushed by the seed of woman: Jesus.
- [Genesis 12, 26, 28](#): The “seed” promise referred to the eventual coming of Jesus.
- [Genesis 22](#): **Compare** the sacrifice of Isaac to the sacrifice of Jesus (see [Hebrews 11:17-19](#)).
- [Genesis 28](#): **Compare** Jacob and the ladder with Jesus (see [John 1:49-51](#) and [Luke 9:58](#)).

This Week’s Readings

Ezekiel 16-17, James 2	Ezekiel 18-19, James 3-4	Ezekiel 20-21 James 5	Ezekiel 22-23 1 Peter 1	Ezekiel 24-25 1 Peter 2	Ezekiel 26-27 1 Peter 3
Zephaniah 1:7-16, Psalm 90:1-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30					