

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



In The Beginning...Christ

Part of the Christ in Genesis Series

Luke 24:25-27, 44-45; Genesis 1:1-2

Robert L. Watt

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Introduction:

- Don't you wish that you could have listened in on the Bible study Jesus had with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on that first resurrection day? It is recorded in Luke 24 and here is an excerpt from our text today:

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Luke 24:25-27, 44-45 (NKJV)

²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself...

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

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- Don't you wish that you could have listened in on the Bible study Jesus had with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on that first resurrection day? It is recorded in Luke 24 and here is an excerpt from our text today:
- Christ is in all of the Scriptures! Here is an interesting link if you want more examples of that:
<http://jesusplusnothing.com/jesus66books.htm>
- Today we start a new preaching series where will focus on Christ in Genesis. This is not a Bible study of the entire book, as important as that is. Instead we will just focus on seeing various pictures of Christ scattered throughout Genesis.

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- This can be accomplished in variety of ways as different speakers will illustrate.
- Sometimes the picture of Christ will be shown as part of the great redemptive-historical progression of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation (ex. Christ is the last Adam).
- Other times a specific verse will be referenced as a promise in Genesis that will have its ultimate fulfillment in Christ in the NT (ex. Gen. 3:15).
- Another way of seeing Christ in Genesis is through the careful use of typology—seeing OT events, persons (like Joseph) or institutions as foreshadowing Jesus Christ and His redemptive work.

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- The use of analogy is another way to compare a subject in the OT that is similar to one that we face today (ex. Jesus used the story of Noah (Matt. 24:37-41) to urge people to repent and escape judgment).
- At other times the picture of Christ may appear to be hidden, as we will see in our text today (Gen. 1:1-2).

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Genesis 1:1-2 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

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Body of Lesson:

- An overview of the whole book before we look at Gen. 1:1-2.
- Genesis 1-11 relates the origin of the cosmos/universe and man; Genesis 12-50 relates the origin of the Hebrew nation, and particularly the line of Jesus Christ the Messiah.
- Genesis moves from general to specific in its Messianic prophecies: Christ is the Seed of woman (3:15), from the line of Seth (4:25), the son of Shem (9:27), the descendant of Abraham (12:3), of Isaac (21:12), of Jacob (25:23), and of the tribe of Judah (49:10).
- The rest of the OT leads up to the coming of the promised Messiah, the Savior and Redeemer of the world cursed by sin as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3).

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- In all of Genesis we see the Sovereign God at work!
- The heavens and the earth were created, but God chose to recount the further history of the earth.
- Angels (both fallen and not fallen) and mankind were created, but Genesis is the history of mankind.
- Adam and Eve had many sons (and daughters) but the line of Seth (who replaced slain Abel) is detailed (4:25-26; 5:3).
- Noah is followed (6:8) even though there were many other descendants.
- Of Noah's three sons saved in the ark following the global flood, the line of Shem is particularly followed (11:10).

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- In his line it is Terah (11:27) who is chosen, leading to Abraham (12:1).
- It is his son Isaac (21:12) who is chosen, not firstborn Ishmael; then Jacob (Israel) is chosen, not Esau his twin.
- The chosen line continues through Judah, not the other 11 brothers, to David (not his 7 brothers).
- It is Solomon who is chosen (not the many other sons of David), and all this leads finally to the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary (see her line back to Adam son of God in Lk. 3:28-38).
- The line of Joseph, who takes Mary to be his wife after she has conceived Jesus, also intersects the line of the Messiah in several significant places (see genealogy Matt. 1:1-14).

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- The title of this series is “Christ in Genesis”. Today in a non-technical way we use the name “Christ” as practically being synonymous with Jesus, and the followers of Jesus are called “Christians”.
- Technically Christ comes from the Greek word *Christos* meaning the Chosen or Anointed One. In the Greek translation of the Hebrew OT (the Septuagint), *Christos* is the translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah.
- They are one in the same, so Christ in Genesis is the same as the Messiah and His line going back to Adam portrayed in Genesis as we just saw.

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- Just to complete the panoramic view of the plan of God, the Bible is in two parts.
- First, the OT that we have just looked at, starting with the creation of the heavens and earth and its inhabitants and leading up to Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, Who is the crux of all history.
- Then the NT, where we see Jesus coming from heaven, His birth, life and disciple making, death, burial, resurrection and finally His ascension back to heaven where God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to us as proof that He accepted His Son.
- The disciples by the power of God the Holy Spirit formed the church which started with the Jews but then also spread to all the Gentiles because God loved the whole world.

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- In the OT there was the remnant of mankind (the Jews) that God worked through.
- In the NT the believers who compose the church universal (Jews and Gentiles both saved by faith and not by the keeping of the Law) are the remnant that God is now using.
- Soon Jesus has promised to return and take the church with Him to heaven.
- According to Revelation, the last book of the Bible, God will create a new heaven and a new earth and we will dwell together with Him for all eternity without sin!
- All the comparisons between Genesis and Revelation are beyond the scope of this study, but I would encourage you to study this subject on your own!

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- Now (finally!) let us look at Gen. 1:1-2 for our first hint of Christ in Genesis. The first words in the Bible are well known: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1)
- בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ (Heb. reading R to L):
the earth the heavens and God created In the beginning
- Did you know Christ was hidden in this verse in Genesis by the author, Moses? However, unless you read and study it in the original Hebrew language you probably did not specifically know this.
- The 4th word of the original Hebrew text is a word that has been completely omitted from the English translation but this one word reveals Christ in this verse in a special way.

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- The Hebrew word omitted in this verse is actually not a real word at all and thus the reason for the omission of it during translation to the English language. The translators simply did not understand what to do with it, so they omitted it.
- This omitted word consists of only two Hebrew letters “alef” and “tav” (אַת), which just so happen to be the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Genesis 1:1 should have read “In the beginning the A-Z God created the heavens and the earth”. The translators did not understand the significance and they ignored the word being connected to the name of God (Isa. 48:12-13).

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Isaiah 48:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² “Listen to Me, O Jacob,
And Israel, My called:
I am He, *I am* the First,
I am also the Last.

¹³ Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth,
And My right hand has stretched out the heavens;
When I call to them,
They stand up together.

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- The Hebrew word omitted in this verse is actually not a real word at all and thus the reason for the omission of it during translation to the English language. The translators simply did not understand what to do with it, so they omitted it.
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- Genesis 1:1 should have read “In the beginning the A-Z God created the heavens and the earth”. The translators did not understand the significance and they ignored the word being connected to the name of God (Isa. 48:12-13).
- In Rev. 1:8 Jesus said that He is the Alpha and Omega (first & last letters of the Greek alphabet).

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Revelation 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

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- In the OT God's great mystery is concealed (**Gen. 1:1**). In the NT God's great mystery is revealed (**Jn. 1:1-3**).
- More about that next week as we study Christ as the Creative Word.
- Also hidden to us in English is the word used for "God"—it is *Elohim* (God is plural in Hebrew, representing the Trinity).
- We'll get into this more next time as well (see **Gen. 1:26** where the plural is easier to see in English because of the plural pronouns used in the translation).
- There was nothing before creation, and what was created was out of nothing. Only God (plural) can do that!

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- Between verses 1 and 2 is another great mystery to some!
- Verse 2 says, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”
- Scholars and evangelical commentaries for more than 100 years have debated whether God can create something empty like is described here, or is there a very long gap of time between verses 1 and 2?
- According to the gap theory, Lucifer (Satan) fell during that time because of his pride (“I will be like the Most High”, see [Isa. 14:12-15](#)), and the world that had existed prior to this gap was destroyed. Then God recreated it in the six literal days described in Genesis that we will look at next week.

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- I have to admit that this “gap theory” made sense as I was studying these things as a young Christian, using my *Scofield Reference Bible* (which espoused this, as well as the various covenants and dispensations). Today other explanations seem more consistent (**Prov. 18:17**).
- This theory fails because it lacks biblical support and puts death before sin, while Scripture describes death as the consequence for sin. I would refer you the *Answers in Genesis* website with a number of scientifically and biblically sound writings by Ken Ham and others which discuss the “gap theory” (and many other “problems” in Genesis) in great detail: <https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/gap-theory/> or <https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/gap-theory/closing-the-gap/>.

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Application:

- 1. From beginning to end Christ is in all of Scripture—
Look for Him!**
- 2. Sometimes Christ will be found in hidden gems—
Learn to appreciate Him!**
- 3. If you have problems seeing Christ in problem areas—
Let God be God!**

“Don't try to unscrew the inscrutable!” (Swindoll)