

What on earth is God doing? The Kingdom of God and World History

Genesis 1-11

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global
connections



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one world ... or else !

I. Salvation History in Genesis 1-11

Theme: In the midst of judgment, there is salvation

Salvation History in Genesis 1-11 sets the stage for the rest of Scripture, pointing to God's Missionary Character and Purpose in Human History.



A. Genesis 2-3 and the Fall of Man

The Purpose of Man: to observe God's Rule,
Genesis 2:15

God's rule over man, Genesis 2:16-17

Man's fall: Adam revolts against the rule of God

Judgment: Man banish from Eden and eventually dies

God's Salvation: sacrifice of an animal for the covering of man's shame



B. Genesis 4 and the murder of Abel

Judgment: for murdering Abel, Cain is consigned to be a restless wanderer, and to urbanity

Salvation: God's mark preserving Cain's life



C. Genesis 6-9 and the Flood

Sin: Man had corrupted the earth

Judgment: God would destroy all flesh

Salvation: God preserves one family

Lesson: despite repeated mercy, sin spreads to the whole society.

Call to righteous ethical conduct in the midst of moral degradation



D. Genesis 10-11 and the Tower of Babel

Sin: self-assertion against the rule of God

- Man spread over the face of the earth
- Man seeks utopia apart from God

Judgment: God confounds the language

- Man is alienated from one another
- Nations and warfare begin

Salvation: A Nation from Abram, a new instrument through which God would effect His kingdom in Human History. Subsequently, God used other instruments of the Kingdom (Law, Judges, Kings, Prophets) to establish His Kingdom.



E. Modern Christian History

“Christian expansion is serial, not progressive” (Andrew Walls)

20th Century witnessed the greatest recession of Christianity (in the West) and the greatest expansion of Christianity (in Two Third Worlds)

The cycle of sin-judgment-salvation is closely tied to Crossing of Cultural Frontiers.



II. The Kingdom of God as the Integrative Theme for Mission

“Everything is submitted to the Kingdom of God, nothing is excluded from it. There is nothing in the entire world nor in any dimension of the life of this world that is not in rapport with the Kingdom of God”
(John Calvin).



II. The Kingdom of God as the Integrative Theme for Mission

- Mission began with God, not the church nor the world
- The Kingdom of God must transform every aspect of life in the whole creation. Sin demands a Comprehensive Gospel
- Christ's reign is over all things (Eph. 1:10; 2:13; 3:9-10).

He is the Lord of science, just as he is of souls, the Lord of the economy of salvation, just as the economics of big business and globalization.



The Kingdom is the restoration of God's rule through Jesus Christ over the whole of life and the whole of His creation.

