

**Sermon Series:** The Big Picture

**Sermon title:** Creation

**Scripture reading:** Genesis 1:1

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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**Intro:**

If someone asked you to summarize the whole Bible for them what would you say?

If you had to summarize the whole Bible in a single sentence, could you do it?

Have you ever worked a large jigsaw puzzle?

Often times the Bible is like a puzzle that we are putting together on a table.

We might have 10 clumps of puzzle pieces together but they don't fit as a whole and there are many random pieces we can't seem to fit anywhere.

But is the Bible really like that?

It's my hope and prayer in this series that when we are done we can know and articulate what the Bible is all about.

First let me give you some big clues.

1. **Read the Old Testament in light of the New Testament.** Reading the Old Testament is often like

putting together a complicated puzzle like the one on the screen. You have bits and pieces but it's hard to put it all together.

Well, the New Testament is the box top. Look at the box top and you can put the puzzle together. Interpret the Old Testament with the New Testament and you'll see clearly.

In Luke 24:27, after Jesus rose from the dead and walked on the road to Emmaus with some disciples, he said the Old Testament is about him. **“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”** And in verse 44 he said, **“Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”**

So, we have ‘the box top’ to the puzzle and it is the New Testament and the picture on it is of Jesus Christ.

We will ask that question at the end of each theme each week, **“Where do we see Jesus here?”**

**2. Think KINGDOM of God being established, not just beginning in Matthew but from Genesis.** Vaughan Roberts (and others) have helped us greatly in

understanding this. It will be good for you to keep this in mind while we walk through this series. In fact, I will rely on his structure at times to help us think clearly.

- Pattern of the kingdom
- Perished kingdom
- Promised kingdom
- Partial kingdom
- Prophesied kingdom
- Present yet pending kingdom
- Perfected kingdom

History is moving somewhere and the Bible isn't just a collection of random stories. The pieces fit together although fuzzy in the OT, they're clear in the NT. And praise God that we have the whole story.

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Turn in your Bible to Genesis chapter 1. Since we are doing an overview, let me give you the outline for today;

1. God
2. God's place
3. God's people
4. God's rule

\*We will see these themes all throughout our study.

Look at chapter 1 verse 1. **“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”**

I. **GOD.** He's the main character. Always. He is not the best supporting actor in the Bible. Man is not the main character. God is central.

**What is God? He is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will. (New City Catechism 2)**

God is mentioned 35x in 1:1-2:3. He is Creator. Verse 1, when it says that God created the 'heavens and the earth' that means everything in between. It's a way to say that he made everything there is.

God is creator and everything else is created.

And God made everything *Ex Nihilo*, which means out of nothing. He isn't the potter that shapes the clay. He makes the clay and he is the potter.

Genesis 1 says "God said" 8x. God creates by speaking. Can you imagine? In Genesis 1 and 2 God does an action 47x.

He creates. He says. He sees. He separates. He blesses. He rests. He breathes. He plants. He commanded. He builds Eve from a rib.

What we are supposed to see in Genesis 1 and 2 is that God is the Creator and he is awesome. He's the only.

There is no other. This is the introduction to the whole Bible and it should lead us to praise and worship!

The Psalms cry out praise for God fundamentally as our Creator. **Psalm 33:6-8** says **“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!”**

**Psalm 95** says, **“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

**I. GOD** is the main character. It's all about him. He is worthy of worship. Everything that is created owes him praise, allegiance, devotion and glory. Acts tells us that he needs nothing yet gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

**II. God's place.** Although we see in Genesis 1:1 that God creates heaven and earth, which means he created everything that exists, we see this specific place in Genesis where God is going to dwell in his creation and where God is going to put the crown of his creation, mankind.

This specific land/place is called the Garden of Eden. God fashions it for mankind and gives him dominion albeit a 'dominion of dependence' upon God for everything.

Now I'd like you to keep in the back of your mind that the Garden of Eden is the Promised Land of the rest of the Bible. God has a place for man, a specific place that he fashions and we will unpack this theme as we go, the theme of God giving his people a place to dwell with him.

**III. God's people.** Adam, and Eve. Adam out of the dust of the ground. Eve created out of Adam's rib. Adam and Even are God's people living in the place God has for them. They are the crown of creation because they are made in the image of God.

What's this mean?

As a photograph points to the real thing, mankind is to point all of creation to the Creator. And man is given dominion to rule over all of creation, including all of the animals and serpents. Man is to work the land and take care of it.

**IV. God's rule.** Adam and Eve are to serve as vice-regents over the creation. They are not the King but serving under the King. Since God is the creator, he's also the King, ruler, and sovereign.

All is as it should be. Adam and Eve are without sin. They are living in fellowship with God perfectly.

This is how things should be. This defines what we know of as *Shalom*. All things in perfect harmony and peace.

**This is the pattern of the kingdom of God.**

God and God's people living under God's rule in God's place.

Living under God's rule is the best place to be because he is good. He is sufficient to provide for his creatures.

Do you ever wonder what things would've been like if things would have stayed that way? We will look at the rest of the story in the coming weeks.

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Well, as we look at the first 2 chapters of the Bible and we read the story of creation, what should be our response? As creatures what should be our response to our Creator? What do we...created beings...from the dust...owe our Creator?

How should we now live in light of our Creator God?

Do you remember I said that we need to interpret the Old Testament with the New Testament?

**24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for**

**“In him we live and move and have our being’;  
as even some of your own poets have said,**

**“For we are indeed his offspring.’**

**29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.**

**30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,**

**31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:24-31**



We owe God worship.

We are created beings. He is the Creator.

We should live under his loving rule.

He is deserving and worthy of red hot worship and devotion. We should turn away from idols, the idols of our hearts and give every ounce of our beings to him.

Lastly, we want to ask the question each week, “Where is Jesus Christ here?” Because Jesus said that the books of Moses, the Prophets and the Writings are about him.

So, where is Jesus here?

John 1:1-5

Colossians 1:15-18

Hebrews 1:3