

The Story of Scripture -

I. **Creation** – God creates the Universe from nothing (Gen. 1:1)

A. God creates mankind in His Image

1. No other creature is God's image
2. Man is given dominion over creation

B. God gives man His Orders

1. Adam is to "guard and keep" the garden as God's Temple
 - a. This garden will be God's temple on earth
 - i. God's command to Adam to "guard (or keep) and work" the garden, used in Gen. 2:15 are also commanded of the Levites to keep and work in the sanctuary in Num. 3:7-8; 18:5-6
 - ii. We also see the decorations in the tabernacle and temple show garden like imagery - The Menorah, the Temple's lampstand, is described as having seven branches and it is adorned with petals, almond blossoms and other plant elements (Ex. 25:31-40). Two tree-like pillars stood at the entrance to the Temple, decorated with hundreds of pomegranates, lilies, and other flower designs (I Kgs. 7: 15-22).
 - b. It is the place where God will dwell with man
 - c. The garden is intended to spread until the whole earth is God's dwelling
 - d. The purpose of creation is to have a world reflecting God's glory
2. Adam is to multiply and fill the earth
 - a. He is to spread God's image
3. Adam is not to eat from the forbidden tree
 - a. He is to be innocent with no knowledge of evil

II. **Fall of Man** – God's command is broken

A. Adam and Eve eat from the forbidden tree (Gen. 3)

1. Adam failed to "guard and keep" the garden
 - a. He allowed the serpent to deceive Eve
 - b. As a guard and keeper of the garden, he should have evicted the serpent rather than listened to him
2. Adam, Eve, and the Serpent are cursed
 - a. Adam and Eve are thrown out of the garden (God's sacred Temple) – they will no longer have the same kind of fellowship with God
 - b. The serpent is cursed to crawl on his belly
 - c. God give a promise in the midst of curses (Gen. 3:15)
 - i. There will come a seed from the woman

- ii. This seed will destroy what the devil has done
- iii. This seed will undo the curse (it is Christ – Galatians 3:16)

3. The creation is also cursed

III. Man's Wickedness Increased – God must destroy them and start over

Gen. 6:5 "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

- A. Noah alone finds grace in God's eyes (Gen. 6:8)
- B. God sends a flood to wipe away everything
- C. God saves Noah and his family in the ark
- D. God starts over with Noah
 - 1. The mandate God gave Adam is now passed down to Noah
 - 2. Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 9:1)
 - 3. Noah is to repopulate the earth with God's image
- E. Noah fails – He has grace but men's hearts are still sinful
 - 1. Noah, like Adam, sinned in a garden by getting drunk from the fruit of the vine (Gen. 9:21). And just as Adam was ashamed of his nakedness so was Noah (Gen. 9:21-23)
- F. Man refuses to fill the earth – the Tower of Babel
 - 1. Instead of spreading out and filling the earth, man decided to make a name for himself by settling together and building a tower to heaven. (Gen. 11:4)
 - 2. Man seeks his own glory
 - 3. Man seeks his own comfort
 - 4. God judges them, scatters them, and confuses their language

IV. God Chooses a Man – Abraham

- A. God will make a nation from him that will fill the earth with His image
- B. The command given to Adam to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28) is now a promise given to Abraham and his offspring (Gen. 17:2, 5, 6; Gen. 22:17; Gen. 26:4)
 - 1. I will bless the world through you
 - 2. I will make you a nation and give you a land
 - 3. The "seed of the woman" that would crush the serpent's head would come through the line of Abraham.

V. The Promise Passes to Issac – (Gen. 26:3-4)

- A. God gave Abraham and Sarah a miraculous birth proving that it is God who will fulfill the promise
 - 1. Abraham had Ishmael with a servant
 - 2. God would not allow Ishmael to inherit the promise
- B. God restates the Promise to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-4)
- C. The promised seed that will crush Satan's head will come through Isaac

VI. The Promise Passes to Jacob – (Gen. 28:13-15)

- A. God restates the promise to Jacob instead of Esau
 - 1. Esau was the firstborn and had rights of the firstborn
 - 2. God chose Jacob to show that He alone is bringing the promise to fulfillment – It will be passed down as God says, not by the natural rights of birth (Romans 9:11-12)
 - 3. Isaac attempts to give the promise to Esau but is hindered from doing so by Jacob and Rebecca his mother

VII. The Promise Passes to the Nation of Israel – (Exodus – Deuteronomy)

- A. God give the promise to Jacob's 12 sons
 - 1. The promise is beginning to be fulfilled – those bearing the promise are “multiplying”
 - 2. They multiply and become a great nation
 - 3. They are enslaved in Egypt
 - 4. God rescues them in fulfillment of the promise
 - 5. God establishes His Covenant with His people at Mt. Sinai
 - a. God gives them the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20) – they must obey to retain God's blessing
 - b. God instructs them to build the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40)
 - c. The Tabernacle – where God dwells with his people
 - where God is worshiped
 - it is decorated as the garden (flowers, pomegranates, and the cherubim are embroidered on the tabernacle)
- B. God instructs His people how to worship Him (**Leviticus**)
- C. The people sin, breaking the covenant and are forced to wander 40 years
- D. After 40 years the people prepare to enter the land and Moses speaks to them reaffirming the covenant and preparing them for the promised land (**Deuteronomy**)
- E. God reminds them they are to be a light to the nations and fill the earth with God's glory. (Deuteronomy 28:10-13)

And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. 11 And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. 12 The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. 13 And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them

VIII. The Promise in Jeopardy – (Joshua – Ruth)

- A. Joshua leads the people into the land conquering
- B. God's people take possession of the land – God has kept the promise!!

- C. In Judges, the people become idolatrous and rebellious. They forget God
- D. God brings repeatedly brings judgment and deliverance
- E. Has God decided to revoke His promise? – No! (**Ruth**) Ruth's story shows that even in the midst of Israel's unfaithfulness and sin, God is making sure the line of promise is still prospering
 - Ruth and Boaz are ancestors of Christ (Matt. 1:5; Luke 3:32)

IX. The Promise Passes to David's Line (1-2 Samuel)

- A. David brings Israel into a great and powerful kingdom
- B. God re-establishes his promise with David's Line
 - 2 Samuel 7:12, 16 - And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom...And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever*
- C. Israel is the Instrument God will use to spread his image but David's line will rule and reign over Israel
- D. During this time the **Psalms** are written

X. The Rebellion and Exile of God' People (1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles)

- A. David's son Solomon takes the throne and Israel experiences blessing like never before
- B. During this time Solomon writes, **Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, and Song of Songs**
- C. Solomon falls into idolatry and his Sons fight for control
- D. The Kingdom of Israel Splits into the Northern kingdom (Israel or Ephraim) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah or Benjamin) **1 Kings 12-14**
 - Amos** – prophesies warning God's people
 - Hosea** – reminds them that God is still faithful if they would turn back
- E. From this time, they continue in a downward spiral of sin and idolatry
- F. The Assyrian Empire is rising to power, **Nahum and Jonah** prophesy to Nineveh the capital of Assyria

XI. Punishment Comes to the Northern Kingdom

- A. Assyrian Empire takes the Northern Kingdom into captivity **2 Kings 17**
- B. Jews are deported and others are brought in as colonists
- C. Jews and colonists intermarry producing "Samaritans"
- D. God defends the Southern Kingdom by miraculously killing 185,000 Assyrians by an angel **2 Kings 19:35**
- E. The First half of **Isaiah** admonishes the people and warns of God's judgment coming through Assyria

XII. Punishment Comes to the Southern Kingdom 2 Kings 23-25

- A. Although it takes longer, Judah continues in idolatry and sin also
- B. **Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk** prophesy of the coming judgment
 - Lamentations** – is Jeremiah's cries over the destroyed city

- C. The Babylonians (who have risen to power) come, destroy Jerusalem and take the Jews Captive
- D. The Jews remain in captivity in Babylon for 70 years
- E. **Ezekiel and Daniel** Prophecy to the people during their captivity

XIII. The People Return to the Land According to God's Promise

- A. God promised they would return to the land through the prophet Daniel
- B. Cyrus a Persian king conquers Babylon and lets the Jews return to their land
 - 1. They return in three waves
 - 2. Zerubbabel returns with the first wave
 - 3. **Ezra** returns with the second
 - 4. **Nehemiah** returns with the third
- C. **Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi** prophecy to the people during their return to the land and the rebuilding of the city
- D. The Temple and the walls are rebuilt but the Jews never return to the Lord as they were before.
 - 1. Corruption, Legalism, and foreign powers still influence their lifestyles

Will God's Promise of a renewed earth filled with His image every be fulfilled. So Far all have failed.

XIV. God Himself Fulfills The Promise

- A. The Seed comes – The Son Himself takes on flesh and comes to earth in Bethlehem
- B. Jesus fulfills what Israel could not do – He obeys the law perfectly and is the perfect image of God
 - 1. He is the perfect Israel
 - 2. He is the heir to David's throne (Luke 1:32)
 - 3. He is the Last Adam (Rom. 5:12-19; Phil. 2:8)
 - 4. He has fulfilled the promise of Abraham (Gal. 3:29)
- C. Jesus dies on the cross to pay for mankind's sin – satisfying God's justice and opening the door for man to come back into perfect relationship with God
- C
- D. The perfect image of God is restored in man as they are "born again"
- E. Jesus sets forth the same mandate that God gave to Adam and Noah
 - a. Believers are to go forth and multiply and fill the earth
 - b. Now they are to multiply by bring the new birth instead of the natural birth
 - c. They are given the Great commission – Go into all nations making disciples

XV. Jesus Disciples Go Forth

- A. They teach and preach
- B. They spread the image of God

- C. They teach men how to live as the image of God
- D. God's words through them are still being read in Scripture today

XVI. The Promise will Be Fulfilled Completely

- A. God will judge the earth in righteousness
- B. Those who are conformed to the image of His Son will live with Him
- C. Those who are not will be cast out
- D. Revelation 22 uses the same language describing the new heavens and new earth that Genesis uses to describe the Garden

In Fact, the Greek word for "Garden" is *paradeisos* – it's where we get the word *paradise*. It is used in the Greek Old Testament when Genesis speaks of the garden (paradise) of Eden.

It is also used in Revelation to describe the new heavens and new earth -

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God– Rev. 2:7

Revelation 22:1-5 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever

Scripture has come full circle. God's image and glory will fill the entire earth, He will dwell with His people, and there will be perfection and immortality for them. What sin destroyed over and over again throughout history, Jesus Christ has accomplished and completed.