

READING ASSIGNMENT, WEEK 1: BEGINNINGS (for June 3 sermon)

BOOKS COVERED: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

CREATION | GENESIS 1:1-2:3

The Scriptures go back to the beginning and say that God made everything. Do you agree with this? What, if anything, does v. 1 have to do with faith in Jesus?

God reflects on His creation as “good” (vv. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25) and “very good” (v. 31). What does He mean by “good”? What did He call “very good,” and what does this tell you?

Look at vv. 26-28. What does it mean that men and women are created in God’s image? What is humanity’s basic role in the Lord’s created order?

THE FALL | GENESIS 3:1-19

This passage is referred to as “the Fall.” What did we fall from? What did Adam and Eve do wrong (see Genesis 2:15-16)?

One of our main tendencies is to blame others for our own wrongdoing. Check out vv. 12-13. Who does the man blame? Who does the woman point to? Who do you point to when you do things you know you shouldn’t?

God believes He has the right to command people and have us obey. Do you contest or challenge that claim? What do you understand Adam and Eve's basic sin to be? And ours? What are some consequences and present-day indicators of the Fall?

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM | GENESIS 12:1-9

Verses 1-3 spell out the Lord's purpose for blessing Abraham. Why was he going to be blessed?

Why did Abraham obey the Lord? Failure to obey cost Adam and Eve a lot. Abraham's obedience promises a future. Are you willing to follow God even when you don't know what's next or where He might lead you? Read Luke 14:27-33 to see how this connects with following Jesus.

THE PASSOVER | EXODUS 12:1-51

Focus on vv. 12-14. What is the event of Passover? What makes it so memorable? What does it point forward to?

Read vv. 24-28. How does God tell the people to explain Passover? How do you define and practice worship in your own life?

Verses 29-51 reveal the Lord as the God who acts in history. Briefly walk through the text. How do you discover God at work in the world and in your life today?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS | EXODUS 20:1-17

God's free people are to live a moral life pleasing to Him and satisfying to them. How does God identify Himself in v. 1? Why, do you suppose?

What does it mean to say that the four commands of vv. 3-11 deal with our "vertical relationship" with God and that the six commands of vv. 12-17 deal with our "horizontal relationship" with people?

Do the commandments apply to Christians today? How are freedom and law both wrapped within God's love?

What does it mean to love Jesus (see John 14:21)? Can we say that we follow Jesus "in our hearts" but never change our actions to do what He tells us?
