A Brief History of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Earth

An overview of God's story since before the dawn of time, With a hope-filled view of the future WEEK ONE: A STORY FOR THE AGES...

Where am I?

If we don't want to get lost, we must know:

- 1.What is our destination?
- 2.How to get there from here.
- 3.Where is here?



A Story for the Ages:

...He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' (Acts 17:26-28)

It's always a great day to be alive!

- Were are each born into a time perfectly suitable for our divine purpose in a greater story.
- Understanding what has happened before our part of the story give meaning to our part in the plot.
- Understanding what God's ultimate plans are for the future gives us a hope and vision for our own individual lives.

Christ is at the center of all history ■Though not named until the 1st C, Christ has always been involved in his-story. Ex: Heb 11:24-26 By faith Moses... considering the reproaches of Christ... Christ has been manifest through the ages in a way suitable to each era: ■God...spoke long ago...in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son... (Hebrews 1:1-2) A Story for the Ages: ...He chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world...In love He **predestined** us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself...In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will...with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him... (Ephesians 1:3-10) Three things the bible shows us about history: 1. God has determined the outcome. and has already experienced it as finished. The Fix is in! 2. All of those born to rule the world into eternity were chosen before the beginning of time. 3. Our experience of time (history) is only

a fragment of a much bigger story.

The Big Picture of the bible:

- ■The bible covers the first 4000 years of human history. (All called "B.C.")
- The books are not all in chronological order, but they tell the basic story of:
- God preparing the world for the coming of His Kingdom through Jesus Christ (The Old Testament)
- The inauguration of the Kingdom of Heaven in the earth through Jesus Christ and his apostles (The New Testament)

The Sweeping story of the bible:

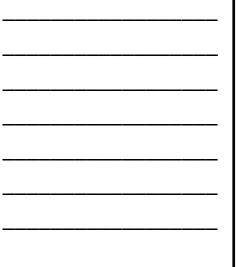
- Genesis: covers the first 2500 years of human history: God preparing a seed to bring His Kingdom to the earth
- Exodus → Malachi: the next 1500 years of human history, God working through a chosen nation to prepare the world for the Christ.
- Matthew → Jude: the first 70 years of the Kingdom of Heaven, beginning with Israel, then to the nations.

The Continuing story after the bible:

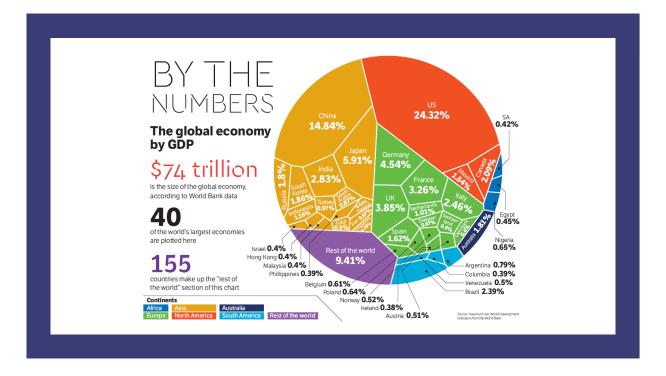
- Through the Church (Ad 30 present) any and every nation have equal access to become God's children.
- There have been some dark times, but the momentum has always been toward the world becoming brighter and more like heaven than before.
- ■The Church has been given responsibility to restore paradise to the earth. And we have been doing it!!!

God's people have been at the center of human progress through the ages

- The bible tells the story only of God's chosen people, with only passing references to nations around them.
- ■There are many histories of the world, and every people have a story to tell.
- Only God's children have had a dramatic, worldwide impact for good.
 Wherever they have been influential, a piece of Paradise get restored...







There are only Two Kingdoms

Since before the dawn of time, there has been a battle for dominion...

Before the beginning...

- God existed before there was time, and is the only Being who exists outside the barriers of time and space.
- An archangel named Lucifer ("star of the morning" rose up in rebellion, seeking to exalt himself above God, and usurp His authority:

Ezekiel 28:11-19 // Isaiah 14:12-15

►He drew 1/3 of the angels along with him (Rev 12:4)

Before the beginning...

- ■There has never been a true "battle" in heaven over God's throne.
- ■Satan has been cast down to the earth since the beginning, and his fate is already sealed. (Matt 24:41)
- ■The battle of the ages has been between satan and mankind.
- Satan finds partners among the sons of men through whom he builds his own counterfeit Kingdom.

There are only two Kingdoms

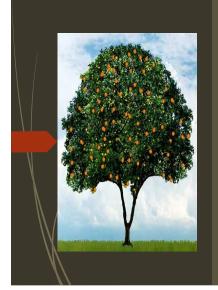
- ■God remains the Sovereign of heaver and earth – always Psalm 24:1
- Yet, He has given us the earth to manage and rule over: Psalm 115:16
- God established His Kingdom in the earth through the creation of the first man/ woman: Genesis 1:26-27
- ■The Kingdom of Darkness only rules in the earth with "borrowed" authority.

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The Dominion mandate: ■The introduction of the first man was in the context of his purpose in the earth: Genesis 1:26-28 ..."Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule ...over every living thing that moves on the earth.' Someone must rule. If God's people do not rule for His Kingdom, Darkness will rule instead. From the beginning, darkness needed to be subdued. The Garden of Paradise Gen 2:7-10 A garden was planted by God, and Adam given to cultivate it and keep it ■Eden = "Paradise" As the man & woman multiplied, their children would expand Paradise to fill the earth with the image of God. Outside the garden was "wilderness." Untamed, but in the beginning, good. ■ Where the people of God rule, chaos comes into order. The two trees the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ■The tree of life: We were created to be dependent of a source of life (the tree) and the source of life (God). Without access to this tree we cannot live forever (Gen 3:27). ■ We were created to be free, in relationship with God, yet dependent

How the Kingdom of God is established

- ■There has been a faith requirement even before sin became a factor.
- ...the righteous will live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:4)
- We were created to be free, yet in a faith/ trust relationship with our God, dependent on Him for life to go well.
- ■The simple lifestyle of trust and faith is all God has ever truly required of His people. His Kingdom is **simple**.



Whatever draws us nearer to God, and causes our love and trust for Him to increase, is *good*. Anything which draws us away from Him and His love, is *evil*, even if it *seems* to be good.

How Darkness gets established:

When the woman saw that the tree was good ... a delight to the eyes, and ...was desirable ...she took from its fruit and ate; (Genesis 3:6)

- Any Kingdom established purely on man's wisdom and judgment partners with the Kingdom of Darkness.
- Not everything that seems "good" is from God!

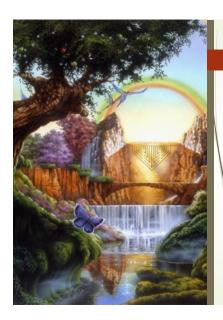
How darkness gets established

the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field...

- ■The devil's only weapon is deception has God said...?
- ■Undermines our trust in God you will be like God
- Promises us more than he can deliver
- Promises counterfeits to what we already had!

Adam's abdication of godly rule:

- Opened the door for destroyed relationships – first with God, then with his wife, then among his children.
- Opened the door for chaos (a curse) to come to the good created order God had made.
- Opened the door for satan to deceive his offspring, who would never have a standard of Paradise to look back on.



God never destroyed the garden of Paradise in the earth. He merely guarded it so that no evil could enter in. The Spiritual meaning of this would be a mystery through the ages until Christ.

The Hope of the ages... And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." (Genesis 3:15) ■The remainder of the bible is the story of how God protected this seed, and nurtured it from generation to generation until Jesus Christ. The Promise of a seed means... ■God will always work with what He has already created. There is no plan "B" Rev13:8 from the foundation of the world There will always be a people entrusted with this seed, responsible to cultivate it and keep it. ■God's Kingdom will always appear "small" in the eyes of men, but must be measured by its fruitfulness over time. The Kingdom of Heaven is like... (Mt 13) **Seed**, which is dependent on the soil in which it is planted **►Wheat** in a field sabotaged by a sower of tares ■ A Mustard Seed/ Leaven, which starts out tiny, but will eventually take over. ► A treasure in a field/ A pearl of great price. Rare, worth selling all to gain. ► A dragnet which will also benefit those who will not remain a part of it.

The Years before the Flood 4000-2500 BC (Genesis 1-9)

God nurtured and refined His seed, among a remnant family who remained faithful to Him.

How we got the story:

- ■5:1 This is the book... ("Written account") –Moses had writings to work with?
- No other ancient source claims to have an eyewitness record of creation, with names and dates included.
- ■The biblical account is the only ancient story that holds up to science.

How we got the story:

The first genealogy: Genesis 4-5

- ■The main purpose of genealogies to keep track of the chosen seed among the faithful people of God.
- LONG lives during this period of history!
- People worked with iron and bronze, and made instruments (lyres and pipes). They were not cavemen.

From Adam to Moses – only five people needed to pass on Adam's story.

Adam →
Methuselah →
Shem → Isaac
→ Levi →
Amram →
Moses

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The growth of darkness in the earth

- People living longer become masters of sin.
- ■By the 10th generation, the world had become so corrupted that The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.
- Only Noah found favor with God, and was chosen to carry the seed of promise through a cleansing flood.

Three key evidences for the flood:

1. Every people group on earth tells of a worldwide flood.
2. The fossil record demonstrates it.
3. The earth's geology has no better explanation

Major groups with flood stories

- Ancient stories telling of a worldwide flood, with varying details.
- Mostly carried through oral tradition



Geology points to a flood!

The best explanation for the Grand Canyon is that when the sedimentary rock was forming, it was carved out by draining floodwaters



How to Become a Fossil



Avoid the carnivores that would get you before you die.

Avoid the scavengers after you die. (Difficult, because you are already dead.)



You must be buried very deeply, as the aerobic decomposers (fungi and bacteria) will make fast work of you if you are only covered by a foot or two of mud.



If you are buried very deeply, you still have a problem: anaerobic decomposers. These are slower but *very* efficient.



You must be buried deeply and quickly, and the conditions must be right for lithification (the formation of rock through water, certain chemicals, pressure).

You must be able to get up to the surface again in order to be discovered before you erode away.

You see, you can't just die and fall down and become a fossil. So there shouldn't be very many fossils, right?

But ... fossils are abundant on the Earth.

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The real reason people deny a flood

2 Peter 3:1-13

- A worldwide flood is a reminder that God will intervene when He sees fit.
- Also a reminder that God will again cleanse the earth of unrighteousness – this time by fire.
- Jesus likened his return to the flood: Matthew 24:36-42
- Q: Don't you want to be "left behind?"