

Sunday Evening July 8, 2018

“History; Church History” Genesis 2:4 & 37:2

This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, (Genesis 2:4 NKJ)

This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. (Genesis 37:2 NKJ)

I. In the New King James version of the Bible the above verses are the only ones that use the word “history.” It is interesting to me that they are both verses in the Book of Genesis. Genesis gives us the history of:

- 1. The creation of the heavens and the earth – Genesis 1 & 2*
- 2. Human beings are created in God’s image – Genesis 1:26-28*
- 3. The reason for the seven-day week – Genesis 2:1-2*
- 4. The institution of marriage – Genesis 2:21-25*
- 5. The reason we have pain, struggle and death in the world – Genesis 2:17; 3 – 5*
- 6. The reason we see fossils all over the world, even fish fossils on mountain tops, the flood – Genesis 6-9*
- 7. The reason for many languages – Genesis 11*
- 8. Prophecies and types of Christ – Genesis 3:15; 3:21; 4:4; 22:1-18, etc....*
- 9. The start of Israel as a future nation...*

The history we read in Genesis provides the foundation for Church History, if Adam’s sin does not bring death into the world, if death is not the moral consequence and judgment of sin. Then Jesus death on the cross is rendered meaningless.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (Romans 5:12 NKJ)

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19 NKJ)

Adam was the Federal Head of our human race, who brought us down, Jesus is the Federal Head Who lifts us up –

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. ³ He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD. (Psalm 40:2-3 NKJ)

II. It is important we understand Genesis as History

because the world we live in challenges this fact –

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (2 Peter 3:3-11 NKJ)

- 1. Scoffers are driven by their lusts, the carnal mind hates God, they have a vested interest in denying God’s Word, challenging its truthfulness – 2 Peter 3:3-4*
- 2. They deny the flood – 2 Peter 3:5-6 They have been doing this even before Charles Darwin, with Charles Lyell, who posited that the key to understand the past was the present, basically a little water, for instance the Colorado River over a long period*

of time carved out the Grand Canyon. We have evidence, albeit on a smaller scale that a catastrophe, Mt. St. Helens volcano can carve out a canyon, lay down rock layers in a matter of hours and days! The flood, a lot of water and a little bit have time is the real reason we have a Grand Canyon!

3. They scoff at God's judgment to their calamity – 2 Peter 3:7-11

III. One of the things we learn from Genesis 37, the full context, is men are liars –

1. Genesis gives us the true History –

Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. ² This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. (Genesis 37:1-2 NKJ)

A. Genesis 37 tells the true history, Joseph's brothers thought about killing Joseph, they ended up selling him into slavery.

B. However, this is NOT what they led their dad (Jacob) to believe

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So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. ³² Then they sent the tunic of *many* colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?" ³³ And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces." ³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. (Genesis 37:31-34 NKJ)

C. Joseph's allowed their father to suffer with this false version of history for the longest time, even when they are talking to Joseph, not realizing it, they continue their lie –

"Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; ²⁸ and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since. ²⁹ But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.' ³⁰ Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life, ³¹ it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. (Genesis 44:27-31 NKJ)

2. Man lies because he is a sinner – John 8:44

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)

3. Man lies because he just does not know things, but he wants to create the impression that he does, it is a matter of pride –

For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, and for the cursing and lying which they speak. (Psalm 59:12 NKJ)

A proud and haughty man-- "Scoffer " is his name; He acts with arrogant pride. (Proverbs 21:24 NKJ)

IV. Yet, God's Word is absolute truth, He was there, He is truthful and knows and sees everything –

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. (Job 38:4 NKJ)

"The Bible is a record of the past from an Eyewitness Who does not lie and knows everything." Ken Ham

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-4 NKJ)

Jim mentioned the Arian controversy, a debate between Arius and Athanasius over Christ's Deity. Jesus is the Son of God!

Arius emphasized "son" and argued "son" meant born and after the father and so born in time.

Athanasius emphasized "of God" and argued any Son of God would have the attributes of God: including being infinite, eternal, unchangeable, all powerful, all knowing ... Athanasius won the debate but ... while the church admitted Arius was wrong, they refused for a while to regard his error great, meaning Athanasius had to fight for truth!

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