

Getting the Big Picture:

Understanding the Story of Redemption

Introduction

- The Big Picture: The Story of Redemption
- The Anatomy of the Story: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation
- The Plan: God's people, reflecting God's image, dwelling in God's presence.

I. Creation

- God's people: all of humanity
- Created in God's image
 - "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" (Gen. 1:26-28)
 - God's representatives on earth
 - Created to be an act like God (holy)
 - "When God created man, he made him *in the likeness of God*... When Adam had lived 130 years, *he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image*, and named him Seth." (Gen. 5:1, 3)
 - Value and dignity
- God's presence: The Garden of Eden

II. Fall

- God's people: sinful
 - "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen. 6:5)
- God's image: tarnished
 - "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption..." (Rom. 8:20-21)
- God's presence: separated from God
 - "Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." (Eph. 2:12)

III. Redemption

- God's people
 - Old Covenant: Israel
 - New Covenant: the Church
- God's image: being renewed within us
 - "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son..." (Rom. 8:29)

- “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” (Rom. 5:19)
- God’s presence: being restored
 - Old Covenant: the temple and tabernacle, designed to emulate the Garden of Eden
 - New Covenant:
 - Christ
 - “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (Jn. 1:14)
 - The Holy Spirit
 - “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?” (1 Cor. 6:19)
 - The Church
 - “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (Eph. 2:19-22)

IV. Consummation

- God’s people: redeemed humanity
- God’s image: fully renewed within us
 - “For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Cor. 15:21-22)
- God’s presence: the New Jerusalem
 - “And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” (Rev. 21:2-3)