

Sunday, April 17, 2016 - New Heights Christian Church, Kent, WA - Pastor Micah Adamson

Title: The introduction to God's introduction

Text: Genesis 1-11 (Genesis 5:1-32 & 11:10-26)

Genesis 5:1-3, 5 (NIV84)

¹ When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."

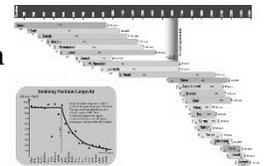
³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.... ⁵ Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

Genesis 1-50 Review:

- Genesis is how God chose to introduce Himself.
- Genesis is divided into 10 "accounts" which makes it easier to remember.
- Genesis is a reminder of how bad sin is and why we need to trust God to save us in Jesus.
- Genesis doesn't include a lot of things to go and do likewise, except to trust God's promise.
- Genesis is the story of God's people learning to trust God and live accordingly.
- Genesis starts with Adam and Eve who failed to trust God without any good reason.
- Genesis ends with Joseph who trusted God in spite of some very good reasons not to. (Joseph forgave his brothers who intentionally tried to hurt him, trusting that God meant it for good. Joseph even trusted that God would keep His promise to Abraham's family enough to leave his bones in Egypt to be buried when all God's people went back to Canaan in the Exodus.)
- Genesis has Abraham in the middle as the turning point in learning to trust God (Abraham struggled to trust God to give him a son, he often took matters into his own hands, but ended trusting God enough to sacrifice His son through whom he would receive God's promise.)
- Genesis promises Jesus will come as the offspring of Eve who will fatally bite, but will crush Satan's head and undo the curse of sin and death by coming back to life again.
- Genesis promises Jesus will come as the offspring of Abraham to inherit the promise and bless the whole world by His obedience.
- We get in on God's family blessings by faith in Jesus.

Genesis 5 and 11 Genealogy Chart:

- Disclaimer: Matthew 1 and Luke 3 provide a precedent for skipping generations in a genealogy. Grandfathers and great-grandfathers count as fathers in a genealogy.
- But... If you chart the ages of everyone in the genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11...
- (Genesis 5 = Adam to Noah) Noah is the first person Adam could not have met.
- (Genesis 11 = Noah to Abraham) Abraham is the first person that Noah could not have met.
- So, Genesis is Adam's family story, Noah's family story, and Abraham's family story.
- Enoch is the only relatively short lived person before the flood.
- It looks like Methuselah died in the flood.
- Noah is the last super long lived person, but Joseph is the first with a somewhat normal lifespan.
- Lifespans get shorter after the flood, but even so, Shem could have met Isaac.
- Noah and Shem, Ham, and Japheth would have been at the tower of Babel.
- We don't know the stories of many of these people.
- We don't know very much about the people whose stories we do hear.
- Genesis 1-11 is just the introduction to Abraham's story in Genesis 12.
- These two Genesis sermons are just the intro to my Genesis 12 sermon on Mother's Day.
- I'm going to go too fast again today.
- Today we're going to ask what it means to be God's image bearers in Genesis 1-11.



Genesis 1-11 Outline:

Genesis 1-2	Creation	Heaven & Earth, Adam & Eve
Genesis 3-4	Fall	Adam & Eve, Adam & Eve's sons: Cain & Abel
Genesis 5	Genealogy of Death	Adam to Noah
Genesis 6-9	Flood	Noah & Noah's Sons: Shem, Ham, & Japheth
Genesis 10-11	Genealogy of Division	Noah to Abraham, via the Tower of Babel

Genesis 1-2 Creation (Heaven & Earth, Adam & Eve):

Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV84)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- God created people in His image and likeness to rule, be fruitful, increase, and fill the earth.
- Bearing God's image enables us to do the creative and ruling things God does.
- Bearing God's image is something that both men and women do.

Genesis 2:7, 15-18, 20-24 (NIV84)

⁷ ...the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being....

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

²⁰ ...the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

- God created man from the dust and gave him life from His own breath.
- God created woman from man's own bone and flesh
- Bearing God's image includes having God's life in us.
- Bearing God's image is something both men and women do together in relationship.
- Pastor Dan's sermon series on marriage a few years ago argued that marriage is a picture of the relationships within the Trinity and of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5, John 3:35, 5:20).
- Jesus answered questions about marriage based on this story in Genesis (Mark 10:9).
- God instituted marriage and the family directly connected to bearing God's image.
- Working and having families makes us like God.

Genesis 3-4 Fall (Adam & Eve, Adam & Eve's sons: Cain & Abel):
Genesis 3:1-6, 14-19 (NIV84)

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it....

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food

until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken;

for dust you are and to dust you will return."

- Satan offered to make people like God, but they already were! (I'll sell you a trip to the US).
- Satan offered to give Jesus kingdoms He already had (Matthew 4:9-11).
- Adam and Eve wanted to be like God in ways that God hadn't intended.
- There is a right way to want to be like God and a wrong way.
- Andy Crouch argues in his book "*Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power*"
 - Right way = Bear God's Image
 - Wrong way = Be God/Play God
- Adam and Eve were trying to be God instead of faithfully bearing God's image.
- The curse makes work and family harder, but not impossible. But, having God's life is damaged.
- God's image isn't lost at the fall, since work and family continue.
- Death comes slowly to Adam and Eve and it comes to their kids too.
- Eve's offspring is going to have to be fatally bitten in order to kill the serpent.
- God's image in people wasn't completely destroyed at the fall, but it was damaged.

Genesis 4:8-15 (NIV84)

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰ The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ But the LORD said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

- If you weren't sure that sin was really so bad, see what it did to Adam and Eve's kids.
- God protects Cain from being killed for his sin of murder as he deserved.

Genesis 4:19-26 (NIV84)

¹⁹ [Cain's great-great-grandson] Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute. ²² Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words.

I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me.

²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

²⁵ Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." ²⁶ Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

- Cain's descendants become more and more violent and claim the right not to be avenged.
- But, Cain's family still bears God's image in an earthly sense by being creative and pro-creative.
- Meanwhile, we are introduced to Seth's family and told that people are starting to call on the name of the LORD (Romans 10:13, Joel 2:32 = Call on the name of the LORD to save you as He promised in Jesus the serpent crusher)
- Bearing God's image is something that even wicked violent people appear to be able to do to a limited extent.

Genesis 5 Genealogy of Death (Adam to Noah):

Genesis 5:1-5 (NIV84)

¹ This is the written account of Adam's line.

When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."

³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. ⁴ After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

- Adam was created in God’s image, Seth was made in Adam’s image
- Adam passed on God’s image to his kids, but Adam also passed on death to his kids, which shows that he passed on sin and guilt to his kids since the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- Adam’s sin leads to all of Adam’s children to share in his sin, guilt, and punishment in Adam, just as being in Christ gives us the life that Jesus has by virtue of His resurrection, proving that He successfully took our sin and guilt, since he conquered death (Romans 5:12-21).
- We inherited sin and death in Adam, we inherit forgiveness and life in Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:20-22; 15:45-50).

Genesis 5:30-32, 9:28-29 (NIV84)

³⁰ After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹ Altogether, Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.

³² After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

²⁸ After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹ Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died.

- The refrain “and then he died” comes after every name, in Genesis 5 but Noah.
- Genesis 6-9 are an interlude in the Genesis 5 genealogy which picks back up in Genesis 9:28-29 and finishes Noah’s story with “and then he died”.
- Bearing God’s image is something that is automatically passed on to our kids even after the fall.
- However, God’s life that last forever isn’t something that we can pass on genetically.

Genesis 6-9 Flood (Noah & Noah’s sons: Shem, Ham, & Japheth):

Genesis 6:1-4 (NIV84)

¹ When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

- Who are the “Sons of God” and the “Daughters of Men” in Genesis 6?
- I’m not aware of any Christian’s who think “Sons of God” is referring to literal physical children of God. We all agree that “Sons of God” is a figure of speech. There are two main options for what “Sons of God” means.
- Some people argue the “Sons of God” are angels and the “Daughters of men” are humans. (But, Mark 12:25 teaches that angels don’t have kids and we will be like them after the resurrection.)
- Remember that the last part of the narrative was at the end of Genesis 4.
- Cain’s family is becoming wicked and violent, but also being creative and successful.
- Meanwhile, Seth’s family is calling on the name of the LORD.
- Seth’s genealogy in Genesis 5 shows that Seth is being counted as being in God’s line (Jesus’ genealogy in Luke 3:37, puts God as the start too)
- The most natural reading within the context of Genesis is to say that the “Sons of God” are the godly line, and the “Daughters of Men” are the ungodly line.
- It sounds like Cain’s line was not only creative and successful, but also talk, dark, and handsome.
- Cain’s kids were great mates... As long as you overlook their wickedness and violence.

Genesis 6:5-13 (NIV84)

⁵ The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ This is the account of Noah.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

- So, all people on earth are wicked and violent like Cain's line so God destroys them.
- But, God saves Noah and his family as the last representatives of a godly line.

Genesis 9:1-6 (NIV84)

¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ² The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. ³ Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

⁴ "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

- This is a restatement of what God told Adam and Eve at the beginning with a few minor changes.
- God still wants people to work and fill up the earth and bear His image.
- God's image is not erased in people by the fall or the flood.
- God instituted the death penalty since murdering a person is burning God in effigy. It's defacing God's image. It's destroying the closest thing to God you can get your hands on.
- Capital punishment was a replacement for the no one avenges Cain policy.
- Capital punishment was designed to honor the image of God in man.
- God instituted man governing man directly connected to bearing God's image. (Romans 13:1-2).
- Wayne Grudem argues in "*Politics According to the Bible*" that government has now been delegated to enforce other godly rules too.
- If man can even punish man with death, how much more can he enforce lesser rules.
- Bearing God's image is something that all people do by virtue of being human. You don't have to be creative and productive to be in God's image. You already are.
- As Christians, we can argue about whether or not we should still practice the death penalty after Jesus came and took our sin away.
- Since Jesus died in our place God can justly forgive even the sin of murder without requiring the guilty person to die for their sin.
- But... C.S. Lewis pointed out in an essay on "Humanitarian Punishment" in "*God in the Dock*" that we should not argue against the death penalty by claiming that murders don't deserve to die. (I quote Lewis cautiously since he didn't believe the first 11 chapters of Genesis were historical).

Genesis 10-11 Genealogy of Division (Noah to Abraham, via the Tower of Babel):

Genesis 10:25 (NIV84)

²⁵ *Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.*

- Some people speculate that the division of the earth refers to the continental drift.
- But, the most natural reading within the context of Genesis is that this is talking about the division/scattering of people on earth at the Tower of Babel.
- Listen to what God has planned for the earth through Abraham's offspring. It sounds like what people wanted at the Tower of Babel.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV84)

¹ *The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.*

² *"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

³ *I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Genesis 11:4 (NIV84)

⁴ *Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."*

- People want to have a name that is great, they want to reach up to heaven, they don't want to be scattered on earth. They want a home.
- Again, people are trying to be God instead of faithfully bearing God's image.
- Bearing God's image does not include wanting to be God/play God.
- An image's job is not to replace the thing pictured, but to show you what the real thing is like.
- Bearing God's image means being enough like God that when people ask what is God like, someone could say, well I know this guy...

Conclusion – Jesus is the Image of God:

- **Colossians 1:15** – *Jesus "is the image of the invisible God..." (see also 2 Corinthians 4:4)*
- **Hebrews 1:3** – *Jesus "is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."*
- Bearing God's image perfectly is something that only Jesus does.
- **Colossians 3:10** – *You "have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."*
- Bearing God's image is something that we are called to do more and more in Christ.
- **Philippians 2:5-7, 9** – *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing... Therefore God exalted him to the highest place..."*
- Jesus, who is God by nature, didn't feel the need to demand equality with God. Jesus waited for God to exalt Him.
- How much more should we who only imperfectly bear God's image be willing to bear God's image by being like God instead of trying to be God.
- Bearing God's image should not lead us to want to take God's place.
- Bearing God's image should lead us to reveal God for how good He is.

Appendix A – Review of the image of God in Genesis 1-11:

- Bearing God’s image includes doing the creative and ruling things God does.
- Bearing God’s image is something that both men and women do.
- Bearing God’s image includes having God’s life in us.
- Bearing God’s image is something both men and women do together in relationship.
- God instituted marriage and the family directly connected to bearing God’s image.
- Adam and Eve were trying to be God instead of faithfully bearing God’s image.
- Bearing God’s image wasn’t completely destroyed at the fall, but it was damaged.
- Cain’s family still bore God’s image in an earthly sense by being very creative and pro-creative.
- Bearing God’s image is something that even wicked violent people can do to a limited extent.
- God’s image is something that is automatically passed on to our kids even after the fall.
- God instituted man governing man directly connected to bearing God’s image.
- Bearing God’s image is something that all people do by virtue of being human. You don’t even have to be creative and productive to be in God’s image. It’s what you are.
- People are trying to be God instead of faithfully bearing God’s image.
- Bearing God’s image means being enough like God that when people ask what is God like, someone could say, well I know this guy...
- Bearing God’s image perfectly is something that only Jesus does.
- Bearing God’s image is something that we are called to do more and more in Christ.
- Bearing God’s image should not lead us to want to take God’s place.
- Bearing God’s image should lead us to reveal God for how good He is.

Appendix B – Genesis 5 and 11 Timeline Chart:

<http://mithrandironchronology.blogspot.com/2015/10/tetra-scroll-chronology.html>

