



BAND of BROTHERS – WEEK 3: Creation as King

FALL 2021

*For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God** or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. – Romans 1:21 ESV*

- **The King of creation**

- We established the idea of God as the King of Creation
- The idea of the Kingdom of God did not start with Jesus

“Both day and night belong to you; you made the starlight and the sun. You set the boundaries of the earth, and you made both summer and winter.” – Psalm 74:12, 16-17 NLT

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “let there be light,” and there was light.” – Genesis 1:1-3 ESV

- God is the creator King of all things
- God brought order to chaos
- His Kingdom, His rule, and His reign are all established before the foundations of the earth were laid
 - Then God creates everything including Adam and Eve
 - They are the crown of creation
 - They are charged with ruling Earth and bringing order to it

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.”

***So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;***

male and female he created them.

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.” – Genesis 1:26-28 ESV

- To be made in the image of God is to be the son or daughter of God
- God intended Adam and his descendants to be this living sacred projection of himself with the command to spread the image of God
 - Their failure to do this will be the backdrop of our lesson

*“The kingdom story begins with the first sentence in the Bible: ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’ By this simple but majestic affirmation, both King and realm are introduced; and in the six days that follow, the citizens of the kingdom, inanimate and animate, appear in their course until mankind, the crowing glory of the Creator, takes center stage...The stage has been set, the players are ready, and the drama may now begin.” – Eugene Merrill, *Everlasting Dominion: A Theology of the Old Testament**

- **The Fall**

- Genesis 3 happens

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that **the tree was to be desired** to make one wise, she took of the fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” – Genesis 3:6 ESV*

- Adam and Eve sought to usurp God’s authority
- This action of eating the fruit is a complete rejection of God’s Kingdom
- The result of this rejection was their banishment from the Garden, the place of God’s presence

- **Rival Kingdoms**

- By listening to the serpent, Adam and Eve had chosen their “kingdom” over that of God’s
- God’s Kingdom plan had been corrupted
 - From that moment on, false kingdoms or rival kingdoms begin to show up everywhere
 - They were faced with the question of which kingdom will they follow?

- **Downward Spiral**

- From Genesis 3 on, we see man try to become autonomous kings with completely selfish desires

*In those days there was no king in Israel. **Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.** – Judges 21:25 ESV*

*For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God** or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore, God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because **they exchanged the truth about God for a lie** and worshiped and served the **creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever! Amen. – Romans 1:21-25 ESV*

- These passages give us both an Old Testament and New Testament example of this ongoing battle between our desire to rule and reign instead of God

- **Immediate Aftermath**

- It does not take long for the desire to rule to take over
- We see the result of this almost immediately in the story of Cain and Abel

*In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.**” Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, **Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.** – Genesis 4:3-8 ESV*

- Because humanity is broken and fractured, we tend to follow the same path as Adam and Eve
- We constantly try to take the authority that we think belongs to us
 - In this story specifically, Cain is playing the role of God by determining the value of human life
 - In that moment, through this terrible action, Cain was attempting to make himself king over his own kingdom
 - Most likely, we won't face this scenario, but the point remains the same
 - We want our own kingdoms that we can rule by our own desires and wants

- **No Time at All**

- It doesn't take long for things to go south after the fall
- This battle between man's rule and God's rule never ends well
 - This battle remains constant to this day

- As a result of Cain's attempt to establish his own kingdom, chaos and sin drown the earth

*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**. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So, the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." – Genesis 6:5-7 ESV*

- Sin was rampant
- No part of man's heart had good intentions
 - o Clearly this definition of "right" was incorrect because from God's perspective everyone was "only evil continually"
 - o Again, they were asserting their kingdom over God's

- **The Flood**

- The result of this evil brought upon the flood of the earth

*"And **God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt**, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. **Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.**" – Genesis 6:12, 13 ESV*

- The idea of self-rule is what brought about this destruction
- Man was given the responsibility to steward the earth and they were doing the opposite
 - o They were actually destroying the earth

- **Repeating Cycle**

- As with Adam and Eve, the cycle of God creating, God's people destroying, and God restoring continues
 - o Adam and Eve
 - Created in the image of God
 - Given dominion and rule over the earth
 - Reject God's rule
 - Banished from the Garden
 - God will restore through a coming King (Gen. 3:15)
 - o Noah
 - Continuation of fallen and broken humanity
 - God brings the flood and destroys all except Noah and his family
 - Noah and his family are the new rulers of the earth
 - God reiterates his original mandate that he made with Adam and Eve
 - o All seems to be back in order???? WRONG

- **Familiar Territory**

- Pretty soon after Noah and his family are established as rulers, they start to rule selfishly
 - Noah and his family are dishonored (Gen. 9:20-22)
 - Noah's descendants are cursed by Noah (Gen. 9:25)
 - These descendants actually go on to form the territory of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Noah's descendants are marked by self-rule and self-determination
 - Everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes

- **Tower of Babel**

- To round out this series of chapters where man continually asserts its' kingdom over God's we arrive at the Tower of Babel
- This is the culmination of what we have been talking about today

*Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "**Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.**" – Genesis 11:1-4 ESV*

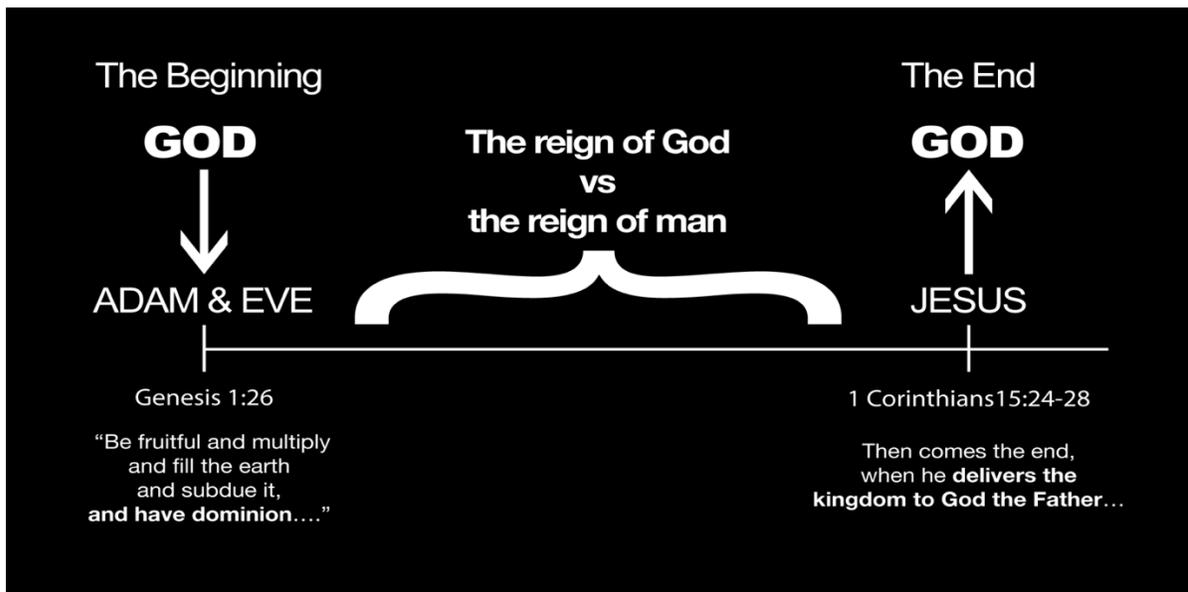
- It is as if these people haven't learned anything
 - This will continue to happen
- They don't even try to hide their intentions
 - They blatantly say "let us make a name for ourselves"
 - They ignore the commands of god
 - Ultimately, they wanted to be God and decide what was best for themselves

*And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and **this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.**" **So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.** – Genesis 11:6-8 ESV*

- Don't miss what God says here, "this is only the beginning of what they will do"
- This yearning to make a name for themselves by building a great city and a tower that reaches the heavens gave them this false sense of authority
 - Man wants to be king
- Similar to the actions of King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4
 - He claims that he built the great city of Babylon and immediately God responds

The Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to who he will. –
Daniel 4:32 ESV

- God is the King, always has been the King, and always will be the King
- **Today**
 - It is easy to look at this story and think about how terrible the people in the first few chapters were
 - But nothing is new under the sun
 - You and I still fight this battle everyday
 - We try to assert our power over God's all the time
 - We want to be sovereign over ourselves
- **Redemption**
 - From the Fall through the Tower of Babel, we see this constant downfall of Man trying to obtain its' own kingdom
 - Humanity cannot shake this yearning to rule and reign
 - The encouragement comes from knowing God's plan cannot be thwarted
 - God's plan will continue in faithful men who believe his is king and will work all things for their good
 - All of this culminates in Christ
- **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**
 - In what ways have we tried to assert our kingdom over God's kingdom? Our reign over God's reign?
 - What can we learn from these specific examples of man's failure to rule and reign?
 - God created us in his image, what does that mean for us today as fallen humans?





WEEK 4 HOMEWORK: A Royal Reboot

FALL 2021

In this lesson, we'll look at God's plan to revive the kingdom through the seed of Abraham. Despite all the sin and rebellion of mankind, God was not done. It had been eight centuries since the flood, but God was going to set apart another people as His own and establish them as the official citizens of His kingdom, bestowing royal power and authority on the descendants of Abraham.

- By way of review, read Genesis 11:1-9. Look closely at verse 9 and then compare it to the creation account in Genesis 1:28. What similarities do you see?

What has happened between Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 11:9 that makes these two situations so different?

- Now read Genesis 11:10-26. In these verses we see the descendants of Noah's son, Shem. According to Genesis 9:18-28, why does this genealogy focus solely on the descendants of Ham?

What pattern do you see taking place as the genealogy unfolds, and what do you think is the cause behind it?

- Read Genesis 11:27-12:9. What reasons does this passage give for God's choice of Abram? What had he done to deserve God's selection of him?

What promises does God make to Abram in verses 1-3 and 7 of chapter 12.

- After reading Genesis 12:10-20, write out a brief summary of what takes place.

What do you learn about Abram when he attempts to avoid the famine in Canaan by running to Egypt? What might it reveal about his faith in God?

- Read Genesis 13. When you consider the promises God made to Abram, what do you see wrong with the agreement Abram made with Lot? Why did this have all the makings of a poor decision?
- Read the story of Abram's rescue of Lot found in Genesis 14:16. Notice all the references to human kings in this passage. What does this reveal about mankind's understanding of God as their king?

In what ways do you see Abram acting as a king in these verses?

How is he different from all the other kings?

- In Genesis 14:17-24, we are introduced to yet another king. What important details jump out at you in this passage?

What does it reveal about Abram?

- Finally, read Genesis 15. What do verses 2-3 reveal about Abram's confidence in God's promise? Think about his problem considering the mandate God gave Adam in Genesis 1:28.

- To close out your time, read verses 5-21 of chapter 15. On the back of this page, write down anything interesting that jumps out at you.