



# Biblical Theology

## Class 3: The Story of Creation

### Helpful resources on Biblical Theology

- *According to Plan* by Graeme Goldsworthy
- *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church* by Michael Lawrence
- *Biblical Theology, How the church faithfully preaches the gospel* by N Roark
- *What is Biblical Theology?* by James Hamilton
- *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgement* by James Hamilton
- The Short Studies in Biblical Theology series (12 volumes) by Crossway Publishing
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible (D A Carson General Editor)

### Introduction

#### The story of creation

##### *The story begins*

- *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1).*

##### *The story continues ...*

- Recreation through Noah:
  - *Genesis 6:5, '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.'*
  - *God commissions Noah and his family just as he had commissioned Adam, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth' (Gen 1:28; 9:1).*

- Recreation through Abraham
  - He takes the pagan idolater Abram and, by His irresistible call of love, changes his heart and his name to Abraham (God creates).
  - God then promises childless Abraham and his barren wife Sarah that he will make their family into a great nation (God creates).
- Recreation through Israel
  - God audibly speaks the nation of Israel into existence (Exodus 9).
  - God judges one generation in the desert and recreates another.

### *The story complete*

- *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things **were made through him**, and without him was not anything **made** that was **made**. In him was life, and the life was the light of men .... 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” (John 1:1-3, 14).*
- Through the gospel, Jesus the Creator will finish His work of new creation
- As John saw it, “then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more ... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’ And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” (Rev 21:1, 4-5).

### **The patterns in the story**

- The story has the pattern of promise and fulfillment
- The story is connected with the covenants

- The story is connected to typology
- The story is always by God's Word

## Observations from the story

### *God is the creator and therefore the owner of all things*

- Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- John 1:3: "Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made."
- "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6).
- Since God creates out of nothing, as patterned throughout the Old Testament, we understand this must have an impact on our understanding of salvation.

### *God's Word is the means*

- 'And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light' (Gen 1:3).
- Romans 4:17, 'He calls into existence the things that do not exist.'
- God speaks life into existence through His Word
- What might be the implications for ministry?

### *God's glory is the purpose*

- Revelation 4:11 declares, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you **created** all things, and by your will they were existed and were created.”

### *God's initial creation groans because of sin*

- Romans 8:20, “The creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it.”
- Because of sin God's creation has always been subjected to death
- “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (Rom 5:12).
- Throughout the story of creation we find that in the end God will overthrow all frustration and futility once and for all

### **Conclusion**

- Re-creation is not another creation, somewhere else from “nothing”
- It is a full and total renewal of the first, making it better than the original
- It is not just paradise, but a better paradise
- It is not just a garden, but a city with a multitude of worshippers (Rev 7:9; 21:2)
- It is not just a relationship between earth and heaven, but an intimate union in the Lamb's wedding (Rev 21)