

ENDING IN THE BEGINNING

INTRODUCTION

Live with a vision of God’s renewed creation in Christ.

DISCUSSION

How will our lives change if we understand God’s “new creation” is taking place right now and that we are to be part of bringing it about?

EXPLANATION

Read 1 Corinthian 1:4-9

What is the last promise you broke?

How did God fulfill His promises?

How do we get to see what Joseph only longed for?

APPLICATION

How has living with the idea of “escape” hurt Christianity?

Discuss how:

- Jesus speaks of Renewal
- Peter speaks of Restoration
- Paul speaks of the reconciliation of all things.

MISSION

Is there any ways that understanding the fullness of what Christ did could change our perspective of the world around us?

Is there any ways that understanding the fullness of what Christ did could change our perspective of the PEOPLE around us?

How?

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Genesis 1.

If people from a different time analyzed your life, what things would they say you worship?

If people only looked at you and your life, what kind of God would they assume He is?



GENESIS

THE FINAL CHAPTERS

ENDING IN THE BEGINNING

PART 72

GENESIS 50:22-26

Ecclesiastes 3:11
 Genesis 50:22-26
 Genesis 1:28
 Genesis 3:8

Revelation 22:5
 John 2:11
 John 4:46-54
 John 11:43

John 20:15
 Matthew 19:28
 Acts 3:21
 Colossians 1:19-20

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

GOSPEL CLASS
 Today, 9:30a in Classroom

BBQ FUNDRAISER
 7/14, after services - \$8

MOE PAINTBALL
 Today, 2p \$30

ARROW FOSTER INFO MTG
 7/17, 6p at Element

MOTORCYCLE RIDE
 July 27th
 info@ourelement.org

BAPTISMS
 Want to be baptized?
 Signup: <http://goo.gl/bs7zk>

STUPID SUMMER
ourelement.org/stupidsummer



GENESIS THE FINAL CHAPTERS: PART 72

ENDING IN THE BEGINNING

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Though his words are few, the final statement of Joseph to his sons gives the clearest expression of the kind of hope taught in these narratives. As had his father Jacob, Joseph wanted his bones returned to the Promised Land. Also like Jacob, he saw to it that his sons swore to return his bones when they returned to the land. Though he knew he would die and not see the time when his sons returned to the land, he nevertheless expressed clearly the hope and trust that he had in God's promise.

If we took all of the passages about sin out of the bible we would end up with a four-chapter pamphlet. Chapter one and two is about a garden, Revelation twenty-one and twenty two is about a city (the gathering of gardens). The scriptures are a progression and a movement, if sin had never entered to world Joseph wouldn't have ended his life in a box and there would have been a proliferation of gardens, and lots of gardens eventually connect and make a city.

- Sin is the disruption of shalom. We were created to have peace with God, each other, creation and even ourselves.
- Sin is rebellion.
- Sin is participation in the way of death. Sin is when we steer things in the opposite direction of God.
- Sin is missing the mark. Archery term of missing what you are aiming at.

Resurrection points to three things:

- 1) Jesus resurrection shows a new creation right here in the midst of this one.
- 2) The story of Jesus' resurrection is a story about God reaffirming the good of His creation.

Nowhere in any of the story are material things ever declared bad. The story centers on God's glory and human rebellion.

- 3) The Scripture's story is part of anticipating/waiting for heaven and earth to be united again. Where God brings the two together again.

The center of Christian faith is Jesus, but it is also knowing the beginning, ending, and the massive disruption of sin in the middle.

The cross was an act on God's part to bring reconciliation to all things.

- Jesus speaks of Renewal
- Peter speaks of Restoration
- Paul speaks of the reconciliation of all things.

The story is about a God who wants to put it all back together.

The gospel is about what we say and do:

- A Christian who understands Genesis points to the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and says Jesus is right here today in the midst of all of us bringing reconciliation.
- A Christian learns to see this new creation with their very own eyes.
- A Christian has hope, not rooted in escape, but in engagement.
- A Christian is someone who is not surprised when grace, beauty, meaning, order, and compassion show up, because it always been God's world.

That is ending at the beginning.

Genesis is the book of beginnings; the bible is 66 books written over 40 generations telling one story with one hero who is JESUS. The reason why Genesis ends on downer is that Jesus hasn't come yet, but Joseph knows He *is* coming.

And for us, surly He came. The one who was promised, the one they all longed to see, is someone we get to know. We see what they only longed for.

Which means we need to be living with a vision of God's renewed creation in Christ.