

The Story of God

IN THE BOOKENDS OF THE BIBLE

God's Will

Ephesians 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself.

The Word that is from the beginning and is God

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word is the breath of God

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

God is the Author

Acts 3:15 And the Author of life you killed, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

His poem

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His [poiema], created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

GENESIS 1 & 2

IMAGE AND DOMINION

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. **27** And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

VESSELS

Genesis 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Isaiah 64:8 But now, Jehovah, You are our Father; / We are the clay; and You, our Potter; / And all of us are the work of Your Hand.

TREE OF LIFE

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

1 Corinthians 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food.

RIVERS

Genesis 2:10 And a river went forth from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divided and became four branches.

STONES

Genesis 2:9-12 ...as well as the tree of life in the middle of **the garden...** **10** And a river went forth from Eden to water the garden... **11** ...where there is gold. **12** And the gold of the land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.

1 Corinthians 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble.

REVELATION 21 & 22

IMAGE AND DOMINION

Revelation 21:10b-11 The holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **11** Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Revelation 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

Revelation 22:5 And the night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

VESSELS

Revelation 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

TREE OF LIFE

Revelation 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

RIVERS

Revelation 22:1-2 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. **2** And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

STONES

Revelation 21:10-11, 18-19, 21 ...and showed me **the holy city, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, **11** Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal... **18** And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. **19** The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone... **21** And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

STONES continued

Living stones for building

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1 Peter 2:4-5 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious, **5** You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (cf. Isa. 28:16; Matt. 21:42-44; Acts 4:11; 1 Cor. 10:4; Zech. 4:7)

Transformation

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit. (cf. Rom. 12:2)

Being built-up together

2 Timothy 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Daniel 2:17-18 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, **18** That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Acts 14:19-20 But Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, supposing that he was dead. **20** But as the disciples surrounded him, he rose up and entered into the city. And on the next day he went out with Barnabas to Derbe.

Song of Songs 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you--The king has brought me into his chambers-- / We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor; **10** For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls and does not have another to lift him up!

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.

A RIVAL STORY

Satan's Will

Isaiah 14:13-14 But you, you said in your heart: / I will ascend to heaven; / Above the stars of God / I will exalt my throne. / And I will sit upon the mount of assembly / In the uttermost parts of the north. **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; / I will make myself like the Most High.

Genesis 3:1 ...And [the serpent] said to the woman, Did God really say...?

Genesis 3:13 ...The serpent deceived me, and I ate.

Revelation 20:7-8 ...Satan will be released from his prison **8** And will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth...

IMAGE AND DOMINION

The name of the beast or the number of his name on their righthand or on their forehead (Rev. 13:16-18) versus His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads (14:1; cf. 22:4)

Death reigning versus reigning in life (Rom 5:14, 17)

Sin reigning in death versus grace reigning through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 5:21)

VESSELS OF WRATH UNTO DISHONOR FITTED FOR DESTRUCTION

Vessels unto dishonor versus vessels unto honor (Rom. 9:21)

Vessels of wrath versus vessels of mercy (Rom. 9:22)

Vessels fitted for destruction versus vessels prepared unto glory (Rom. 9:22-23)

TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

A FLOOD AND A RIVER

1 Peter 4:4 In this they think it strange that you are not running together with them into the same flood of dissoluteness, slandering you.

The captives by the river Chebar (in Babylon) versus the water flowing out from the house (i.e. the temple in the Holy City) (Ezek. 1:1; 47:1)

WOOD, GRASS, STUBBLE

Wood, grass, stubble versus gold, silver, and precious stones (1 Cor. 3:12)