Living in God's Story: Tracing the Story and Major Themes of the Bible

Lesson 6
The Fall – Part 2

I. Recap

Creation: Setting the Stage (Genesis 1:1-2:25)

A. The Characters

- God
- Humanity
- Animals

B. The Setting(s)

- Earth, with the Garden of Eden in the midst of it
- Heaven

C. Purpose of Humanity

- Increase and multiply (v. 28) -> this requires teamwork, companionship (2:18-25)
- Dominion of mankind – to bring order and flourishing, like God brought, to the rest of the world
- Enjoyment (1:29; 2:9) & Rest (2:2-3)
- Obedience to God (2:15-17; cf. 1:28)

The Fall (Genesis 3:1-4:26)

- **What has changed about the setting?**

- **What has changed about the characters?**

- **What has changed about the purposes?**

II. The Fall Continues: Genesis 5-10

A. Read Genesis 5:28-7:10 together

i. What surprises you about this story (in terms of what you would have expected in the story, not just random curiosities)?

ii. What is the significance of God using water in his work of judgment?

iii. What does this story tell you about God and how he relates to humans in their sin?

Where else in Scripture do we see those two kinds of salvation ***through* judgment?**

"Salvation always comes through judgment. Salvation for the nation of Israel at the Exodus came through the judgment of Egypt, and this pattern is repeated throughout the Old Testament, becoming paradigmatic even into the New. When God saves his people, he delivers them by bringing judgment on their enemies. This is not limited to Old Testament enemies such as the Philistines. At the cross, the ruler of this world was cast out (John 12:31). At the consummation, Jesus will come to afflict those who afflict his people (2 Thess. 1:6, cf. 6–10).

Salvation for all believers of all ages is made possible by the judgment that falls on Jesus at the cross. The cross allows God to be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Rom. 3:24–26). The cross of Christ, the climactic expression of the glory of God in salvation through judgment, is the turning point of the ages." – James M. Hamilton Jr., *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment,* 57

B. Read Genesis 8:13-9:28 in small groups

i. What themes do you see present from the creation story?

ii. What has changed? What continues?

iii. This brings us to the end of the Noah story. How should we interpret Genesis 5:29 with the benefit of hindsight?

C. Homework: Read Genesis 10-11 at home

i. Knowing what you know about the story of Israel, what foreshadowing do you see in these two chapters for the later story? (*Hint: There are origin stories in here for two of the most important enemies of God's people.*)

ii. What do these chapters tell us about the continuing effects of the fall in humanity? Where do you see God's grace present?