

## LESSON 5

THE BIBLE'S METANARRATIVE – THE BIG STORY

THE COVENANTS IN SCRIPTURE

GOD COMES TO MAN – JESUS CHRIST, GOD

INCARNATE, THE 'GOD-MAN'

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

- Acts 17:31 -

## CLASS FIVE:

### PART 2 NOTES

#### THE BIBLE'S METANARRATIVE – THE BIG STORY

#### THE COVENANTS IN SCRIPTURE

#### GOD COMES TO MAN – JESUS CHRIST, GOD INCARNATE, THE ‘GOD-MAN’

### **III. A GENERAL SUMMARY STORY LINE OF THE BIBLE**

God made everything and He made it good.  
 He made human beings in His image and likeness.  
 Human beings are a created race and thus we are accountable to God our Maker.  
 Human beings are a **FALLEN RACE**.  
 We rebelled against our Creator.  
 All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.  
 The wages or payment for our sin is death.

The sin nature and rebellion was passed onto all mankind, and therefore, all men are guilty before their Creator and continue to act in rebellion and sin.

The result of our rebellion against God is physical death and spiritual death - eternal separation from God.

We are by our very nature deserving of wrath.

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.* John 3:36

Wrath is blazing, eternal fire - when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels, He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, they will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. (See 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)

Mankind must be forgiven of sin, restored, and reconciled to God

God is not only our creator but our Judge. His righteousness and holiness cannot allow sin in His presence.

The good news is that God didn't leave mankind without hope. The same God Who rightly stands over against us in pending judgment because of our rebellion is the One Who reaches out to us also in love! God chases after rebellious man to reconcile us to Himself.

Even in the garden of Eden, God promised that the offspring of Adam and Eve would crush the head of the serpent. He reaches out to mankind in what is called ‘common grace’ – giving sunlight and warmth and rain and food.

God demonstrated his covenantal, faithful love in calling out of mankind individuals like Noah and Abraham and Moses and specifically, a nation, Israel, (the descendants of Abraham) to clearly demonstrate His love. They were also to demonstrate the way for mankind to be restored

to God and delivered from His wrath.

This was shown through Israel's worship:

- The priesthood – of which Jesus would one day be the High Priest.
- The sacrificial system – of which Jesus would one day be the ultimate Slaughtered Lamb, dying for the sins of all mankind.
- Covenant – of which Jesus would be the Mediator of the New and Final and Better Covenant between God and man.
- Tabernacle – of which Jesus is the ultimate Tabernacle of God with man.

It was also shown through Israel's Kingdom – a theocracy – a place of God's rule and reign - of which Jesus would be the ultimate King/Priest "David" on the throne of the universe.

The law of Moses was also given to show that it is impossible for man to live up to the Holy and Righteous standards of God's character.

Man needed a sacrifice for his sins and Someone who could fulfill the requirements of that holy Sacrifice. Therefore, as John Stott said, 'God Himself gave Himself to save us (man) from Himself.' Jesus Christ, God incarnate came as our Perfect Lamb, Sacrifice, and Substitute.

How can we be forgiven and spared judgment? The only thing that spares us from destruction under the wrath of God is the death, the holy sacrifice of Jesus, God's Son on the cross. Jesus Himself bore our sins and judgment in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness - by his wounds we have been healed.

Salvation from sin and eternal judgment, and access to God is available only through the finished work of Christ on the cross, given by God's grace, mercy and love, received solely by faith in Jesus Christ, excluding all human merit.

The gospel of the grace of God is that to effect salvation, Jesus lived a sinless life and died on the cross as the sinner's substitute, shedding his blood for the remission of sins, was buried, and rose again the third day for our justification.

In conversion, the believer is drawn by God to Himself, repents and turns from his sins, is redeemed, declared wholly righteous, born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, is made alive in Christ as a new creation, reconciled to God, becomes a child of God, and receives the Holy Spirit through Whom he is empowered for a life of obedience.

All who confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead, will be saved.

#### **IV. WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR GOD TO BECOME A MAN?**

##### **Representative Obedience and Righteousness**

*Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:18-19*

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*For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.* Hebrews 2:17

### **Mediator**

*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*  
1 Timothy 2:5

### **As our example**

*But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.* 1 Peter 2:21

### **for redeemed / glorified bodies**

*And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.* 1 Corinthians 15:49

### **To sympathize as our High Priest**

*For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.* Hebrews 2:17, 18

## **V. THE PRACTICAL “TAKE-AWAY” – APPLYING THE TRUTH**

Man in his sinful state could not redeem himself, so God had to come.

God became a man for a number of reasons, the chief of which was to be our sacrifice for sin. The love of God is overwhelming when you meditate on the fact that the Almighty God condescended to man's low estate. The God-Man, Jesus Christ took the curse of sin upon Himself, bore our sins on the cross, effected our salvation for Himself.

It was important for Jesus Christ to live a sinless life. If all that was necessary was for Jesus to come and die, He could have done so as a one day old baby to effect salvation. He not only had to die, but LIVE sinlessly in order for His righteousness to be IMPUTED to those who believe and receive Him. Justification has TWO important elements: one, the forgiveness of sin; and two, the impartation of Christ's righteousness.

It is vitally important to understand the two natures of Jesus Christ as fully God and fully man. He did not “lose” or “give up” any qualities as to His Deity when He became man, and His human nature and fleshly body were not “mixed” or diluted as to His humanity. It is important to believe and understand this “Chalcedonian” definition of the two natures of Christ (the hypostatic union). All cults usually err in their teaching of the natures of Christ and thus stray far from biblical truth into many false doctrines.

### **Answers:**

Pg. 3 – Substitute sacrifice, Pattern

## MEMBERSHIP 101 CLASS 5 HOMEWORK

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) WRITE OUT A SCRIPTURE THAT SHOWS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD.**

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**2) LIST TWO CHARACTERISTICS SHOWING JESUS' HUMAN NATURE AND WRITE OUT SCRIPTURES TO SUPPORT**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

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2) \_\_\_\_\_

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**3) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY THAT GOD CAME INTO HUMAN HISTORY?**

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**4) TAKE TIME:**

TO WORSHIP GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE FOR YOU IN COMING TO EARTH TO SAVE YOU THROUGH CHRIST.

TO PRAY THAT GOD WOULD GIVE YOU THE HUMBLE HEART OF A SERVANT AS EXEMPLIFIED BY CHRIST.

THAT GOD WOULD ENABLE YOU TO YIELD YOUR LIFE PERFECTLY TO THE FATHER'S WILL AND PURPOSES EVERY DAY THIS WEEK, AS JESUS YIELDED HIS PERSON IN GLORY TO BECOME OUR SAVIOUR, AND AS HE LIVED OUT A LIFE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.