

“The Story Starts with a Big Bang”

Genesis 1

Oct. 4, 2015

Today is the first Sunday of the Story Journey. I am thankful once again we do have this golden opportunity to follow the God's story together as God's people at Fairfield Grace. Don't forget we do have four weekly small group discussion waiting for you to enjoy. Sunday morning at 9 am, Wed morning at 10:10, Thursday evening at 6:30 pm and Saturday morning at 10 am. The less than 15 min long DVD watching leads us lively sharing and discussion. Come and join me and others.

Let me ask two questions, first. Did Eve ever have a date with Adam? No, it was an apple. What US state is mentioned in Genesis? Arkansas. Genesis 8:13b reads, "Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry."

This somehow didn't make it to the Bible, but I'm pretty sure it happened... Adam is telling God how lonely he's been in the Garden of Eden, saying, "You've made the day and the night, the land and the sea, the trees and the animals. But what I really want with me in the Garden is a perfect companion. I want someone who will cook for me and dine with me. I want someone to talk to at night and to think about during the day. Can you make such a being for me?" "Sure I can," replied God. "But it'll cost you an arm and a leg." Adam thinks for a second and replies, "well, what can I get for a rib?"

Have you heard “Top Ten Reasons Why Eve Was Created”

Number 10. God was worried Adam would become lost in the Garden because he would not ask directions. Number 9. God knew Adam would one day require someone to locate and hand him the remote. Number 8. God knew Adam would never go out and buy himself a new fig leaf and need someone to buy one for him. Number 7. God knew Adam would never be able to make a doctor's or haircut appointment for himself. Number 6. God knew Adam would never remember which night to put the garbage out. Number 5. God knew if the world was to be populated, Adam would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of child-bearing. Number 4. As keeper of the Garden, Adam would never remember where he left his tools. The Number 3. Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on, when God caught him hiding in the garden. The Number 2. "It's not good for man to be alone." And, finally, the NUMBER ONE reason why God created Eve...

When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched his head, and said, "I can do better than that!"

Now the Bible story. The beginning of our journey through the story of the Bible is like the beginning of an action-packed movie. If you miss the opening minutes of a movie with its fast-paced scenes, you will not understand the rest of the story. It is the same with the Bible's grand Story.

The Story opens with a "big bang." Not the "big bang" of evolutionary theory, but the "big bang" of the revelation of God Who is the main character of the Grand Story.

First, the Bible Story opens with the "big bang" of creation. The opening verse, Genesis 1:1 reads, "In the beginning God has created the heaven and the earth." This verse introduces us to the Story's main Character: God.

Someone asked in a small group session last week, "Why? Why has God created all these?" Interesting question, isn't it? Why? I heard someone saying "Because he was lonely." I read someone write the answer to this question, saying, "Because he wanted to have relationship." I think both are right. Therefore, Genesis 1:1 can be paraphrased as follows: "In the beginning God has created relationship." Yes, the "big bang" of creation is not an impersonal accident, but the creative purpose of a personal God. God wants to create relationship.

The "big bang" of creation is illustrated poetically and artistically. The first three days, God has created places. On the first day, Light and Dark. On the second day, Sky and Water and on the third day, Land. And the following three days, on the 4th, 5th and 6th day, those places are filled with the things. On the fourth day, Sun and Moon/stars. On the fifth day, Birds and Sea creatures and on the sixth day, Animals and human beings

What is the point of the story? What is the purpose of the creation? People. Us. God's core passion is human beings. 1:26 God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them

God saw that it was good each day. God saw that it was very good on the sixth day when God created human beings. God's core passion is people made in God's

image. After creating all the things and animals, he stepped back and declared, it is very good. What is the apple of God's eyes? The magnum opus of his work? People – Us. Go figure, but it is true.

In the morning when I look at me in the mirror, I say it is not good. But God looks at us differently. God looks at you and says, Randy, one of the author of the Story, suggests that “Looking at you is better than an ocean view and watching a sunrise.” All the beauties of creation are secondary to you. God's supreme passion is people, us. When and where did you have the most memorable experience during your time away in Europe? Many asked me. As I shared, it was when I visited Switzerland. Beautiful, snow-capped high mountains. I was overwhelmed by their magnificent and glorious mountain scenery. How awesome they are. How big they are. What an incredibly wonderful creation God has done. The creation story, however, reminds that I am an apple in God's eye. I am more beautiful, more precious, more awesome than any Alps mountains and any creations in this world. I am a master piece God has created. So are YOU.

We may need to remind ourselves every morning by looking at the mirror, shouting, “Look at you. How beautiful you are. How handsome you are. How wonderful you are. How unique you are. Yes, you are God's special child. Am I? Yes, you are. Yes, I am. So we sing with joy and thanksgiving, “So I just thank you Father, for making me Me.” The God's story tells us that God's supreme vision is to be with us. God wants to be with us. That was God's vision. This is God's vision, still.

The Bible Story continues. It continues with the “big bang” of the Fall story. The story introduces the tale of two trees. The tale of the “tree of life” and the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” This tale present a choice: Genesis 2: 9 and 17

Adam and Eve were created with the freedom and power to choose. Why? Why did God give them the freedom and power to choose? Because God loved them. God does not force love. God loves us, so that God gives us the freedom and power to choose. True love comes with respect each other's boundary. God loves us and so respects us and gives us the freedom to choose. But what did Adam and Eve with the power and freedom to choose? They did not use them well. They rebelled against God and ate from the forbidden “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”. God must have been greatly saddened, because God's vision to be with people was ruined and God's vision to have a good relationship with people was broken.

But God did not give up. Know this: The rest of the Bible is about God's relentless pursuit to get us back to home, back to God and back to relationship with God.

The Bible Story tells us the "big bang" of sin's damage to the human race. Because Adam and Eve chose a different vision than God's vision, sin became part of their spiritual DNA and they produced more sinners. In Genesis 4 we find the Cain and Abel story. They are sons of Adam and Eve. What happened to them? Cain killed his brother Abel out of jealousy and contempt. This killing story tells that sin and a sin nature has permeated the human race and become part of the human DNA.

We also find the Noah Story. God chooses Noah to build the ark and God does a "do over" of the human race after the judgment of flood waters. We read Genesis 9: 20-23. "Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside" Here we see disorder and disgrace even with the most righteous man, Noah and his family.

What does this story tell us? The flood erased the wicked human race, but did not erase the sin nature from Noah and his family: Every one of us is born with sin and sin nature, being separated from God through Adam and Eve's rebellion. We, human beings are not able to save ourselves. Only God can do rescue us from sin.

So, the Bible Story offers a salvation clue even in the midst of the opening "big bang" story. After Adam and Eve sinned and became aware of their nakedness, they made fig leaf clothing to cover their nakedness. Do you know what God did for them? God took away the fig leaves and covered Adam and Eve with the skins of animals. We find the Clue here. God has deep yearning to bring us back home. And God will restore the vision that human beings are His supreme passion when right time comes. To do so, the shedding of blood will be required.

This is the first story of God's story we encounter in the Bible.

What lesson do we get from the creation story? From the creation story we discover God's supreme passion. We learn God's deep yearning to be with us. God wants to be with you. Think about that. You.

God wants to personally be with you. At great cost to God, God has done everything possible to get you back. You are the apple of God's eye. You are God's precious masterpiece. Amen. Amen. Amen.