

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE SCARLET THREAD IN SCRIPTURE

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PART 1: CHRIST REVEALED IN GENESIS

IN THE BEGINNING

All scripture points to Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation. Whether you examine the Mosaic Law and the Prophets or the incarnation and ministry of Jesus in the Gospels and the Epistles, the scarlet thread of the Messiah is revealed again and again.

The Son of God is the Living Word. He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament and its very heartbeat. The two men who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus were completely unaware of His identity as He expounded upon the Scriptures. At some point their eyes were opened and they finally recognized the scarlet thread that He had been speaking about.

“And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” (Luke 24:31-32)

When most people open the book of Genesis, they expect to read about beginnings.

- ❖ The beginning of the universe.
- ❖ The beginning of humanity.
- ❖ The beginning of sin.
- ❖ The beginning of nations.

And while all of that is there, many fail to see that Genesis is not merely the beginning of history, it is the beginning of the Gospel found in the New Testament.

Jesus taught that the Old Testament, beginning with Moses, spoke of Him.

*“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**” (Luke 24:27)*

Moses wrote Genesis, and therefore Genesis is not silent about Christ. From the very first chapter, the Son of God is already present, already active, and playing a central role.

The scarlet thread does not begin at the cross. It does not begin with Abraham. It does not even begin with the fall. It begins in eternity past.

THE CREATION

Genesis opens with a declaration that God created everything.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)



John opens his Gospel with the same words.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)

The Word spoken of by John is none other than God the Son – Jesus Christ. Creation was an act of the Godhead with God the Son at its forefront.

*“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him**, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (Colossians 1:16-17)*

*“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also **he made the worlds.**” (Hebrews 1:1-2)*

Jesus did not enter the story late. He is not God the Father’s response to a failed creation. He is not Plan B. Jesus Christ is preeminent because He is the Creator.

Before sin ever entered the world, Jesus stood ready as Redeemer. He was the Godhead’s representative and the solution to a sin that did not exist as of yet.

*“Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you.” (1 Peter 1:20)*

*“... **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**” (Revelation 13:8b)*

THE FIRST GOSPEL

Genesis chapter three records the tragedy of human rebellion and the apostle Paul stated that Adam’s sin brought death to the human race.

*“Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world**, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” (Romans 5:12)*

Yet before Jesus pronounced judgment upon humanity, He spoke directly to the serpent.

*“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**” (Genesis 3:15)*

This verse is the first announcement of the gospel and reveals the following:

- ❖ A coming Seed (singular, not plural)¹
- ❖ A victory over the serpent
- ❖ A suffering Savior (the heel bruised)
- ❖ A decisive triumph (the serpent's head crushed)

This is the Messiah that would be born of a woman, wounded at the cross, yet victorious over Satan.

*“But when the fulness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.**” (Galatians 4:4-5)*

*“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death **he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.**” (Hebrews 2:14)*

At the moment humanity fell, God revealed the Redeemer. Grace spoke before judgment finished speaking.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

Genesis chapter twenty-two is one of the most powerful Christological passages in the Old Testament.² God commands Abraham to sacrifice the son for whom he had waited so long.

“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” (Genesis 22:2)

As Isaac carried the wood up the mountain, he asked a haunting question.

“And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Genesis 22:7)

Abraham replied with words that echo across time.

*“My son, **God will provide Himself a lamb...**” (Genesis 22:8a)*

At the decisive moment when he would have killed his son, God stopped Abraham's hand and provided a ram as a substitute. Isaac lived because another died in his place. Jesus touched on this point during His earthly ministry prior to the cross.

¹ “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” (Galatians 3:16)

² Christology is the branch of theology relating to the person, nature, and work of Jesus Christ, focusing on His divine and human identity.

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.”
(John 8:56)

There are parallels with what Abraham and Isaac experienced compared to what took place with Messiah about 2,000 years later.

A beloved son	“Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest... and offer him there for a burnt offering.” (Genesis 22:2)	“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)
The son carries the wood	“And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.” (Genesis 22:6)	And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha.” (John 19:17)
The father offers the son	“And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.” (Genesis 22:10)	“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)
A substitute is provided	“And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.” (Genesis 22:13)	“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

The test with Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah was a foreshadowing of Jesus’ crucifixion at Calvary. God the Father would do what Abraham was spared from doing.

SUFFERING BEFORE GLORY

Joseph’s life is one of the clearest messiah-types in the Bible.

Beloved by his father	Genesis 37:3	“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)
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Rejected by his brothers	Genesis 37:4	“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” (John 1:11)
Sold for silver	Genesis 37:28	“What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.” (Matthew 26:15)
Falsely accused	Genesis 39:20	“Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death.” (Matthew 26:59)
Brought low before being exalted	Genesis 41:41	“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him.” (Philippians 2:9)
Made savior of many lives	Genesis 50:20	“Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Stephen summarizes this pattern:

“The patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him.” (Acts 7:9)

Joseph later declared the hand of God to his brothers.

“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” (Genesis 50:20)

This same pattern finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11)

CHRIST AS THE SECOND ADAM

Genesis introduces Adam as the head of humanity. His failure brought death and there is a difference between his actions and the Messiah's.

*“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so **by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.**” (Romans 5:19)*

The Messiah is called *“The last Adam.”*

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” (1 Corinthians 15:45)

Where Adam failed in a garden, Christ obeyed in another garden.

“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26:39)

Where Adam brought death through disobedience, Jesus brought life through obedience.

“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” (Romans 5:18-19)

Genesis does not end with Adam; it anticipates the Messiah that would come to fix Adam's mess.

GENESIS IS A GOSPEL BOOK

Genesis is a Gospel book because it reveals:

- ❖ Christ as the Creator (Genesis 1; John 1:1-3)
- ❖ Christ as the Promised Seed (Genesis 3:15)
- ❖ Christ as the Substitute (Genesis 22)
- ❖ Christ as the Suffering Savior exalted to glory (Joseph)
- ❖ Christ as the Second Adam (Romans 5)

If you don't know that something exists, you are not going to look for it. Take the time to re-read Genesis and you will find it whispers the name of Jesus on every page.

And so when Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the disciples...

“Beginning at Moses... He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.” (Luke 24:27)

Genesis was definitely part of that conversation.

Do not read Genesis merely as ancient history. Read it as divine prophecy. Read it as gospel groundwork. The scarlet thread begins with the first book of Moses and leads unbroken to the cross, the empty tomb, and the throne of glory in the future.