



SERMON NOTES

Week 1 September 22, 2024

"Messages from the Beginning"

Genesis 1-2:3; Judges 2:7, 10-19;
Jeremiah 29:10-14; Isaiah 9:1-7



I. Introduction

- A. The Bible begins with the Book of _____ which begins with Creation story.
- B. Repeatedly, God looks upon his Creation and calls it _____. This is the basis for the inherent worth of all things.
- C. The only thing that wasn't "good" in Creation was Adam being _____.

II. Sin's Entrapment

- A. Despite humanity's best efforts, we are unable to remove _____ from ourselves; we need God's help.
- B. In the book of Judges, the people's rebellion operated in a _____. a period of rebellion, consequences, and then God's divine assistance.
- C. This individual's death often coincided with the people rebelling against God again: _____.

III. More to Come

- A. God was not content to leave us to struggle with our sin. Instead, God spoke through the prophets that full _____ was to come through a Messiah.
- B. The Lord has _____ to bring us a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).
- C. The prophetic vision of the events of God's final redeeming act are contained in the book of _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 23-28, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

The Bible contains the vast stories of those that walked with God. Spanning, some scholars believe, nearly 4,000 years, the varied books and letters of the Bible hold unique situations yet consistent messages. As we walk with the Lord this week, let us reflect upon these themes and incorporate them into our witness, to God's glory and honor.

Monday: Genesis 1-2

In Genesis, we begin our encounter the One who was, is, and is to come: the Almighty. Through God, all things came into being. Take time today to get outside and reflect upon the world around you. What aspect of Creation do you find yourself most drawn to? What comes to you in the quiet moment?

Tuesday: Genesis 4:3-12

It did not take long after the Fall of Adam and Eve for even greater sin to enter the world. In the story of Cain and Abel, evil went unchecked and the first murder occurred. Do we have sins that are "at our doorstep" like Cain? With God's help, how might we practice greater discipline to avoid sinning? With our Asbury Church family, how might we avoid sinning with the help of others?

Wednesday: Romans 6:15-23

Finger pointing is when we look around to find someone else who has "done something evil or worse than us" as a false means to justify ourselves. As Christians, we are not immune to this. Our confession as Christians is that all of us have sinned; yet our great hope is that God has extended grace through Jesus and we can be saved. When were you first introduced to this faith? Did you respond immediately or wrestle with it for a time? How has this faith changed your life?

Thursday: Psalm 71:1-14

As the biblical witnesses attest from cover to cover, trouble will come yet our God is ever-ready to help us. What was a life event(s) where you were especially thankful for God's presence? How might you encourage others to seek find their refuge in God when a storm of life comes?

Friday: Jeremiah 29:10-14

Our faith tells us that God is in control, yet when we cannot see the path or plan, we can become fearful. Recall a time when God was leading but you could not see "the plan" until you came through the hardship. In hindsight, do you see God's guiding hand? How can you use this in your witness to encourage others who may be in a similar place?

MOVING FORWARD

The opening themes of the Bible contain a foundation for God's identity, our relationship to the Lord, and the abiding presence through all of life's hardship. As we continue our faith journey, let us seek to be more confident in God's plans for us - especially those we do not fully understand in the here-and-now. With hope, let us serve God and our neighbor knowing that a greater purpose is still to be accomplished.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Genesis, B) good, C) alone. IIA) sin, B) cycle, C) a judge.
IIIA) reconciliation, B) plans, C) Revelation.*