

TEACHING NOTES: The Drama of Revelation and Redemption

Do you ever wonder what is really going on? Do you ever feel like you have random bits of information but you really don't know how they all fit together? That is the plight of mankind. This is due to the sin that renders us incapable of understanding the nature of the world and how everything fits together. When we come to Christ, we are given the key to understanding this great mystery called life. More often than not, we don't see Christ in this manner. Rather we see him as security to the next life. God calls us into the drama of revelation and redemption to be his covenant people so we must find joy, peace, humility and mission in this broken world. The Bible has been likened to a four act drama of creation, fall, redemption and restoration. This picture is helpful for us as the redeemed so that we might understand the work of God in history, how he reveals himself and further understand our place and mission with in it as well.

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES

Delight in Himself—The Glory of the Trinity [Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 43:10; Rev. 4:8-10]

Extending His delight into creation [Deuteronomy 33:27; Micah 7:18]

GOD'S FOUR ACT DRAMA IN HISTORY

Creation: Divine Infusion of Love, Joy, Meaning and Mission [Genesis 1:31]

Fall: War against the Delighting in God [**intent**: Deut.9:7; Psalm 51:5; Genesis 5:3; Gal. 3:22 **effect**: Isaiah 59:3, Rom 1:32,3:9-19]

Redemption: Creation of a new humanity/community (Re-infusion of Love, Joy, Meaning and Mission) [Is. 35:10; Heb2:12, 1 Corinthians 6:20; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9]

Restoration: Not just a garden but a city [Isaiah 65:17; 1 Corinthians 15:20; Hebrews 4:9, 11:16; 2 Peter 3:7-13]

THE CRIMSON THREAD OF SCRIPTURE

The Bible is God revealing the drama to us and how we figure into it.

Relationship of the Old Testament and New Testament

Dispensational Grid

God structures relationship with mankind through stages (dispensations)

Each is a test of mankind to be faithful to the revelation at the time.

God has two people not one. Israel is God's earthly people and the Church is his heavenly people.

Two different covenants for the two different people. (Some modified believe in one covenant with two applications)

Promises to Abraham are literally for physical Israel and not what God would do for the Church (Land, Seed, Blessing)

Covenantal Grid

God structures relationship with mankind through varying covenants

2 Major covenants: Covenant of Works (pre-fall) and Covenant of Grace (post fall)

Covenant of Grace Fulfills the Covenant of Works

Each covenant (Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and New) is a micro-narrative of the larger meta-narrative of God's redemptive plan

Man is not tested in each but each is differing administration of the overarching post fall "Covenant of Grace"

3 parts of the Law: Ceremonial, Civil and Moral. (Ceremonial and Civil no longer valid)

Land, Seed, Blessing are promises to the "people of God". (Spiritual Israel and the NT Church)

New Covenant Grid

Similar to Covenant except:

No division of law

No overarching Covenants of Works and Grace

Mosaic Law not abolished but fulfilled in the New Covenant (Christ)

New Law of Christ that binds believers

Some distinction between Israel and Church (Israel is a typology)

