

Genesis: Weekly Devotionals - December 21

OPEN with prayer.

Find a quiet place where you can slow down. Open with a prayer to God. Ask Him to help you honor Christ as Lord in thought, word, and deed. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live and love more like Christ.

JESUS in Genesis

For your time in God's Word either today or this week, we want to do a bit of digging to find Jesus in the book of Genesis. For example, we can see Christ in the following ways:

- Creation and the New Creation (Jesus as the better Adam, Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:45).
- The seed promise to Eve (Genesis 3:15 – the offspring who crushes the serpent).
- Noah's ark (one door for salvation, pointing to Christ as the only way).

Part of the rationale for reading Jesus into Genesis is based on the following two passages. Read Luke 24:27, 44 and John 5:39 and then answer the following questions:

Note: In these passages, "Moses" refers to the Torah or Pentateuch or first five books of the Bible. "Prophets" refers to the prophetic literature of the Old Testament (e.g. Samuel, Isaiah). "Writings" refer to everything else (e.g. Psalms and Proverbs).

- What is happening contextually around these verses?
- What do they say about Jesus' relationship to the Scriptures?
- How do you think these passages should shape how we read the Bible?

Think through all of the stories and characters in Genesis that you can. List out 3-5 stories and characters and the events surrounding those stories.

REFLECT

Then, reflect on the following:

- How do you see these stories as pointing the way to Jesus? Note: Look for ways these stories foreshadow Jesus' person (e.g., his character, roles) or work (e.g., creation, sacrifice, redemption, provision). Not every detail matches perfectly—these are shadows pointing to the greater reality in Christ (Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 10:1)."
- What facets of Jesus's character or work on the cross do these particular stories highlight for you?
- As you enter this Christmas season, which particular way of Genesis pointing to Jesus resonates with you most deeply? Explain.

Finish your time in prayer. Thank God for how Genesis reveals his plan of rescue in Jesus, and ask him to deepen your awe this Christmas.