

Epic: Creation To Flood (Various Scriptures)

Gen 1; If you're just joining us, we're starting a series called Epic – tracing the history of God's work of redemption from creation to eternity, in the Bible
And if you're at all familiar with art, you know that one of the most famous paintings in the world is found on a *ceiling*; I'm talking about the Creation of Adam or . . .
The **Finger of God**, found on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City

But what you may not know, is that it's part of a bigger picture; And if you fail to see it, you're missing out (**Panoramic**)
B/c all told, it includes some 300 hundred biblical characters, sprawls down the walls and into the corners, and pictures none other than the epic of the Bible
The point being, if you fail to see the whole, you'll miss the significance of the parts***

And the same is true of the written account; Fail to see the whole of this book, and you'll miss the significance of the parts – including the part where *you* fit in
So I've broken it down into 17 different historical periods, with the hope that we not only grow in our *understanding*, but in our love for the One who wrote it, and did it

And the first period, is . . .

Creation

That time in millennia past, when God spoke and the world came into being
Like **Ps 33:9** says – *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*
And **Heb 11:3** says – *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*
He spoke, and it came into being; Out of nothing; Just like Gen 1:1 says – *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* That's what we *do* know

What we *don't* know, is when that was exactly*****

Some people advocate a *young earth*, created in the year 4004BC based on the *genealogies* recorded in the Bible . . .
And others advocate an *old earth*, formed some 4 *billion* years ago, due to *evolutionary* processes

➤ For myself, I believe it was *thousands* of years ago – maybe 10 or 20k; And that it was completed in 6 *days*, just like the Bible says; I'm a *young earth* proponent
But I don't believe we can pinpoint a year, b/c we can't be certain that the *genealogies* are meant to be comprehensive instead of representative

IOW the writers of Scripture may have *skipped* generations in order to hit the highlights or show some sort of symmetry
Like the genealogy of Moses does in Exodus 6, or the genealogy of Jesus in Mt 1
Not only that, but the word “fathered” in Hebrew, when used in a genealogy, can mean “fathered an *ancestor* of”; Like saying my great grandfather *fathered* me
So we can't just count the years listed in the *genealogies*, and come up with a date for creation

But I still think the age of the earth is measured in *thousands* not billions; For 4 reasons
(A) I don't think *that* may generations were skipped, b/c it wouldn't really be a genealogy if it did
(B) An *old earth* doesn't match the evidence

There's just too much that doesn't add up and too little that does, to support theistic evolution over a long period of time

(C) There's an overwhelming amount of scientific evidence for a *young earth*
(D) The clincher in all this – an old earth is contrary to the explicit teaching of the Bible
B/c it implies that sin and death existed *before* man; And that's just the opposite of what the *Bible* teaches – that sin/death entered the world *after* Adam was created

➤ So I believe in a young earth and a young universe, that starts w/ God creating the world in 6 days; The last of which, ends with the creation of Adam and Eve; Gen 1:26
[26] *Then [after the first 5 days of creation] God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* [27] *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*
And then, after telling them to be fruitful and multiply, it says in v31 – *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

And then Moses *expands* on that 6th day, in 2:7-8; Saying . . .

[7] *The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.* [8] *And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden [which means *delight* in Hebrew by the way], in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

And then, in v18 he made Eve

[18] *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”* And after naming the animals, it says in v21 . . .
[21] *So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.* [22] *And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.*

So the **Key People** at this point in God's epic, are Adam and Eve

The **Key Place** – **Garden of Eden**

And the **Main Event** – **Week of Creation** – 6 days of work and 1 day of rest
Which is intended to be the pattern for *our* lives

➤ And **God's Purpose** in it all, was 3-fold; First . . .

To reveal his glory (Is 43:6b-7)

God created the world to reveal his glory

In **Is 43:6b-7**, in the middle of a statement about saving and gathering his people from all over the world, God says . . .

[6b] *“Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, [7] everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”*

In his own words, God tells us that he created mankind to reveal his splendor and grandeur and wonder; To make much of who he is and what he's done*****

2nd, he created the world . . .

To show his power (Jer 32:17)

Speaking to God in **Jer 32:17**, Jeremiah says . . .

'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

God created the world to show that he's so powerful, *nothing* is too hard for him*****

And then 3rd, he created the universe . . .

To establish his preeminence (Is 44:24)

It's a big word for a big God, and it means superiority, supremacy, and incomparability all wrapped up in one

IOW one of God's purposes in creating the world, was to establish the fact that he stands out among all other beings

That's the idea of **Is 44:24** – *Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself*

No help needed, and none sought; He did it all; B/c he's preeminent*****

➤ **Our Response – Praise and Worship**

B/c he deserves it; **Ps 33:8-9** says – *Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him [as in worship him]! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

God deserves our worship b/c he created the universe with nothing but his words

And he deserves our *praise*, b/c it was his brainchild in the first place; Like the worshippers in heaven say in **Rev 4:11**

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power [that's praise], for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

God is worthy of our praise b/c he created all things according to his will; *His will******

Nobody gave him counsel; Nobody thought of this before he did; It was all him

And the point of it all, is to remind us that God and God alone deserves our praise and worship

➤ Are you there? Is that your heart? Does it show? (**Summary**)

When you consider all the works his hands have made, and see the stars, and hear the rolling thunder – does your soul sing? And do you say, "how great thou art"?

B/c that's what he's looking for; That's why he made it; To evoke praise/worship in us

Unfortunately, that doesn't come naturally, b/c of the next time period; The . . .

Fall

With the **Key People – Adam, Eve, and (Satan); The Key Places – Eden and Heaven**

And one of the **Main Events** was Satan's rebellion; *In* heaven; That's where the Fall started

The first clue to which, is found in Isaiah/Ezekiel's prophecies (**Is 14:12-17; Ez 28:11-19**)

But it's not until the *end* of the Epic, in Revelation, that we find it explicitly; Where the Apostle John is looking *back*, and says in **Rev 12:7-9** . . .

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

A third of the angelic throng (Rev 12:4); Who we now know as demons*****

That's where the Fall started – w/ Satan's rebellion, and his expulsion fr heaven to earth
Where he then deceived Eve, and she and Adam disobeyed; Those are the main events

And one of **God's Purpose(s)**, was . . .

To explain the presence of evil in the world (Rev 12:7-9)

God created it perfect and pure, but Satan rebelled and Adam sinned, spoiling the whole thing; And it didn't take long for *Cain* to pick up on it and kill his brother Abel

And for the rest of mankind to follow suit; So much so that it says in **Gen 6:5** . . .

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The Fall explains that*****

As it does our *difficulty*, the 2nd of God's purposes; It explains . . .

To explain our difficulty in the world (Gen 3:16-18)

Which God wasted no time conveying; **Gen 3:16-19**

[16] To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband [to usurp his leadership and role], and he shall rule over you [abandoning his role of servant-leadership in favor of domineering]." That's difficulty

[17] And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' [IOW b/c you abdicated your responsibility to lead and do what you were supposed to do] cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. Once again, that's difficulty; Explained by Adam and Eve's fall into sin

3rd, the Fall accounts . . .

To account for death in the world (Gen 3:19; Rom 5:12)

God says in **Gen 3:19** – *"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

And Paul makes it clear in **Rom 5:12** that the consequence of death applies to *all* men
Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, [and] so death spread to all men because all sinned

Just as *Adam* died a physical death for his sin, we will too – it's unavoidable*****

So the Fall not only accounts for evil/sin in the world, but difficulty and death as well

➤ But it's not *all* bad news; B/c God also intended for the Fall . . .

To set the stage for a reversal in the world (Gen 3:15)

Gen 3:15; God is speaking to Satan, the serpent, and says – *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

IOW *Eve's* offspring will deal a *death* blow to Satan, he will bruise his *head* . . .

While *Satan's* offspring, those doing *his* dirty work, would only deal a *glancing* blow;

Referring to the temporary death of Jesus on the cross – essentially bruising his *head*

That's what this foreshadows – the cross; Where Jesus was temporarily *wounded*, and Satan was permanently *defeated*

Talk about working all things together for good, for those who love God and are called according to his purpose; The stage was set all the way back at the Fall . . .

For a *massive* reversal of fortune in the world

➤ And **Our Response – Ownership and Hope**

Ownership in that we're part of the problem; That in sinning, we show we're sinners

Following in the footsteps of our forefather Adam, and deserving difficulty and death just like him; Far from denial, or thinking we're above the Fall, we should own it

But right along with it should be *hope*; B/c all is not lost, and the triumph of the cross *will* come to fruition (**Summary**)

Satan, sin, death, and difficulty *will be* forever expunged and defeated

There's hope; Even in the Fall

But long before that would begin to play out, came the . . .

Flood

Key People – Noah and Sons

Key Places – Mt Ararat, The Ark

Main Events – Building of the Ark, The Flood

And the first of **God's Purpose(s)**, was . . .

To punish mankind (Gen 6:11-22)

To show that he does not take sin lightly; That there *is* an end to his patience; Gen 6:11

[11] Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.

[12] And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. [13] And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. That's punishment; And then, after telling him to make an ark, he says in v17 . . .

[17] For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. Punishment

And sure enough, no sooner had Noah finished the ark, gathered his family, and quartered the animals – than . . .

The fountains of the great deep burst forth [it says in ch7 (v11)], and the windows of the heavens were opened And continued for 40 days and 40 nights

Until *the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth* [it says] *that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered* (Gen 7:19)

And all flesh died that moved on the earth; They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. (Gen 7:21,23b)

That's punishment; B/c *the earth was corrupt . . . and filled with violence* (Gen 6:11)

And if it weren't for his promise, we'd still be at risk; B/c we're *still* corrupt and filled with violence

But thankfully, God made a covenant to never do it again; And that's his 2nd purpose in the flood

To show his mercy (Gen 9:8-17)

To reveal his promise to never destroy the earth by *water*, again

Fire, yes; But not water Gen 9:8

[8] Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, [9] "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, [10] and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. [11] I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

[12] And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: [13] I have set my bow in the cloud [a rainbow], and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

[14] When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, [15] I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

That's mercy – withholding what we deserve; And it's one of the reasons I interrupt whatever we're doing as a family, and rush out the door to see a rainbow

B/c it's a beautiful reminder of a beautiful thing; Not the ROY G BIV spectrum of visible light that splits when it shines through water – but God's merciful promise

Our Response – Thankfulness and Holiness

Thankfulness that God is so *rich* in mercy; To withhold the destruction of the world by water, that in our corruption and violence we still deserve

That ought to make you thankful; B/c there but for the grace of God go we

And, we ought to live in *holiness*; That too should be our response

Which by the way, you can't muster on your own; You can't

The holiness that *God* desires in you, comes only from the righteousness of his Son *imputed* to you; Credited to your account

And that happens only when you believe in Jesus, repent of your sin, and receive him into your life

Then and only then will the holiness *God* requires, be at your disposal; Then and only then will God show you mercy

Then and only then will you be able to live a life *pleasing* to him (**Summary**)

Creation, Fall, and Flood – that's the first part of God's epic; And already there's more than we can fathom (**Panorama**)

But don't stop looking; And don't stop looking up; B/c there's more to come

Pray – Thank you for the world you've made, even in its fallen-ness; It's so amazing, and so incredible; You indeed are great, and good, and merciful, and preeminent; We worship you, and live for you; And give now, with a heart of gratitude