

“One of the beautiful things about the Christian Scriptures is that they provide not only a way of salvation but also a worldview” – Dr. Bruce Ashford

(I) CREATION

The first plot move in Scripture is _____ (1). In Genesis chapter 1 and 2 (among other places), Scripture teaches that “In the _____ (2) God created the heavens and the Earth. To boil it down to its simplest terms, there was “_____” (3); then there was “something” and it was God who created it. In the creation narrative, there are two phases that are frequently used as framing devices.

(A) The first phase is “_____” (4). God created “something” from “nothing” and then _____ (5) the “something” into the world that we now see using His Word to accomplish it!

(B) The second phase is “_____” (6). After each of God’s created acts, Scripture teaches that God’s creation was _____ (7). So we can see that the world that God gave us was a good world. At the height of God’s creation is _____ (8) and woman. We learn in Genesis chapter 1:26-27 that God created man and woman in His own _____ (9) and likeness.

(II) WAYS WE ARE LIKE GOD

(A) The primary way in which we carry the likeness of God is in our _____ (10) capacity. We can know and love God (and be known and loved by God) in a way in which _____ (11), plants and trees, for example, cannot.

(B) A second way in which we carry the likeness of God is in our _____ (12) capacity. We can know good and evil and choose to do good and evil in a way that animals, trees and plants cannot.

(C) A third way in which we carry the likeness of God is in our _____ (13) capacity. We can use our _____ (14) in a way the rest of the created order cannot. You may be instead (for example) in Science. The reason that you can enjoy this subject matter and use your rational capacities to engage with the material is because God created you in His image and _____ (15).

(D) A fourth way in which we carry the likeness of God is in our capacity for _____(16). The reason you can use your _____(17) and enjoy things like movies, music literature, architecture, and graphic design, is because God gave you a creative capacities and those are a part of being made in the image and likeness of God.

(E) A fifth way in which we carry the likeness of God is in our _____ (18) capacity. Teachers and salespeople, for example, often find themselves in these positions because they relate well with others. The reason you can _____(19) to other people on a deeper and more meaningful level than other animals can relate to one another is because you are made in the image of God.

It is important to note that at the time of creation, Adam and Eve (man and woman) had _____(20) relationships with:

- (1) _____(21)
- (2) Each other
- (3) The created order
- (4) Themselves

(III) THE FALL

In this plot movement, we learn the very first man and woman who ever lived (Adam and Eve) decided to _____(22) against God. When they rebelled against God and set themselves up as autonomous or _____(23) from God, they lost their relationship with God. Their relationship with God was _____(24). Because of this broken relationship, the image of God in man was _____(25) and defaced.

(A) Five Capacities Affected:

- (1) Spiritually, our _____(26) with God is broken.
- (2) _____(27), we can no longer choose that which is good.
- (3) Rationally, we have difficulty discerning the _____(28). In particular, it is impossible for us to discern spiritual truth.
- (4) Creatively, we use our imaginative and creative capacities to make _____(29) and worship them instead of God.
- (5) Relationally, we tend to love ourselves.

(B) Four Relationships Broken:

1. We are ENEMIES of _____(30).
2. Our relationship with others is BROKEN and is manifested in all sorts of interpersonal and societal _____(31).
3. Or relationship with the created order is broken as there is NO LONGER this _____(32) and mutual interdependence.
4. Finally man's _____(33) with himself is broken as we find ourselves ALIENATED from our true selves.

(IV) REDEMPTION

The third plot movement is _____(34). In Genesis chapter 3, immediately after the first man and woman sinned, God _____(35) to send a Savior, Messiah, Redeemer. This coming Savior would crush and destroy sin, Satan, and death. This Redeemer would bring _____(36) to God's image bearers whom had now lost their relationship with Him. In the New Testament, we discover that this promised Savior's name is _____(37).

(A) Prophecies of Messiah

- (1) He was born of a _____(38). (Isaiah 7:14)
- (2) He taught God's truth _____(39). (Psalms 78:15)
- (3) He perfectly kept God's moral _____(40). (Isaiah 53:9)
- (4) He demonstrated _____(41) over sin, sickness, death and even demons. (Isaiah 35:56, 53:8)

Most importantly, what He did was _____(42) His life for us. Scripture teaches that when Jesus was _____(43) on the Cross, He took the sins of the world onto His shoulders so that we might be saved. The good news for you is that when you believe on Him you have union with God and life _____(44). We have the opportunity to be a part of a _____(45) community of believers, both living and dead. This community of believers spans every age in history and every continent of the globe. These believers have been redeemed in all of their capacities.

(B) Redemption of all our capacities

- (1) He is redeeming us spiritually and has declared us _____(46) because of the work of His Son.

- (2) He is redeeming us morally, so we can now choose to do that which is good
- (3) He is redeeming us rationally, so we can now _____(47) the truth.
- (4) He is redeeming us creatively, so that we can now use our creative capacity to _____(48) him,
- (5) He is redeeming us relationally, so that we may know how to love others based upon the _____(49) of Christ for us.

(V) NEW CREATION

The fourth plot movement is a _____(50) creation. In this plot movement we learn that Jesus will come again and when He comes, He will bring with Him a new Heaven and new Earth where _____(51) will be made right. We also learn that as a part of this new creation, there will be worshippers from every tribe and tongue and people of every _____(52). In other words, there is something so profoundly true, comprehensively good, and strikingly _____(53) about our God, that He will be found worthy of worship by every type of person who has ever lived.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. From a Christian worldview why are we accountable to someone? To whom are we accountable? *Hint: Romans 3:20*
2. Why is man in need of divine intervention and unable to save himself? *Hint: Ephesians 2:13*
3. Is God obligated to intervene on man's behalf? *Hint: 2 Peter 2:46*
4. Since God has intervened on man's behalf, what should be our (Christian's) response to the rest of the world? *Hint: Matthew 28:19-20*

RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING

"Christian Worldview" *Audio Tape* by R.C. Sproul

"The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World" - *John Piper and Justin Taylor*

"Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview" by *William Lane Craig, J.P. Moreland*

"What Is a Christian Worldview?" (*Basics of the Faith*) by *Philip Graham Ryken*

1. Creation
2. Beginning
3. Nothing
4. "And God said"
5. Fashioned
6. "It was good"
7. Good
8. Man
9. Image
10. Spiritual
11. Animals
12. Moral
13. Rational
14. Intellect
15. Likeness
16. Creativity
17. Imagination
18. Relational
19. Relate
20. Excellent
21. God
22. Rebel
23. Independent
24. Broken
25. Distorted,
26. Relationship
27. Morally
28. Truth
29. Idols
30. God
31. Badness
32. Perfect
33. Relationship
34. Redemption
35. Promised
36. Salvation
37. Jesus
38. Virgin
39. Perfectly
40. Law
41. Victory
42. Give
43. Crucified
44. Everlasting
45. Worldwide
46. Righteous
47. Discern
48. Worship
49. Love
50. New
51. Everything
52. Nation
53. Beautiful