

The Drama of the Ages

The Seven C's of History

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 30th

The Declaration of Independence reveals much about early Americans. It opens with: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, That all men are created equal, and endowed by their creator..."*

and closes with: *"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."*

Much has changed since the Birth of America's independence from England, and acknowledged Dependence on God, But some things haven't! While our concept of "truth" may have changed, Actual Truth is Changeless! Heb. 1:10-14

God's unchanging nature in a changing world was the theme of our recent VBS. This week at VBS we focused on how God's Plan has unfolded through the ages through:

1. Creation Gen. 1:31 *"God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."*

Creation turned into Corruption with Satan's Seductive lies and Adam's selfish sin!

2. Corruption Gen. 3:17 *"Cursed is the ground for thy sake..."* 6:5 *"God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*

Corruption eventually results in:

3. Catastrophe Gen. 6:12 *"The earth also was corrupt before God, (šāḥat': destroyed, spoiled, decayed)*

Consequences: *and ... filled with violence."* (ḥāmās': violence, cruelty, injustice)

Correction: vs 17 *"I will bring a flood"* 8 *"But Noah found grace..."*

4. Confusion Genesis 11

Because of mankind's corruption/rebellion God decided to *"confound their language.....Therefore is the name of it called Babel;"* (confusion) Gen. 11:7 (This is the name of Earth's Final Capital! Rev 17,18)

5. Christ (Is. 53; Jn 3:16; Gal. 4:4) 1 Thes. 1:15 *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ (christos: anointed) Jesus (iēsous : Jehovah is salvation) came into the world to save sinners..."*

Lk 19:10 *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

He accomplished this through the:

6. CROSS Jn 3:14-17; Ro. 5:8; 6:23; 1 Cor 1:18 *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."* (See also Eph. 2:14-16)

Col. 2:13,14 *"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"*

Because of the Cross, we have the hope of the:

7) Consummation: (Completion) Rev. 21:1-5 *"I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. Write: for these words are true and faithful."

Rev. 22 goes on to describe a restored Eden!

Conclusion:

This cycle of history is Your Story!

It begins with Creation (God's design/desire)

**It's Corrupted by Sin (Satan's desire) producing Catastrophe (suffering)
and inevitable Confusion (stupid) 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26**

Ro. 1:28 *"even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,
God gave them over to a reprobate mind"*

Thankfully God stepped in with Christ and the Cross (2 Cor. 4:6)

1 Pt 1:18-20 *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, ... But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times FOR YOU"*

Because of Christ and the Cross, God's desire/design can be restored.

Ps. 23:1,3 3 *"The Lord is my Shepherd. . . He restoreth my soul!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."*

Application:

Where are you in this cycle? Creation

Corruption → Catastrophe → Confusion (2 Cor 4:4)

Christ and the Cross (2 Cor 4:6) Are the bridge (Jn 14:6)

To God's final Consummation. (2 Cor. 5)

1) Are you following the "Good Shepherd", or "the thief"? John 10:10-11

How can you (and others) tell? John 10:26-29

2) What "self-evident truths" are you Holding? Jn 3:16-18; Jn 14:6

3) Are you willing to pledge your "Lives...Fortunes and sacred Honor"

On anything less?