**Where are you?**

**Rev. Kenichi Nakagawa**

****

**Introduction**

 (1) Since the fall of Adam, mankind has being asking three questions.

 ① Where did we come from?

 ② Why do we live?

 ③ Where are we going?

 (2) The answers are in the Bible.

 ① Historical Philosophy

 ② Systematic Theology is the study of the above questions.

 \* System of Covenant Theology

 \* System of Dispensationalism

 ③ I myself was changed by the Bible from an atheist to a Bible believing person.

 ④ The theme ‘kingdom of God’ is related to Historical Philosophy.

**The Bible contains answers to these three fundamental questions**

**I. Where did we come from?**

 **1. Common Explanation (Evolution)**

 (1) The theory of evolution tries to explain the origin of the world without considering the existence of God.

 ① In Japan I had never heard any explanation other than the theory of evolution.

 ② Naturally, I believed that the evolution was true.

 ③ The theory of evolution greatly influenced my emotion as well as intelligence.

 Example: Since I started going to church, I learned that I was a work of God.

 (2) The theory of evolution has some fatal problems

 ① The theory of evolution is hypothetical and not a proven truth.

 \*The theory of evolution is evolving.

 ② Microevolution is possible, while Macroevolution is impossible.

 \*Microevolution is a small change that occurs in the process of adaptation to the environment.

 \*Macroevolution is a great change that occurs above the level of species.

 ③ According to the theory of evolution everything occurs by chance.

 \*Because of this, it’s nonsense to seek the meaning of life.

 (3) Science and the Bible do not contradict each other.

 ①The apparent contradictions are those between scientific explanation and Bible interpretation.

 ②The Bible is not unscientific. It is ultra-scientific.

 **2. Explanation of Genesis Chapters 1 & 2**

 (1) Genesis 1 & 2 record the beginning of the world

 ① They contain accounts of the creation which contradict the theory of evolution.

 (2) Revelation about God

 ① The God of the Bible is the Creator.

 ② The God of the Bible is absolute.

 ③ The God of the Bible is Triune. (the Holy Trinity)

 (3) Revelation about Mankind (Genesis 1:26)

26Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

 ① Mankind is the crown of creation.

 ② Mankind is created in the ‘image of God.’

 \*Spiritual activities

 \*Conscience

 \*Mind conscious of eternity (God)

 (4) Revelation of the purposes of creation (Genesis 1:28)

28God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

 ① Elements of blessing

 ② Elements of offspring

 ③ Elements of land

 **3. Explanation of Genesis 3**

 (1) This chapter talks about how sin entered the world.

 ① Sin is absent only in the first and the last two chapters in the Bible.

 (Genesis 1&2, and Revelation 21 & 22)

 (2) Genesis 2:15-17

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

 ① Freedom of will was given to mankind.

 ② This is the greatest gift and the fundamental characteristics of mankind.

 ③ Without the freedom of will, there is no love relationship.

 ④ There is a room for misuse of the freedom of will.

 ⑤ It is nonsense to ask why God didn’t make mankind without the capacity to sin.

 (3) God’s intention

 ① Mankind will grow through obedience.

 ② Mankind will live in relationship with God.

 ③ Mankind will know good and evil without committing sin.

 ④ ‘The tree of the knowledge of good and evil’ was placed to achieve these purposes.

 (4) Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.

5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

 ① Satan’s cunning temptation

 ② Distrust of God in Eve’s heart

 ③ Weakness of Adam in following Eve’s invitation

 ④ It was Adam who was responsible since the covenant was made between Adam and God.

 (5) Rebellion of Mankind

 ① Sin is willful rebellion against God.

 ② Sin is to make oneself a god.

 ③ Sin is missing the mark.

 (6) Consequences of sin

 ① death (separation from God)

 ② Self-hatred

 ③ Fear

 ④ Imputation of responsibility

 ⑤ Curse on the natural world

 **4. God’s answers**

 (1) Genesis 3:8-13

8Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

11And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

 ① “Where are you?”

 ② “Who told you that you were naked?”

 ③ “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

 ④ “What is this you have done?”

 (2) Genesis 3:14-15

14So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
    and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
    and you will eat dust
    all the days of your life.
15And I will put enmity
    between you and the woman,
    and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
    and you will strike his heel.”

 ① Curse on the serpent

 ② Promise to the “offspring of the woman”

 ③ Prophecy of the war between Satan and the offspring of the woman

 ④ Genesis 3:15 is called ‘**protoevangelium.’ (the first Gospel)**

 ⑤ This verse is a principle verse for reading the rest of the Bible.

 ⑥ An encounter with a poisonous snake in the Middle East is the background of this verse.

 ⑦ The offspring of the women will get hurt, but the serpent’s head will be crushed.

 (3) Genesis 3:21

21The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

 ① The garments of skin symbolizes ‘righteousness of God.’

 ② They are very different from the fig leaves made by men.

 ③ Animals were sacrificed to make these garments.

**II. Why do we live?**

 **1. The reality of mankind**

 (1) Adam’s fall was the fall of mankind.

 ① Adam is the representative of the covenant

 ② Consequences of Adam’s actions affect all mankind.

 ③ We are separated from the glory of God (*Shekinah* glory).

 (2) The dominion over the land that used to belong to Adam was robbed by Satan

 ① Satan is the god of this world.

 ② Mankind is under Satan’s rule.

 (3) Hope of mankind

 ① Mankind will be restored by Christ.

 ② Jesus Christ represents the new covenant.

 ③ Jesus is the last Adam.

 ④ Consequences of Jesus’ actions affect all who believe in Him.

 **2. The promise to the ‘offspring of the woman’**

 (1) They are the descendants of Abraham.

 ① Genesis 12:1-3

12 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

2“I will make you into a great nation,
    and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
    and you will be a blessing.
3I will bless those who bless you,
    and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
    will be blessed through you.”

 \*Elements of blessing

 \*Elements of offspring

 \*Elements of land

 ② They are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

 ③ They are the descendants of Judah, one of the 12 tribes (of Israel).

 ④They are the descendants of David.

 (2) Genealogy of Jesus Christ

 ① Matthew contains the genealogy of his father Joseph.

 ② Luke contains the genealogy of his mother Mary.

 ③ Matthew 1:1

1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

 **3. Old Testament prophecies**

 (1) Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)

14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

 (2) Die for the sin of mankind (Isaiah 53:5-6)

5But he was pierced for our transgressions,
    he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
    and by his wounds we are healed.
6We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
    each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
    the iniquity of us all.

 ① This is an important verse for Jewish evangelism.

 (3) Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
    though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
    one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
    from ancient times.”

 (4) Pierced and died (Zechariah 12:10)

10“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

 (5) All prophecies concerning the coming of Jesus Christ were accomplished.

 ① This is amazing.

 **4. Consequences of the death of Christ (The New Testament)**

 (1) The penalty of sin was paid.

 ① Mark 10:45

45For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

 ② Shedding of the blood of a righteous person was necessary.

 (2) The world (sinners) was reconciled to God.

 ① By changing mankind completely, God and mankind were reunited.

 (3) The ruler of this world was judged.

 ① John 12:31

31Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

 **5. Three elements of the Gospel**

 (1) 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

3For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

 ① Christ died for our sins.

 ② He died and was buried.

 ③ He was raised on the third day.

 ④ Having faith in Christ who died for our sins, was buried, and raised on the third day.

 **6. Consequences of regeneration**

 (1) New nature

 ① Nature that is sensitive to spiritual matters and God’s words.

 ② 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:15, Ephesians 4:24

 (2) Spiritual resurrection

 ① It is the basis for the physical resurrection in the future.

 ② Physical resurrection will take place at rapture, but spiritual resurrection has already taken place.

 ③ John 5:25, Romans 6:13, Ephesians 2:5

 (3) New Creation

 ① 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10, 4:24

 (4) Eternal security

 ① Regeneration is a work of God that cannot be undone.

 ② Philippians 1:6

 **7. New relationship with God (adoption as children of God)**

 (1) Believers are made children of God.

 ① Luke 11:11-13

 (2) Because we have entered the Father-son relationship, He disciplines us.

 ① Hebrews 12:5-11

 (3) We can approach God boldly.

 ①Hebrews 4:14-16

 (4) Believers are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

 ① Romans 8:17, Galatians 4:7

 Holy Bible (New International Version)