

THE GENESIS CODE

The Old Testament is a book written in three levels, the first is a narrative account the history of the human race and then of Israel. The second direct specific prophecies of the future. The third is written in code language, outlining the life, death and resurrection of the Messiah. All three are remarkable and supernatural in their depth and scope.

- 1. The historical books are accurate and though they have been often disputed by skeptics throughout history, yet again and again, their accuracy has been proven correct by archaeology. Skepticism is in itself a terrible way to approach life and is based on unbelief. Thorough examination of the Bible is commended and for the believer his or her faith will be confirmed. However the amazing facts of history seldom convert the skeptic.
- 2. The prophetic voice of the Old Testament is also remarkable, and there are countless prophecies that have been fulfilled in astonishing detail. Daniel prophesied that Messiah would be cut off, but not for Himself in 29 AD which is the exact year of the crucifixion. He prophesied the sudden rise and fall of Alexander the Great. Daniel said that when he died, his empire would be divided into four parts and none would go to a son and heir. Alexander's empire was divided by four of his generals.
- 3. The code language of the Old Testament is in itself a great proof of the prophetic power and scope of the Old Testament, since by its own very nature, it was not and could not have been understood by those who wrote them. Each one created a piece of a jig saw puzzle without ever seeing how they fitted together or seeing the whole picture.

By these three means the Bible comes to us in powerful and confirming form. It is the supernatural message of the Creator to His beloved human race. The study of the Old Testament is to hear God speak and confirm our faith in the midst of a skeptical generation.



A. The Cross in Genesis.

There are many varied forms in which the cross is foretold in Genesis and other books of the Old Testament.

- 1. The world was created in a baptism of water on the first day (Genesis 1:1). It was raised on the third day (Genesis 1:9), when the dry land rose out of the sea.
- 2. The trees were created on the third day, having within them the seed of reproduction. Each seed has within itself the power of regeneration through dying, being buried and rising again.
- 3. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden are pictures of the cross (Genesis 2:9, 16). The choice is either self fulfillment and self realization or death to self.
- 4. The first blood was shed by God when He operated on man (Genesis 2:21-24). He made him fall into a deep anesthetic sleep. There he underwent the trauma of major surgery, as God took a rib from his side and built from it the woman who was thus made from his substance. This is a picture of the cross, although Christ refused the wine mingled with myrrh which would have lessened His pain, but would not have allowed Him to finish His work of redemption. God built the Church by taking of the substance of His son and making the believer to partake of the very life and substance of Christ. This is the miracle of the cross, the resurrection and Pentecost.
- 5. God prophesied to the guilty pair (Genesis 3:15) that He would send a man born of a woman (by implication not of a man, i.e. a virgin birth) and He, the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's seed though it would cost Him dear through pain inflicted on His Heel.
- 6. Blood was shed a second time again by God when He killed animals to make tunics of skin for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21).
- 7. Blood was shed the third time (Genesis 4:8) this time by Cain who killed the righteous Abel from envy, the very motive which drove the High Priests to condemn Christ. Abel's blood cried out to God, whether for vengeance or for mercy is not clear, though it is clear that Christ's blood cries out for mercy and much more besides, bringing total reconciliation with God.
- 8. Noah's flood, that drowned out sin and demonic influence
- 9. Abraham and Isaac: Genesis 22; John 3:16; II Corinthians 5:19-21.
 - For Father so loved that He gave:

The Cross is the love of God manifest from the foundation of the world. This is declared in John 3:16 and demonstrated in the symbolic act of Abraham offering up his son Isaac.



Why do you think that so many prophecies speak of things in the future as of things already done. Think of the moment when Jesus spoke the words of John 3:16 to Nicodemus. He spoke of future events in the past tense. What can you conclude about the cross from this fact?

- Abraham had many blessings: justification by faith, a family, covenant with God, the joy of being a blessing to others. One of the greatest blessings was the 7 times that God revealed Himself. This chapter 22 of Genesis tells of the 7th and final occasion. Has God revealed Himself to you? What did He promise? What did He ask of you? Have you fulfilled your part? How does God often reveal Himself to us?
- Genesis 22 is unique in the Bible in revealing the Father's heart and role in the cross. Grace did not begin at the cross; grace motivated the Father to make the cross happen. Grace flows from eternity, and was settled before the foundation of the world. God loved the world from the beginning, and nothing can ever change this. He foresaw sin, and still created us, and still loved us. God made provision for sin from the beginning of time.
- What was the Father's role on the cross?
 Consider 1 Corinthians 5:19: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them."
 Also 1 Corinthians 5:21: "For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
- What did Abraham feel as he offered up His son? What can you reverently imagine were the feelings of the Father when Jesus was crucified and the Father laid the sins of the world upon His shoulders? Think of positive things as well as negative.
- How will God reward the sufferings of His son? What will He give to Jesus for dying on the cross? What will He do in you to reward Jesus? Think of the events that followed the cross: the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the salvation of the nations.
- What is the best way we can thank God for His unspeakable love for us in the cross?
 Respond to His love now deliberately and with all your heart.
- 10. Jacob at Jabbok wrestling with the angel Gen 32.
- 11. The Life of Joseph:
 - The betrayal by his brothers.
 - The bread and the wine in prison.
 - The lowest prison to the highest throne in one hour.
 - Ruling the world, all nations bowing before him the saviour of the world.



B: The Cross from Exodus to Malachi.

The cross is the underlying message of the whole Bible. Here are some prominent passages:

- 1. The Passover Lamb. The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world:
 The Passover Lamb is a picture of the Cross of Christ that brings about the deliverance of God's people from the nature and power of sin. There are so many parallels between Moses and Christ, and between the book of Exodus and the gospels. Once more these prove the inspiration of the scriptures and the deity of Christ as the fulfilment of prophecy.
 - The Exodus begins with a depiction of God's people in bondage. They are in cruel bondage to the Egyptian taskmasters. This is a picture of man in sin, and the cruel task master is Pharaoh who is a picture of the devil allied with the old man. The miracles of Egypt do not deliver the people from the devil and the old man. In the same way, the miracles of Jesus in the gospels did not deliver the people from the nature and power of sin.
 - The nature of the Old man is revealed in the way Pharaoh seeks to manipulate Moses. (1) He is cruel and oppressive Exodus 5:7
 - (2) He is hard hearted Exodus 7:13 and 23
 - (3) He is religious and asks for prayer! Exodus 8:8.
 - (4) God sends plagues that touch his heart to humble him Exodus 9:14
 - (5) But he stubbornly refuses to humble himself Exodus 10:3.
 - (6) He bargains with God to alter God's righteous demands Exodus 10:11 and 24.
 - (7) He repents but with false repentance Exodus 10:16-17.
 - Jesus performed great miracles, but the only answer to the Old Man is death. God freed the people when the lamb was slain and the power of death struck at the heart of Pharaoh killing his son, which is a picture of the death blow to the carnal nature. When the power of the cross struck at the heart of the problem, man was free, and Satan's power to manipulate is broken.
 - The greatest miracle of all is that when Christ died, you died. Paul says that "I am crucified with Christ", indicating the greatest thing about the cross is that we can be one with God through the death of His son.
 - At the cross man is set free, and in the baptism of the Red Sea, the full power of the deliverance is applied. So too, when we trust in Christ we are forgiven and our hearts freed from the guilt of sin, and in the baptism with the Spirit we experience the full power of the cross to wash and change us.



Response and Prayer.

Have you believed Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, have you begun your journey out of the bondage of the Old nature? Have you yielded your life to union with Christ through the death of His son? In this union you are washed and inwardly set free by dying and rising again with Christ. Have you yielded all that you are to be renewed, refreshed in your heart, and to belong to Christ for ever. There is great power in the baptism with the Holy Spirit to apply the cross to change you and make you a Christ centred person. Yield all that you are now to Him.

- 2. The smitten rock Exodus 17:1-7
- 3. The serpent in the wilderness Numbers 21:5-9
- 4. Joshua and the crossing of Jordan.
- 5. The Life of Samson: Judges 13-16.

Samson is a picture for all believers of the key of spiritual life:

- He was chosen before birth
- His life depended on a Nazarite vow
- His mother had the power to influence her son and help him fulfil his calling
- The dead lion was a symbol for Samson, through death comes sweetness.
- God used Samson when he was backsliding
- God led Samson to pray for death that would deliver.
- 6. David and Goliath 1Samuel 17.
- 7. Naaman and the waters of baptism in Jordan. II Kings 5.
- 8. **Psalm 22**.
- 9. **Isaiah 53**.
- 10. The sign of the prophet Jonah:

The picture of a man united with Christ in His death. By being joined with Christ in death, something is taken out of us and something is imparted. How do we experience union with Christ in His death?

Jonah's story: he fled from God because he was unable to love his enemies the Assyrians. Jonah had helped Israel the northern kingdom to recover land taken from them by their enemies (2 Kings 14:25). Jonah was so distressed by his racial prejudice that he could no longer serve the Lord. He resigned from his prophetic preaching ministry and fled 2000 km west to Tarshish near Gibraltar in the opposite direction to Nineveh, which was 750 km east of Israel.



But the Lord sent a great storm. (1:4) Jonah alone slept during the storm, probably the sleep of sorrow and regret. But when awoken by the sailors, he chose death rather than repentance! They threw him into the sea but he did not know or expect anything other than death...

Now the Lord had prepared the whale. This may be something we think of in terms of Sunday school, but for Jonah it was the most awful experience.

In the late 1800s a sailor on a whaling vessel fell into the open mouth of a whale. 1 day later the ship caught a whale and opened it up and found the man still alive in the whale's stomach. He described the awful stench, the heat, the darkness and the torment of 24 hours. This is what Christ suffered for us on the cross. Those 6 hours were as a timeless eternity of pain and suffering, separated from the Father's love. His cry was as the cry of a lost soul in hell. Jonah at last cried to the Lord and was heard from the depths and was spewed out of the whale's mouth.

<u>Jonah now preached repentance</u> (3:4) with an authority and compassion since he had been to hell and back. In the whale God put the love of God into his heart. The baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus takes sin and racism out of our hearts and fills us with the love of God.

The city of Nineveh was totally shaken and the king got off his throne and repented (3:6). We too must get off our thrones at the gospel of the death and resurrection of God's only son at the hands of men. The repentance was so strong that the powers of heathen darkness were broken and God healed the city and the land.

<u>But Jonah relapsed into his former ways.</u> (4:1) This reminds us that former sins and attitudes will be revived in us if we allow our hearts to grow hard. Jonah forgot the mercy of the Lord in his life and wished that judgment might still fall on Nineveh.

But God prepared a gourd and a worm. (4:6-7). God takes very little things to teach us the hardness of our hearts. We might get so upset and frustrated when our computer breaks down, or if the service is bad in a restaurant and yet we may feel nothing when we hear of thousands dying of starvation and AIDS in Africa. God allows us to suffer sometimes little discomforts so that we might hear the whining of our own voice, be ashamed and repent and allow our hearts to be washed with the love of God in the cross



<u>Response:</u> Do we realise the power of the cross to unite us with God, with His love, His purposes. We will be empowered by anointings, but we will only serve our generation with the Love of God if we are baptised into His death and Resurrection and made one with His love. Jesus said that if we would keep our life we will lose it, but if we lose it we will gain it. Let go of your life

deliberately and by faith into the hands of God. He will gloriously wash you and fill you with His wonderful love, the love of the cross.

OLD TESTAMENT – ITS SCOPE AND MEANING.

- 1. SHAPING OF OUR WORLD: GENESIS 1-11. The cosmic overview.
- 2. <u>God created the world:</u> there are many proofs of the creation and of the young age of the earth:
- 3. The Fall of man and the need for a savior. How did man fall?
- 4. The Flood of Noah and the fossil record.
- 5. THE FORMING OF ISRAEL, THE VESSEL FOR THE WORD AND FOR THE MESSIAH.
- 6. <u>THE LAW OF MOSES, THE SCHOOL MASTER TO BRING US TO</u> CHRIST.