

Biblical Studies Program Fall 2011
Introduction to the Bible
Lesson Four Supplement ¹

- I. Introduction to the Message of the Bible (book of salvation)
 - A. The Bible is essentially a revelation of God – a divine self-disclosure
 - B. In the Bible we hear God speaking about God
 - C. God has spoken to us in and through His Son (Hebrews 1:1)
 - D. God Himself is the ultimate author of both Testaments

- II. God is...
 - A. The Living God
 - B. The Sovereign God (He does all His holy will)
 - C. Consistent (He does not change)
 - 1. His nature is perfect holiness
 - 2. He can never compromise with evil
 - D. The God of all grace
 - E. The God of Covenant

- III. The “outworking” of God’s covenant
 - A. Creation
 - B. Fall
 - C. Redemption
 - D. Adoption (the people of God)

“...adoption is...the highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification... That justification is the primary and fundamental blessing of the gospel is not in question. Justification is the primary blessing, because it meets our primary spiritual need...And as justification is the primary blessing, so it is the fundamental blessing, in the sense that everything else in our salvation assumes it, and rests on it – adoption included. But this is not to say that justification is the highest blessing of the gospel. Adoption is higher, because of the richer relationship with God that it involves... Justification is a forensic idea, conceived in terms of law, and viewing God as judge...Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love, and viewing God as father. In adoption, God takes us into His family and fellowship, and establishes us as His children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the

¹ I inserted this discussion into the lesson four outline, between the “Special Revelation” and “The Inspiration of Scripture”

relationship. To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is a greater."

1. The Spirit of God dwelling in us
2. Identity in Christ as "sons"
 - a. The gospel says "*you are more wicked and flawed than you ever dared believe, but you are more loved and accepted than you ever dared hoped*" (at the same time)
 - b. Because, in Christ, you are simultaneous both just and sinful
 - c. This reality brings a **radically different self-image**

E. Glorification

1. The return of Christ
2. The resurrection of the living and the dead
3. Judgment
4. The New Heavens and New Earth

IV. Summary

- A. Bible – begins with creation....ends with the re-creation
- B. the fellowship lost in the garden is re-established in the new heavens and earth

1. Rev 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

2. Rev 22:4-5

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.