



2018

BCC Daily
After-Campformation
Devotional

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Creation Chorus (Genesis 1—2)

By Dr. Russell Diwa

DAY 1

The origin of humanity is disclosed from both a poetic and a historical perspective. Genesis 1 provides melodic meter to the creation narrative while Genesis 2 develops important details.

The *question of why* becomes the concern of the first two chapters as it differs from competing ancient creation accounts. Pagan literature seeks to explain creation, using mythology in crafting a universe that came as a result of struggle, which eventually produced a world made from the victim's remains.

Genesis stands out in its approach in revealing creation out from nothing. The agency is likewise unique: *the spoken Word of God bringing about order over chaos*.

The partnership of creation involves the *Trinity* where the Spirit hovers like a loving mother, the Son demonstrating the fiat of Speech, and the Father disclosing the purpose of creative design.

In the gospel of John, we find this affirmed in the naming of the *Word* as *Jesus Christ*, forming the world for God's acclaim. The world was originally seen as *good* and the invitation is to claim the redemption of singing the chorus of creation without dissonance within our Father's home.

The image of God is marked in the gift of marriage. The loving relationship that prevails within the Trinity provides the impetus for *man and woman* to reflect God's indescribable love amidst a world in

need of hopeful redemption. The two become one in a wonderful image of harmony and holy commitment.

Why the Abrahamic Covenant Matters (Genesis 12—15)

By Pastor Robert Gutierrez

DAY 2

There is an ancient story that stretches thousands of years. It tells of the Creator, who longs to bless humanity. Each time, however, the earth's denizens reject his invitations to life. Adam and Eve eat from the forbidden Tree of Knowledge. Cain activates a pattern of murder and violence. Pretty soon, everyone participates in this empire of terror, so much so, that they have to be wiped out by a flood. God starts anew with Noah, but the evil continues, culminating in a universal effort to reach the heavens. God once again "starts over" by scattering them and confusing their languages. It is at this moment that Yahweh unleashes his eternal plan. He will bless the nations through one man: Abraham.

God made a covenant with Abraham, calling him from his home to a far away land. Yahweh promised Abraham land, posterity & prosperity (12:1-3). A special nation would come from him: Israel. They would get the land promised to Abraham, along with blessing. This covenant is reaffirmed to Abraham at various points along the way (Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-21; 17:15-21; 21:11-12; 22:15-18), and is confirmed to Isaac (17:15-21; 21:11-12; 26:2-5, 24) and Jacob (27:27-29; 28:3-4, 13-15; 35:9-12; 48:3-4). This line will ultimately produce Jesus, our Savior (see Ruth 4:13-22; 2 Samuel 7; Matthew 1:1-17; Revelation 5:5).

If you consider yourself a Christian, there is something you need to know: *Through faith in Christ, you live under Abraham's spiritual blessings, and thus, a co-heir with him* (Galatians 2:13-14). In him, you

possess untold spiritual riches that are rooted in eternity, enacted in history and applied to your being. Paul put it in the following manner:

“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir” (Galatians 4-6-7, NIV).

You are not a victim of fate or circumstances. Nor are you a “loser” devoid of value. Rather, you are a child of God destined for eternal glory, and called to boldly follow Christ in this vacuous world! The ancient gospel narrative is your story. God’s covenant with Abraham to bless is your inheritance. Spiritual formation starts with God’s covenant.

Deliverance from Sin (Genesis 3)

By Pastor Vic Dela Cruz

DAY 3

Sin can really, really mess us up.

While at a church gathering in Singapore last August, I met a young woman I'll call Sylvia. She had been caught in an extramarital affair, publicly disgraced, fired from her job, and now was about to be deported back to her homeland. Her life was in tatters, and she was in anguish. Knowing the depth of her pain and humiliation, I shared the redemptive hope of the gospel with her. She had heard it in the past, but so great was her guilt that she had not been able bring herself to accept this unbelievable gift.

Unbeknownst to this woman, however, God had already long before made plans for her (and all of mankind's) redemption. In what many commentators believe was the first prophetic promise of deliverance from sin, the *Protoevangelion* ("first gospel message") graphically paints for us the final outcome of the cosmic battle between good and evil and how the redemptive plan is going to unfold through Eve's seed. Directed towards the serpent, it reads thus:

"And 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" (Genesis 3:15, NIV).

One reputable Bible scholar put it this way:

"The serpent will bruise the heel of the woman's seed (a temporary injury), but the seed of the woman will bruise the

head of the serpent (a fatal injury)” (Victor P. Hamilton, *Handbook of the Pentateuch*, p. 44).

At the cross, Satan bruised the seed of the woman (Revelation 12:9), but through that same cross, Christ dealt the final blow (Colossians 2:15). Because of Jesus, the redeemed will have ultimate victory over Satan. Through Christ’s atonement, the power of sin has been broken and man’s relationship with God has been restored (Romans 6:1-11). By the merits of Jesus Christ, those who believe are accounted righteous before God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Here is how Genesis 3 impacts our personal walk with God: Because it is he who planned our redemption, it is therefore unstoppable, firm and absolute. No matter the gravity of our sin, there is nothing Satan can do to take that assurance away. What glorious truth!

In the end, Sylvia confessed her sins and, through her tears, humbly prayed to accept God’s forgiveness. Brother or sister, like Sylvia, is there any sin in your life you feel is too grave for God to cover? God’s word is telling you in our text today that provision for forgiveness has already been given if you’re willing to confess your sin (1 John 1:9). All you need to do is claim what God has already done on the cross for you.

New Beginnings (Genesis 6—9)

By Elder Glenn Ramilo

DAY 4

After graduating from university, my son Jonathan was beaming with idealistic hopes of landing his first sales job. Reality quickly welcomed him, however, as he found himself in an environment filled with duplicitous people who would do and say anything to make a sale.

He soon discovered the difference between academics and real-life business “when the rubber meets the road” practices. Needless to say, Jonathan became disillusioned. “This is not who I am—this is not what I learned!” As a father, I struggled to explain to him that sadly, this is the kind of world system we live in today.

Genesis chapters 6 through 9 recount how God’s wondrous plan for his creation was marred by universal wickedness. Thus, Yahweh resolved to destroy the earth through a worldwide flood (Genesis 6:6-9). There was one, though, who found favor in God’s sight—Noah. Though he lived in a totally corrupt society, Noah was committed to godliness and reverence for Yahweh. Moreover, when God told him to build a massive vessel for the imminent deluge even when there was no rain—the son of Lamech obeyed! Noah was no doubt mocked, as he steadily constructed this ark. Through it all, Noah remained faithful: “Noah did everything just as God commanded him” (Genesis 6:22, NIV).

We all know what happened next. God judged the earth’s inhabitants with a massive flood, killing every living thing (Genesis 7:22). Only Noah, his family and select animals were spared. About a year after the flood, the Lord commanded Noah to come out of the ark. Noah then emerged and worshiped the Lord. God thus made a covenant to never again

destroy the earth by flood (Genesis 9:11). Even in judgment, God showed mercy! Each time we see a rainbow, we are reminded of his mercy.

We see seeds of God's mercy in the Noah narratives. Yet, such mercy is more fully revealed in Jesus. For only in Christ's promise of eternal life to all who trust him—our Ark of Salvation—do we grasp wonder of God's grace. God's covenant commitments made to us in Christ never fail.

My counsel to Jonathan was this: Trust in God's plan, and his plan will require your faithfulness. When we, like Noah, stand up to the pressure of this world, Christ by his Spirit will speak to the scoffers and critics through us. Then our proclamation will speak just as loud as the words of the most dynamic preachers in the world. Just like Noah.

Polyphonic Symphony of Praise (Genesis 10—11)

By Elder David Talaguit with Pastor Robert Gutierrez

DAY 5

Is there some confusion in your life? When you look at the things surrounding you, do you see a lot of unfinished things, or maybe even a pile of rubble? This might not be a bad thing. It might be God’s mid-course correction for your life. Humanity after the flood went through something like this.

Genesis 10 is yet another instance of humanity rising up against God in pride. Yahweh’s post-flood mandate was to populate the earth, and exercise dominion over the rest of creation—a sort of “rebooting” of the creation directive (Genesis 1:28; 9:7; see Paul R. House, *Old Testament Theology*, p 70). The whole world used one language and refused to scatter. They used their unity to build a tower in order to reach the heavens. Here, the lack of worshipping the one true God is substituted for human self-trust:

“Come let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4, NIV).

Humankind disobeyed God and called it progress! Redemption and blessing would not come with this humanistic mindset.

At times we ourselves are unaware of our own blindness to our own rebellion—but God sees through our smokescreens and intervenes to save us:

“Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.” So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city” (Gen. 11:7-8).

Just imagine our diminished state had the Lord not come down and confuse Babel! The world would not be the polyphonic symphony of languages that it is now! Because of God's redemptive action, heaven will consist of diverse worshippers:

“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.’”(Rev. 5:9-10).

The holy Trinity has always willed ethnic and linguistic diversity in order for people of every tribe, language and nation to be giving him glory and honor. To put it another way: God's diaspora mandate is missional. The Lord wills for diverse worshippers from every tribe, language and nation under the one lordship of Jesus through his Spirit.

Life Lived God's Way (Genesis 16—20)

By Elder Voltaire Pineda

DAY 6

I had the pleasure to spend some time with a young adult recently. “Andrew” (not his real name) grew up in a household that feared God. Once college started, however, he gained exposure to numerous ideas that contradicted his beliefs. Soon Andrew started to neglect his fear for God. In his first year he did attempt to align himself with the Lord. But exposure to the “college experience” began to affect him. In his second year, the gradual adoption of this lifestyle expanded to where following Christ became more difficult. By his third year, Andrew was so immersed in his new way of living that his walk with God fell by the wayside. In his senior year he met a special person, but utilized his new values to dictate the cadence of their relationship. Eventually, Andrew made some choices that resulted in heartbreak. The Holy Spirit convicted him, and so decided to come clean by confessing his offences to this special person, putting their relationship in jeopardy.

Today, Andrew does not realize that God's mercy has come upon him, keeping him safe with a practical life-lesson. That is because he is in the midst of losing this friend. He waits for signs of God's mercy. Although he may not see it now, the hard lessons this young man learns will build a godly character in him that will benefit him over a lifetime.

This story reminds me of Abraham's story: a man of deep faith, yet deeply flawed. One glaring example of the patriarch's foibles consisted of him passing his wife Sarah off as his sister—first to the Egyptians and then to Abimelech—in order to save his own skin (Genesis 12:10-20 & 12

20:1-7). This is the “father of faith,” through whom Yahweh’s covenant blessings would cascade to Israel and the nations! Nevertheless, God showed mercy by sparing Abraham, fulfilling the covenant promise of making him a great nation (Genesis 12:1-3). Ultimately, Abraham demonstrated his loyalty to God when sought to offer Isaac, his beloved son, as a sacrifice upon God’s directive (Genesis 22:1-14). It takes time but once we take God seriously, living up to his standards—not bringing his standards down to meet ours—God will show mercy and provision.

God’s ultimate provision occurs through Christ’s work on the cross. It is applied to those who believe in Christ alone for salvation. What’s more, he has given us his Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us for holy living.

Yahweh Intervenes (Genesis 21—24)

By Elder Jun Sopoco

DAY 7

Today, we will discover that Yahweh is the God who intervenes on behalf of his covenant people through a succession of interrelated stories.

It starts with the birth of Isaac, Yahweh’s promised biological offspring to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac’s birth came after long years of waiting. Sarah’s initial doubt was replaced by faith in the strength of God’s promise, and she miraculously conceived at an old age (Hebrews 11:11).

During a feast to honor Isaac, an ugly incident prompted Sarah to demand Hagar and Ishmael’s expulsion. While done in anger, the Apostle Paul, nevertheless, approvingly quotes Sarah (Galatians 4:30). She unwittingly spoke prophetically in line with God’s plan! God intervened and quieted Abraham’s vexed soul by outlining his plans for both sons (Genesis 17:19-21).

Yahweh then put Abraham to the ultimate test—he instructed the patriarch to sacrifice his son as a burnt offering. Rather than shrink or recoil, Abraham obeyed without equivocation (22:3). Abraham’s “sacrifice” of Isaac foreshadows what God the Father would actually carry out with his Son. Abraham placed the wood on Isaac to carry; similarly, Jesus willingly carried his cross. When God was satisfied with Abraham’s sacrificial heart, he provided a sacrificial ram (22:12-13). Jesus is our sacrifice.

Abraham's arrangements to secure a wife for Isaac also reveal his loyalty to Yahweh. First, he sent his servant, rather than Isaac to conduct this search, ensuring Isaac remains in Canaan—the very land promised to his descendants (12:5-8). Abraham also gave instructions for his servant to reject all Canaanite women because they were wicked. God honored Abraham by answering his servant's prayer—right down to the specifics! His retelling to Rebekah of Yahweh's intervention inspired her response, "*I will go,*" when asked if she will come with the servant immediately (25:58).

In these episodes, Yahweh's love, grace and power was displayed through timely interventions for his covenant people. I can attest to this when I look back at how God orchestrated our migration here in the United States. Before his intervention, I tried to come here, planning everything on my own. All attempts resulted in failure. When I gave up, that's when God intervened, surprising me with blessings far more valuable than material possessions—the salvation of my wife and children because he already prepared the people who will lead us to BCC!

As we meditate today, may we, as spiritual beneficiaries of Abraham's covenant reject complacency in favor of perseverance in God's will for us. For he will intervene on our behalf.

From Jacob to Israel (Genesis 25—34)

By Pastor Robert Gutierrez

DAY 8

What joy there is in knowing that they are being molded into the spotless character of Jesus! Scripture declares indicative loudly:

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters (Romans 8:29, NIV).

Did you catch that? The Lord is committed to making you like Jesus. He is not satisfied for leaving you as you currently exist. Rather, our Heavenly Father is determined to remove all your personal “dross” in Christ and by the Spirit. That is why he has saved you from your sins. Sometimes he sanctifies us through gentle instruction. Other times, he prunes the disciple through suffering and adversity. God even uses our persecutions so that we can be like Jesus. God will not revoke his salvation obligation to you because he is faithful to the covenant promises he made to Abraham over four thousand years ago. Today, we will look at how the Abrahamic Covenant played out in the life of a crucial beneficiary—Jacob.

The second son of Isaac seems an unlikely candidate for passing on the covenant blessings of Abraham. He starts off as a shady character, tricking his elder brother into giving up his birthright (25:29-34), and then fooling his father into blessing him instead of the older brother (27:1-40). Yet just as Abraham’s blessings pass to Isaac, rather than Ishmael (17:15-21)—so the Abrahamic Covenant line goes through Jacob, rather than Esau (25:23). Despite the deceit of Rebekah and her

son, Yahweh accomplished his covenant purposes in Isaac's heir. God would not leave Jacob as a charmed schemer. He would soon mold him through trials, perils and other character formation experiences. Jacob is destined for the patriarchal blessing, as it is grounded in an oracle given to Rebekah (25:23).

In Chapters 29—34 Jacob experiences his spiritual transformation through his hardships at Padam Aram. Although Laban, Jacob's father-in-law cheats him, Yahweh exalts Jacob above tormentor. As he finally flees his oppressor, Jacob wrangles with God for blessing and protection. Jacob emerges a different man by the time he returns to Canaan—No longer Jacob, but Israel (32:28). To be sure, Israel is not perfect—but he is a transformed man! The eternal covenant God will mold the disciple through their personal historical events—the good and the bad.

Chosen for Blessing (Genesis 33—39)

By Elder Ryan Madera with Pastor Robert Gutierrez

DAY 9

When Yahweh sovereignly chose Jacob over Esau to be the conduit of Abraham’s covenant blessings, he did so in love. God did not choose Jacob because he was a better person than his brother, but because of his love.

We may never know exactly why God predestined Jacob to be Isaac’s heir. Rest assured, though, that his election is not arbitrary. Rather, it is purposeful, loving and irrevocable. While Yahweh rejected Esau, he was nevertheless, a blessed man (Genesis 36).

This principle is evident in the Jacob and Esau episodes found in Genesis 32—33. Jacob had robbed Esau of both his birthright and patriarchal blessing before fleeing to *Paddan-aram*. Because of Jacob’s deceit, Esau resolved to kill his brother (Genesis 27:41-42). But in spite of Jacob’s faults, Yahweh kept his covenant promise, ensuring his survival. He even changes Jacob’s name to Israel, in effect, “kick-starting” the very nation through which the covenant blessings would be mediated (32:27; see also 35:10). Jacob’s trials under the hand of Laban, and his encounter with God transformed him. Israel would by no means be perfect. For example, his inaction concerning the violation of his daughter Dinah would impel Levi and Simeon to rashly slaughter a host of Shechemites (Genesis 34). Yet, Jacob was fundamentally, a changed man.

God also worked in Esau’s heart so that when he encountered Jacob twenty years later, he granted pardon. Their reconciliation foreshadows Jesus’ Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). While the disgraced

son was still far off from his father's house, the loving father ran to the prodigal, and welcomed him home. In both instances offended party extended forgiveness.

In the drama of redemption, God is the “offended party.” We are the “Jacobs” who are under a curse, and in danger of receiving divine wrath and perfect justice from Almighty God. But our loving Father offers reconciliation by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins. What we deserve is judgment. What we receive is pure grace. The apostle Paul wrote:

"But God shows us his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

As those who have been granted forgiveness, we as Christ’s community of disciples must also extend grace and grant forgiveness to those who have offended us. For the follower of Christ, this is non-negotiable. Our heavenly Father has a heart for reconciliation—for us to be reconciled to him, and for us to be reconciled to one another.

Providence and Formation (Genesis 37—50)

By Zion Gasilan with Pastor Robert Gutierrez

DAY 10

Do you feel lonely and abandoned? Have you ever experienced betrayal from someone close to you? Perhaps you feel as if everything is against you.

Indeed, life is filled with difficulty! Yet as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have hope and are not alone. Genesis 37-50 tells an account of Joseph, who experienced numerous afflictions in life, yet never lost hope. However, Joseph's story is not chiefly an account of his hardships. It isn't even about how Joseph stood strong in the midst of difficulty. Rather, the main point in these episodes is God's sovereign hand over human history—especially in the life of Joseph. This type of sovereign action is known as *Providence*. God was at work and in control of every situation, even when his brothers “meant evil against [him].” Here is a summary of providence through story.

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and was taken to Egypt, because of their hatred towards him. But once in Egypt, Yahweh blesses Joseph. He became the overseer of Potiphar's house, that is, until he was falsely accused of rape (39:1-19). Once imprisoned, Joseph flourished in prison by becoming a sort of “warden” to this institution (39:20-23). At this time he interpreted the dreams of two inmates with pinpoint precision. Joseph was eventually brought to Pharaoh when he accurately interpreted the Egyptian ruler's dreams by the hand of God. Joseph also proposed a plan for surviving an upcoming famine. As a result, Joseph was made “Vice-Pharaoh,” essentially running the entire nation (ch 41). God imbued Joseph with wisdom to save Egypt and her subjects from

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this harsh famine. Among those suffering were Jacob and his clan. Because food was scarce, the brothers were forced to journey to Egypt and appeared before Joseph, who tested them before finally revealing himself to them. As a result, Jacob's family was saved from extinction by relocating to Egypt in order to live under Yahweh's blessing. God's providence is aptly summarized by Joseph's epic declaration:

“Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive” (Genesis 50:19-20, NASB).

God governs the universe with wisdom and love. In Christ and by his Spirit, he directs and cares for you, even down the most mundane parts of your life. Are you living in fear? Don't be—for God is with you. He is in control of your life. Are you experiencing good things in life? Humble yourself before God and thank him, for all things come from him. What matters is not how strong you are when you face trials or even your accomplishments. Life is not about success, but how we live our lives before our Lord Jesus Christ.



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