

HIStory – Week 1

(Sunday Supplement)

Key Points

- **The Bible's Uniqueness:** The Bible is unlike any other book – despite being written by around 40 authors over ~2,000 years, it maintains one unified story and consistent message, all pointing to Jesus Christ. This unity across 66 books makes Scripture absolutely unique.
- **Creation in Genesis:** In Genesis 1–2, God creates the heavens and the earth and declares everything **“very good.”** He makes humans in His own image for a special relationship with Him. The world was originally designed as a place where God would dwell with His people in harmony.
- **New Creation in Revelation:** The story comes full circle in Revelation 21–22 with a vision of a New Creation. What God began in Eden is fulfilled in the New Jerusalem – *a renewed “garden-city”* where God's presence fills the whole world. In that redeemed world, **“God shall wipe away all tears... there shall be no more death... nor crying... nor pain”** – all the former brokenness is gone.
- **Jesus Initiates New Creation:** Jesus Christ bridges the Genesis and Revelation vision. Through His death and resurrection, He launched God's new creation. The Bible says *“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation... the old has passed away; behold, the new has come”* – meaning Jesus is already renewing lives now and will one day renew all things.
- **God Dwelling with Humanity (Wesleyan Emphasis):** A key theme highlighted in Wesleyan theology is God's desire to live in close fellowship with people. The culmination of history is **“the dwelling place of God...with man”** (Rev. 21:3) – an intimate, unbroken communion between God and His people. John Wesley described the

coming new creation as a time of “deep, intimate, uninterrupted union with God,” far surpassing even the [fellowship of Eden](#).

Action Steps for the Week

- **Explore the Story:** Set aside time to read **Genesis 1–2** and **Revelation 21–22**. Compare the beginning and the end of the Bible’s story – note at least two parallels or themes that show God’s plan coming full circle (for example, God’s presence, the tree of life, absence of sin).
- **Practice God’s Presence:** Each day this week, take a few minutes in prayer or quiet reflection inviting God to be with you. Remember that His ultimate desire is to *dwell* with you. You might pray, “Lord, thank You for wanting to be with me. Help me to sense Your presence today.”
- **Live the New Creation:** Identify one “old” thing in your life to let go of and one “new” step to take as you follow Jesus. (For example, replace a negative habit with a positive one that honors God.) Pray for God’s help to **“make all things new”** in your heart as you act on this step (cf. Rev. 21:5).

Memory Verse (ESV)

“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.’” – Revelation 21:3

Reflection Questions

1. **One Big Story:** The sermon noted that the Bible is a single, unified story. How does seeing Scripture as *one grand narrative from Creation to New Creation* impact the way you read or value the Bible’s message?
2. **Created for Relationship:** Reflect on the Genesis creation account. What do the truths that God made humans in His image and called creation “very good” reveal about God’s original intent for our lives and our world?
3. **New Creation Hope:** Revelation 21–22 gives a picture of a world made new and God dwelling with His people. How does this promise of “no

more death or sorrow” and God’s presence with us encourage you in the face of today’s challenges or hardships?

4. **Life in Christ:** The sermon said Jesus initiates the new creation now. In what ways have you experienced “new creation” life through Christ (e.g. personal change, new hope, restored relationships)? How can you live out that new life so others see God’s work in you?