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The Book of Beginnings

INTRODUCTION

The doctrines of grace can be traced in Scripture all the way back to the book of beginnings. In the previous lecture, Dr. Lawson surveyed the doctrines of grace in the account of the creation and fall in Genesis. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson will trace the doctrines of grace throughout the rest of the book to demonstrate how these doctrines form the theological foundations of all of Scripture.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Recognize the emphasis placed on total depravity in the book of Genesis
- Identify which doctrines of grace are clearly seen or faintly foreshadowed in Genesis
- Locate where the doctrines of grace can be found in historical accounts of Genesis

KEY IDEAS

- The sovereignty of God is the foundation on which the doctrines of grace stand.
- The book of Genesis contains striking condemnations of the intentions of man's heart, which underscores the inward reality of sin and the divine inspiration of Scripture.
- The emphasis placed on total depravity in the book of Genesis teaches us why the doctrine of election can be considered the most glorious doctrine of the Bible.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- What are your favorite stories in the book of Genesis? Why?
- How would you evaluate the problem of sin? Is it a problem of our actions, our thoughts, or our hearts?

Scripture Reading

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

—Genesis 50:15–21

- What doctrine does this passage primarily teach us?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

Man's Sin

0:00–11:05

- What is conveyed by the language of Seth's being in Adam's likeness and image?
- What did Dr. Lawson provide as the reason why Cain's offering was rejected?

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- How does the assessment of man in Genesis 6:5 point to the inspiration of the Bible?

God's Salvation

11:05–25:00

- How can Abram be used as an example of the doctrine of election in Genesis?
- What are some examples in Genesis where definite atonement is foreshadowed?
- Where is the doctrine of preserving grace found in God's covenant with Abraham?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- Why is the phrase “every intention of the thoughts of his heart” theologically important? What does it teach us about the nature of sin?
- If the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth, then how can anyone ever enter the kingdom of God?
- What were the two most convincing illustrations from Genesis for any particular doctrine of grace? Overall, which doctrine of grace do you consider to be most apparent in Genesis?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His loving patience with mankind and His desire to save us.
- Confess which intentions of your heart are out of conformity with God's law.
- Thank God for giving you a heart of flesh in place of a heart of stone.
- Ask God to keep your eyes fixed on Him throughout all your days.