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Worldview of Music & Worship

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Lesson 2

- 1. Please explain the following: The Garden of Eden is a picture of relationship, harmony, and responsibility (p. 32).**

The Garden of Eden represented all that was good, pure, and in communion with God. It was the perfect place given to humans to dwell in happiness, fruitfulness, and peace with each other, while fulfilling God's purpose on the earth. The fall of man corrupted the relationships in The Garden of Eden. This fall allowed sin to enter the world, while in turn bringing death through sin. The communion between God with humanity, humanity with neighbor, and humanity with God was twisted, broken, disrupted, and torn. The opposite of a garden is a desert. In a desert there is no life. The sun dries up its land and the ground becomes parched and dry. This is a representation of the sin that even affects the earth. It also represents our lives without God.

- 2. The desert represents, quite literally, the Garden turned into "death." How does God make the desert "blossom like the rose" (p. 33)?**

In the desert, God still raises up a witness for the garden lost and the garden that is yet to come. He forms a family from people He calls to Himself, like He did with Abraham, a tribe in Jacob, a nation in Israel, and a kingdom in David. In this family, there is a root which is a branch in the desert with a blossom. This blossom is one of life, hope, and newness. A promise God gave through Abraham's family and lineage.

- 3. "Typology" is the ancient way of reading the Old Testament. Explain how Paul uses typology in Romans 5:19 (see page 34).**

I think that Paul uses typology in Romans 5:19 by stating that through the disobedience of one man we were made sinners. He is referring to Genesis and how the fall of Adam, who was the first man, caused all of humanity to be doomed. Then he says that by the obedience of one man, which is Jesus, many will be made righteous. Adam disobeyed God when He ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which allowed sin/death to come to the earth. On the contrary, Jesus obeyed God when He was sent to die for our sins so that we may have a chance for eternal life and reconnecting to God. So I believe that Paul used these words to speak about the works of Adam and Jesus.

4. Based upon Chapter 2, why is it so important that Christians read the Old Testament, not just for “literary criticism” or “historical criticism,” but as part of God’s narrative?

It is important for Christians to read the Old Testament as part of God’s narrative so that we avoid fragmentation in our worship and for us to remember God’s work, laws, and ways. Fragmentation in worship is a focus in one aspect of God’s story but neglecting God’s story as a whole. True worship remembers God’s story through historical recitation and dramatic reenactment. We are called to sing, preach, recite, and enact His story of great deeds of salvation.

5. What is the Incarnation, as defined by the New Testament and explained in the ancient creeds (p. 35)?

The Incarnation refers literally to the *in-fleshing* of the eternal Son of God “putting on our flesh and blood” and becoming fully human. It brings redemption and creation together. It is the key to God’s work through Jesus Christ to restore and renew all creatures and creation. In the Incarnation, God unites with our humanity in Jesus Christ.

6. Please explain the meaning of Eph. 1:9, 10 (p. 38).

The meaning of this verse is defined by the word recapitulation. It means to “summarize the main points”. Which is what God does to make His will known and finished. He desires to begin creation again and bring it to perfection in the everlasting garden to complete the redemption that was purposed in Jesus Christ.

7. What does all this have to do with worship (p. 39)?

Worship is a narrative meant to tell God's story of the world from beginning to end. We, as the church, are called to worship which is proclaiming, enacting, and singing God's story. Humanity cannot know God's story of the world if we do not share it or worship in public. Worship is rooted in the Gospel and so we must not lose our worship because then we will not be able to share God's Good News - the one that saves sinners and narrates the whole world.