

THE BEGINNING IS NEAR! CREATION, CRASH, CROSS, RE-CREATION

Several themes or threads run through Scripture from beginning to end

- Can anyone remember which ones were illustrated in the talk on Easter Sunday?
- The main thread followed on Sunday was the thread of God's presence, given, forfeited, made available again through animal sacrifice, made available everlastingly through the sacrifice of the Lamb of God (the cross) and then finally heaven re-united with earth in the future.

Creation — Temples — see Genesis 1-2

In many cultures buildings called temples are built in the locations where deities are said to be present.

- Where or what was the first temple erection described in the Bible? And what deity placed his image in that temple? And what was that image?
- So what was Adam and Eve's calling as image-bearers representing Yahweh in the earth?
- Temples in the Bible are often associated with something — see Genesis 2:10, Ezekiel 47:1, John 7:38, Rev. 22:1-2. What is that? And why? What do rivers signify?

Crash — see Genesis 3

Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they believed the serpent rather than Yahweh.

- One of the primary consequences of the crash, the act of betrayal, was that God's presence was lost from the earth, and now associated only with heaven. What creatures were sent to keep Adam and Eve out of the garden and away from the Tree of Life?
- If God wants human beings to enjoy his presence, why did he send them away from it?

Cross — prepared for

- In what ways is the call to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3 a repetition of the call to Adam and Eve?
- Under Moses' leadership Yahweh instructed that a portable temple be created. Where was God's presence in this construct? And how was God's presence guarded (see Exodus 25:17-22)? And how was God's presence accessed safely?
- When Solomon was king a stone temple was erected. What did God do at the inauguration? (See 2 Chron. 5:14, 7:1-3)

Cross — a permanent way of being restored into God's presence

- Read Matthew 27:51. What happened in the temple when Jesus died?
- Read 2 Chron. 3:14 and Ex. 26:31. What image was woven in to the curtains of the temple?
- All through we see that Cherubim had been set to guard God's presence from sinful people. What then is the significance of this curtain been torn apart through the cross?

Re-creation — our future — the beginning is near

- Read Revelation 21:2-4, 22 and 22:1-2. How are some of these threads brought to fulfilment?
- Read 1 Cor. 6:19-20. What are the implications that we are each temples of the Holy Spirit?
- Read Ephesians 2:19-22. What are some of the implications that we are together a temple of God? We no longer need to go to any particular mountain or building. We are the temple!