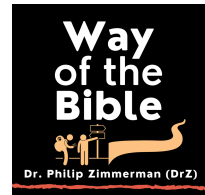


## SHOWNOTES

Welcome to Episode #024

A Walk on the Beach with DrZ

Lessons from Genesis Creation Narrative



Welcome to Episode #024 of Way of the Bible podcast; A Walk on the Beach with DrZ. This will be a time to step back and ponder some implications of what we encountered in our short series on the Genesis Creation narrative. And how to transfer any head knowledge we may have gained into heart knowledge for life eternal?

For that we need some space and time think. Imagine you've just arrived at the beach house around 8:30 am as a mild sunrise greets your gaze to the east. You can feel a pleasing breeze coming off the gulf water and see an expansive beach behind the house. We grab a cup of coffee and shuffle out the back door, down the stairs, and out to the water where the warm emerald coast waters of the Gulf of Mexico are lapping at our feet. A bonus to our walking and talking into the morning sun is the expectation of seeing sea-shells and sand dollars left by the receding tide, bait fish cruising in the breakers, the occasional sea gull and pelican flying overhead, and perhaps a pod or two of porpoises feeding just offshore. So glad you could join me today.

The topics we could address on this walk are vast given virtually everything in the Bible and the created order itself have their beginning in the Genesis Creation narrative. So what I thought we'd talk about is what a surrendered life and community could look like today if we Simply Believed God and Followed Jesus.

Central to the surrendered life is an intimate relationship with God and the influence such relationships have between individuals. Before the fall, Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed, responsible for working God's garden, and at peace with God and with each other. What was it that messed this up? 1) The influence of the Serpent to deceive and tempt the woman; 2) The thought of the woman that she needed something beyond what God provides; and 3) The error of Adam thinking one act of disobedience could not be so bad...

God has provided us in his word descriptions of what surrendered life looks like in a fallen world without the influence of Satan. Several of the Old Testament prophets wrote about future life in the Messianic [Millennial] kingdom of Jesus. This is a 1000 year kingdom on earth following the great tribulation and before the Eternal State.

Prior to the Messianic kingdom starting all-earthborn unbelievers are judged and die. In the tribulation God totally ravages the earth to the point of near inhabitability. In addition, God has Satan chained up and placed in a pit for 1000 years, cutting off his influence on the earth.

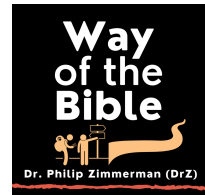
At the beginning of the Messianic kingdom only earthborn believers in Jesus will occupy the earth [Resurrected saints will also be on the earth, but we'll leave them out for now].

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They will be no different than believers today, saved, yet still living in a body of sin/death and fully capable of sinning. In addition, as we will see, God removes many of the influences of the land curse and returns life on earth in many respects to preflood conditions.

**Isaiah 65:17-25** - "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. 19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. 20 "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. 21 They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. 24 Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

Peace and prosperity will be abundant for all. Many of the post fall curses will have been removed allowing long enjoyment of work and the things produced by the work of hands.

**Isaiah 2:2-4** - 2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. 3 Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

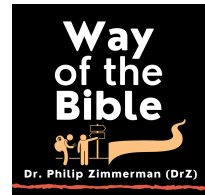
Describes Messianic kingdom of universal peace – Jesus will teach his ways such they can be walked out, and he will settle disputes among nations such that warfare will be forgotten.

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If that is what God has in store for believers in the future, has he made any provision for such a life for us in the present? I believe the answer is both yes and AMEN! Peter tells us in **2 Peter 1:3-4** *"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."*

But here's the bigger question for us as we're walking along these lapping waters. Do we really want to live a godly life now when the world offers us comforts which we enjoy? Or do we even know what a godly life is and what it provides that cannot be found in the world today?

In the Messianic kingdom, while Satan is bound so is his influence. Yet there will still be sin in the world. But the deceptions of Satan and the influence he exercises over the powers, principalities, and authorities in the spiritual realm will not be present. Jesus is there to resolve disputes among nations, and there is peace, prosperity, happiness, contentment, and joy among the people. Why don't we see that now?

Here's the truth we all know – we are all lying to ourselves about the world. The world and it's systems are not a source of peace and joy, but rather bring nothing but misery, resentment, fear, anger, envy, and uncertainty into life. Because of mankind's fear of death and enslavement to Satan to do his will, while it may look pretty on the outside dressed up with pretty bows and trinkets, on the inside the soul of mankind is twisted, distorted, in pain, and dark.

So, what are believers to do; in the world I mean, to experience as near as possible Messianic kingdom life now? Well, it's laid out throughout the New Testament, we just don't see it, believe it, or live it for a plethora of reasons. But know with certainty this; if we were to seek it out, believe what it says, gather as a community, and live life in accordance with the instructions our lives and relationships would continually progress toward God's will for us in Christ Jesus. A life where we would be joyful always, praying continually, and thankful in all circumstances (1 Thes. 5:16-18).

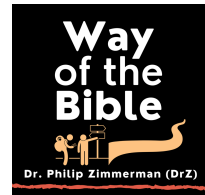
When we fantasize about such a life we usually cower thinking, poverty, begging for food on the streets, never seeing the mountains or beaches again, food lines and the homeless shelter. All of which are current experiences of many, and of whom we should

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be mindful in our luxury. The fallacy we live is that God could take it all away in an instant without warning. So why not begin today to live the life God desires?

LIVING Life in a Fallen World. It begins by renouncing citizenship to the world, it's systems, and a life lived in darkness. It is followed by surrender to Christ as a citizen of the kingdom of heaven, agreement to follow the word of God as aided by the Holy Spirit, and live life as of a child of light. Then gathering together in fellowship with other like-minded believers to worship, pray, and encourage one another.

Looks like we're almost back to the beach house, my how time flies. While we cannot be freed from the influences of the world and the deceptions of the enemy, we do have armor to engage in the battle and stand firm (See Ephesians 6). And once standing firm, Peter provides us a quick primer on what to start observing in our lives as we begin this quest in **2 Peter 1:5-8** "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Knowledge builds trust, that builds intimacy, that allows us to know without a doubt that no matter what happens in the world, we are well in our souls in the kingdom of God. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 4:17). "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power" (1 Cor. 4:20).

Let's stive together moving forward to live in the kingdom. Now let's wash this sand off our feet and move back inside for more coffee and eat some homemade waffles on the back deck. And then, albeit in a world of sin and a body of sin, through the scriptures and power, counsel, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit we'll start where we are and Simply Believe God and Follow Jesus where ever He leads and walk thru the doors He opens.

On our next episode [#024] we're going to take a look at the Age of Conscience (Genesis 3:8-8:22). This is a period where mankind tried to figure out how to live life based upon human will and conscience in a body of sin/death. This Age spans from the fall to the post flood.

Thank you for listening.

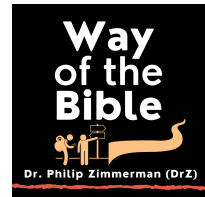


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Simply Believe God and Follow Jesus

Live as a child of light overflowing with living water in the will of God

- Joyful always, Praying Continually, and Thankful in all circumstances

Be blessed my brothers and sisters