





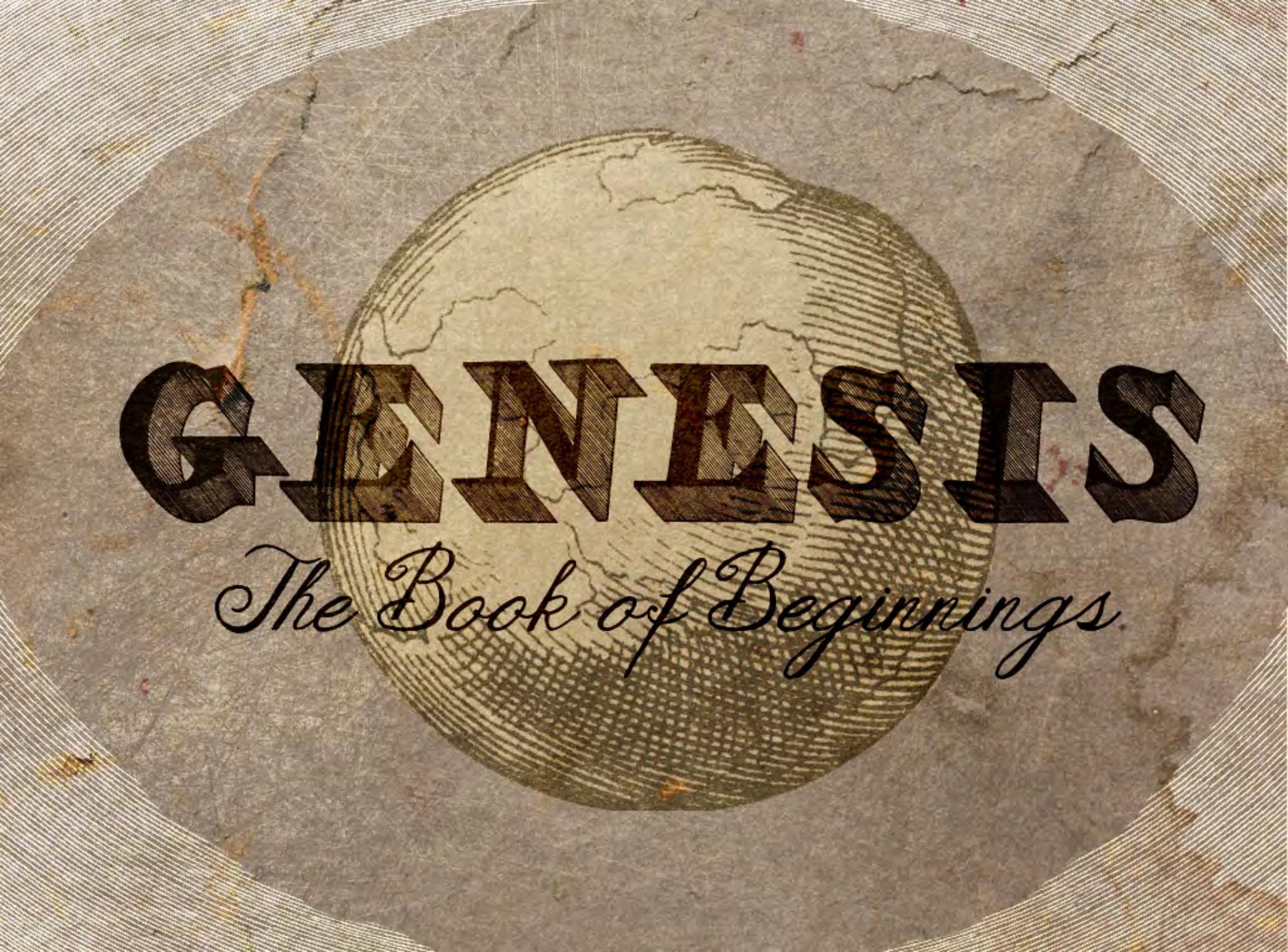
WHY I HATE CHRISTMAS

FOUR THINGS THAT CAN STEAL YOUR CHRISTMAS JOY





GROWTH
CHANGES
EVERYTHING



GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings

Genesis 1:1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Life in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:4-25

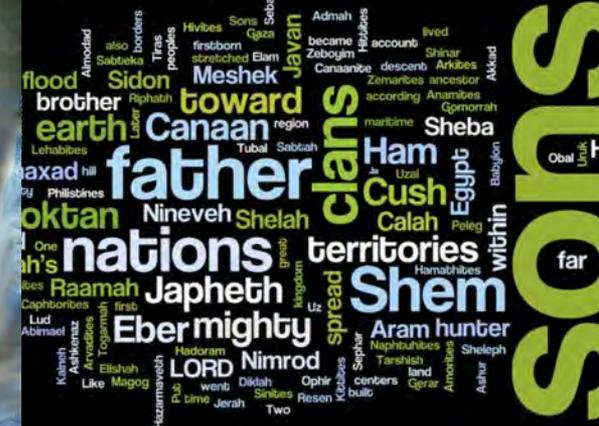
The Fall of Mankind:

It's no longer the way it is supposed to be

Genesis 3

Cain and Abel

The Flood:
The God who will not be mocked



The Tower of Babel

Our first rock star of faith ~ ABRAHAM!



Jacob and Esau



Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-26

19 These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, **20** and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. **21** And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-26

22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. **23** And the Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-26

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Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-26

24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. **25** The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. **26** Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #1

Genesis 25:27-34

27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.



Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #1

Genesis 25:27-34

29 Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.)



Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #1

Genesis 25:27-34

31 Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." 32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33 Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.



Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #2

Genesis 27:18-29

18 So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" 19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."



Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #2

Genesis 27:18-29

20 But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.”



Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #2

Genesis 27:18-29

22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. 24 He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am."



Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #2

Genesis 27:18-29

25 Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." 27 So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed!"



Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #2

Genesis 27:18-29

28 "May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.

29 Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #2

Genesis 27:39-41

39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high.

40 By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

Jacob and Esau - Sibling Rivalry #2

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41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

Jacob and Esau

Malachi 1:1-5

1 The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.
2 “I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob's brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob³ but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”

Jacob and Esau

Malachi 1:1-5

4 If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the Lord of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the Lord is angry forever.'" 5 Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the Lord beyond the border of Israel!"

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:23

23 And the Lord said to her,
“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples
from within you shall be divided; the one shall be
stronger than the other, the older shall serve the
younger.”

Malachi 1:2-3

2 “Yet I have loved Jacob 3 but Esau I have hated.”

*Themes that are further
developed in the Bible*

Election

Def'n. Election
\i-'lek-shən\

The decision of God to save
before the foundation of the world
due to his sovereign good pleasure and
not on account of any unforeseen merit.

Assumptions I am making about you

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**#1 – You have been hurt by
bad theology.**

Assumptions I am making about you

**#1 – You have been hurt by
bad theology.**

**#2 – You have been hurt by
good theology.**

Assumptions I am making about you

#1 – You have been hurt by bad theology.

#2 – You have been hurt by good theology.

#3 – You will leave here with incomplete theology.

Assumptions I am making about God

Assumptions I am making about God

#1 - God is not safe.

#1 – God is not safe.

Hebrews 13:29-31

29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

#1 – God is not safe.

Romans 11:34-35

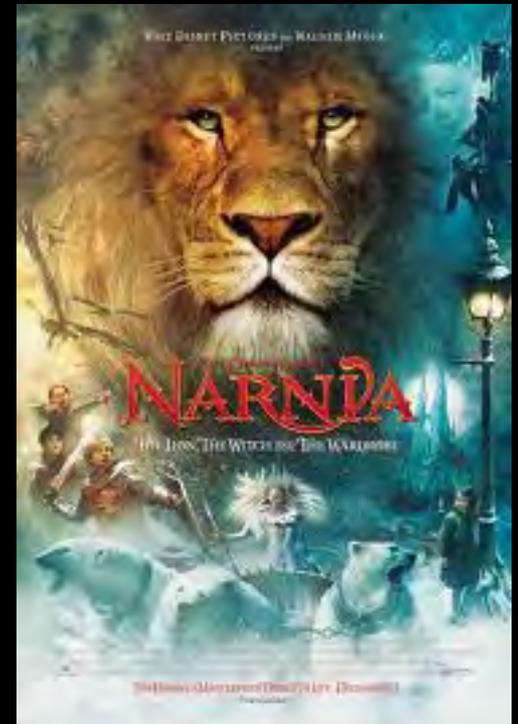
34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

#1 - God is not safe.

"Aslan a man!" said Mr. Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea. Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion, *the* Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh," said Susan, "I thought he was a man. Is he - quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."



#1 - God is not safe.

"That you will, dearie, and make no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver; "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.



#1 – God is not safe.

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe.”



Assumptions I am making about God

#1 – God is not safe.

#2 – God is good.

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Romans 8:31-32, 38-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?...**38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#2 – God is good.

Ezekiel 33:11

11 Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

What does that even mean?

Def'n. Equality
\i-'kwä-lə-tē\

An ideal of uniformity in treatment or status by those in a position to affect either.

Def'n. Equality

\i-'kwä-lə-tē\

An ideal of uniformity in treatment or status by those in a position to affect either.

Def'n. Fairness

\'fer-nəs\

Not partial or biased;
treating or affecting all equally.

Def'n. Justice

\ 'jəs-təs \

Acting or being in conformity with what
is morally upright or good;
righteous.

Def'n. Election
\i-'lek-shən\

The decision of God to save
before the foundation of the world
due to his sovereign good pleasure and
not on account of any unforeseen merit.

Hip Hop Def'n. Election
\i-'lek-shən\
Election

God's selection
of a section,
without prior inspection,
to receive his eternal protection,
we call election.

Yep.
Well.

God's selection of a section

Has God's word failed?

Romans 9:6-9

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. 9 For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son."

God's selection of a section

Has God's word failed?

Romans 9:10-13

10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, **11** though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad – in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls – **12** she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” **13** As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

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God's selection of a section

Is God unjust?

Romans 9:14-18

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! **15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **16** So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. **17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." **18** So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

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God's selection of a section

If this is true, how can we be help responsible?

Romans 9:19-21

19 You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” **20** But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” **21** Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

God's selection of a section

God makes known his glory and salvation

Romans 9:22-24

22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory — 24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

God's selection of a section

God makes known his glory and salvation

Romans 9:25-26

25 As indeed he says in Hosea,

“Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’”

26 “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

God's selection of a section

Where does this leave us?

Romans 9:30-31

30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; **31** but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

God's selection of a section

Where does this leave us?

Romans 9:32-33

32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

Gospel Application

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1. Believe with your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.

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11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Gospel Application

1. Believe with your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.
2. Desire and pray for “their” salvation.

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1. Believe with your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.
2. Desire and pray for “their” salvation.
3. Worship and trust God in his selection of a section.