

The Gospel in Genesis: Foundations of the Good News

Joel Richardson

The New Testament declares that the Gospel is “according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). Those Scriptures begin in Genesis. Far from being a later invention, the core components of the Gospel are already embedded in the earliest chapters of God’s Word. From the first promise of victory over the serpent, to the covenant with Abraham, to the royal hope given through Judah, the Gospel’s foundation is firmly established.

1. The Protoevangelion: The First Gospel (Genesis 3:15)

After the fall, God spoke directly to the serpent:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Here the Gospel appears in its seed form:

- A coming *offspring* of the woman.
- He will suffer (*bruised on the heel*).
- He will ultimately triumph by crushing the serpent’s head.

This promise establishes the great story of redemption: the victory of the Messiah over Satan, sin, and death.

2. The Abrahamic Covenant: Blessing to All Nations (Genesis 12; 15; 17; 22)

God’s covenant with Abraham expands this Gospel hope:

- Seed-Promise: Abraham will have innumerable descendants, but ultimately one Seed through whom blessing comes (Galatians 3:16)
- Land-Promise: Abraham’s offspring are promised an everlasting homeland, kingdom and a king. (Genesis 17:8, 22:16-18, 27:28-29).

- Nations-Promise: *“In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”* (Genesis 22:18).

This covenant makes clear that salvation is not for Israel alone, but for all nations—through the chosen Seed.

3. The Prophecy of Judah: The Coming King (Genesis 49:8-12)

As Jacob blessed his sons, he declared over Judah:

- Judah’s line will hold the scepter—the right to rule.
“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”
- The imagery of blessings, abundance, and restoration follows: vines, wine, washing garments in blood—anticipating both judgment and salvation.

Here we see that the promised Seed is not only a Redeemer but also a King—one to whom the nations will bow.

The Gospel Defined in Genesis

When we combine these promises, the Gospel message is already clear long before the New Testament.

Essential Components of the Gospel in Genesis:

- The Promise of a Redeemer — The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15).
- The Necessity of Suffering — The serpent strikes His heel, pointing to Messiah’s suffering before victory.
- The Promise of a People — Abraham’s descendants will be as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5–6).
- The Promise of a Place — The land of Canaan is given as an everlasting inheritance (Genesis 17:8).
- The Promise of a Blessing — Through Abraham’s Seed, *all nations* will be blessed (Genesis 22:18).

- The Promise of a King — The scepter will not depart from Judah; the Messiah will rule (Genesis 49:10).
- The Promise of Worldwide Obedience — The nations will submit to Him, anticipating the kingdom of God on earth.

Conclusion

The Gospel is not a New Testament afterthought—it is the ancient plan of God, unfolding from the very beginning of the Genesis account. In Eden, God promised a serpent-crusher. In Abraham, God promised a blessing for all nations through his Seed. In Judah, God promised a king who would rule the nations. The New Testament identifies this promised Redeemer, Seed, and King as Jesus the Messiah, who fulfills the covenant promises and brings salvation to the ends of the earth.



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