

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Series: "Genesis to Revelation"

Message Title: "Mirror Image"

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Myers

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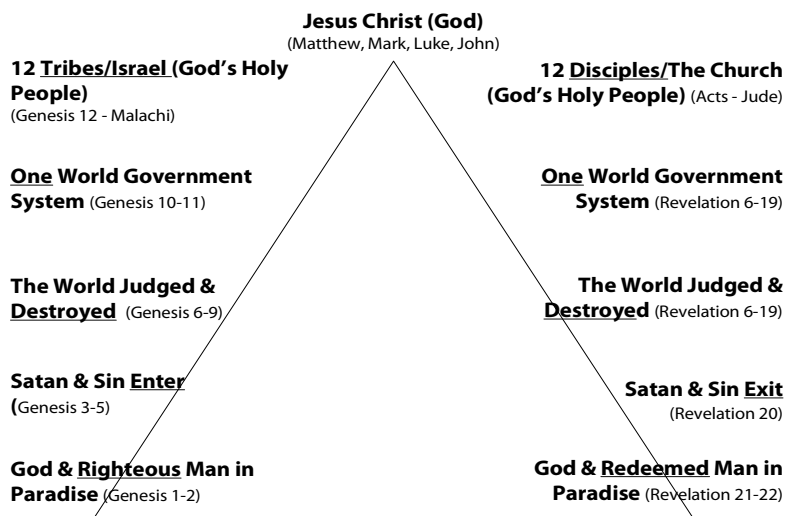
Icebreaker:

PK used the example of a puzzle to explain how many people are puzzled and confused by the Bible. What do you find most puzzling about the Bible and what do you hope to gain from this new Genesis to Revelation message series?

Message Overview:

God gave us the Bible as an instrument or puzzle we were meant to understand and put together. Before we ever put a puzzle together we have to look at the **Big Picture** to get the view of how pieces/events fit together. The Bible is the same way and God has given us the **Big Picture** of how history (which is His-story) began and will eventually end. The Bible is one book which is broken into two main parts, Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT). A testament is a covenant or contract. There are 66 books in the Bible, 39 in the OT and 27 in the NT. Each book contains stories, puzzle pieces of one larger story. The OT carries five major movements that ascend to a turning point in history and then the NT parallels these five major movements in descending order like a **mirror image**. Like a boomerang, what God begins comes back full circle to accomplish His purpose in His time. This is the Big Picture.

Genesis to Revelation An Overview of the Bible Pastor Kevin Myers



Discussion:

(Leaders: Do not try to cover every question provided in this study guide, but rather review the complete list, selecting a mix of questions that work best for your group, mixing scripture research/discussion as well as personal application of the teaching principles.

God and Righteous Man in Paradise (Genesis 1-2)

- God created the angels as spirit beings (no physical bodies), animals as material beings (no soul) and mankind as spirit beings wrapped in a physical body. Why did He make us like that and what choice did He give us to make?
- What were the names of the two trees in the Garden of Eden and how do they reflect our relationship with God?

Satan and Sin Enter (Genesis 3-5)

- Adam and Eve were deceived into thinking that the forbidden fruit was “good and pleasing”, but actually they made a choice to dismiss God by eating of this fruit. How did this choice bring them death?

The World is Judged and Destroyed (Genesis 6-9)

- Man put his faith in his self governing, made his own rules/purpose, trusted his own instincts, and created his own set of beliefs. God allowed man to make this choice, but eventually there was a “times up” and mans actions had to be judged. How did God choose to judge man and the earth? Was that “fair”?

One World Government (Genesis 10-11)

- Mankind put his faith into a new belief system, devoid of God. As a group of people, mankind thought they could create their own destiny and rise to greater heights of "greatness" by building a tall building which would reach to the sky (Tower of Babel). How did this oppose God’s command to spread throughout the earth? What did God do about this?

12 Tribes of Israel (God’s Holy People) (Genesis-Malachi)

- God invited Abraham to start a new chapter for Mankind and by faith Abraham believed. God makes a contract with Abraham that will be passed down through all of Abraham's descendants, becoming the Nation of Israel. In this contract, God will bless Abraham's descendant's and restore them back to Himself through a promised son, Messiah, who would bridge the gap of death caused by sin. Israel began to act like a spoiled child, thinking they could change the rules and rule themselves, and they did this throughout the remainder of the OT. How was Israel without excuse for these choices?

Jesus Christ (God in human flesh-God with us) Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

- God makes a New Contract which fulfills the Old One, completing its demands, through Jesus Christ and He extends it to All Mankind. This is a pivotal point in the mirror image. What choice does God give to mankind at this point?

12 Disciples/the Church (God's Holy People) (Acts-Jude)

- The disciple's mission was to bring the truth of a restored life with God [through Jesus Christ] to the world. This is where we are now in history. The 12 Stone campuses exist as a place where people can come and pull away from distractions and give meaningful thought to the things they are chasing and to re-consider a path that God is calling them to, so they can live life to the fullest in relationship through His Son, Jesus Christ. According to 1 Peter 2:4-6, how are you becoming a "living stone"?

One World Government System (Revelation 6-19)

- Over 2000 years ago, it was prophesied that one day a One World Government will return, with a common communication system and a global economy. What current world events show that this is beginning to happen?

The World Judged and Destroyed (Revelation 6-19)

- How does 2 Peter 3:3-11 explain this next series of events and what choice does mankind have?

Satan and Sin Exit (Revelation 20)

- Satan is thrown into the lake of fire and God will leave anyone alone if this is really what they want for eternity. What will happen to those who choose to tell God to leave them alone?

God and Redeemed Man in Paradise (Revelation 21-22)

- In this mirror image, God's church has accepted His offer to live under His rule in the New Heaven for eternity. The Tree of Life returns and there is no more sickness, pain or death. Romans 1:18-20 says that we are without excuse. How is your life reflecting this?

Wrap-Up:

What one thought from this lesson was a challenge or encouragement to you?

Throughout the Week: (Optional)

(Leaders: Share these optional exercises for further study and growth with your group.)

Begin to prepare for next week's lesson, **In the Beginning**, by reading Genesis 1-3. You may want to do this as a family devotional time, before dinner or bedtime. To challenge yourself and get a better understanding of this whole Genesis to Revelation series, go ahead and read up to chapter 11 of Genesis. Skim over the list of names, especially in chapter 10, so as not to get too bogged down. There will **not** be a pop quiz on these names (smile).

Memory verse:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:1-2, NIV)

Email any questions or feedback about this Study Guide to robin.ritchie@12stone.com.