

You Are Here – Part 1

“God’s Perfect Creation and Mankind’s Fall into Sin”

First Sunday in Advent – 2012

Sunday, December 2 → 8:00 & 10:45

Wednesdays (12/5, 12/12, 12/19): Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, today we are beginning a sermon series called: **You Are Here!** Imagine walking into a new mall and finding a store on a huge map; would you be ready to go to that store? *No!* Why not? You won’t know what direction to go until you find the symbol: **You Are Here!** Today 7 billion people live on the planet, *yet most are lost because they are unaware of the big picture of time and eternity!* Therefore, *in the weeks to come*, May **God** work through this series to ♦develop that picture, ♦show us our location, and ♦bless us now and forevermore!

God’s Perfect Creation: The Father (Architect-designer) created all things *through the Son* (Contractor-builder; Colossians 1:16) with the supervision of the Holy Spirit (Inspector; Genesis 1:2):

- **Day 1 – heavens, earth, light:** ^{ESV} **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God [the Father through the Son] created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters [to inspect what had been created]. ³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
- **Day 2 – sky:** ⁶ And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the

waters from the waters.” ... ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven [or sky].

- **Day 3 – dry ground:** ⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.
- **Day 4 – sun, moon, stars:** ¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night....” ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights...and the stars.
- **Day 5 – fish, birds:** ²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”
- **Day 6 – animals, people:** ²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds--livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.... ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- **God’s assessment:** ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good [“Good exceedingly.” “There was not a single mistake, not even a flaw, in the perfection of God’s work.” Kretzmann, OT 1:4].

HYMN VERSES: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (LSB 802, vv. 1 & 3)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

To all life Thou givest—to both great and small—
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish—but naught changes Thee.

Mankind's Fall into Sin:

- **God's Warning:** ^{ESV} **Genesis 2:16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- **Mankind's Fall:** ^{ESV} **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden [trying to get her to doubt God's Word]?'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die [the serpent contradicted God, even implied that God is a liar]. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil [the serpent tried to make the sin seem right]." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked....
 - **Who was the serpent?** ^{ESV} **Revelation 20:2** And he [our Lord Jesus Christ; Rev. 1:18] seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan...
 - **Did God's promise: "you shall surely die" come true?** ^{ESV} **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin

came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men... [immediate spiritual death; eventual physical death]

- **The Eternal Consequence:** ^{ESV} **2 Thessalonians 1:6** ...God considers it just [right] to repay with affliction those who afflict you [His forgiven children], ⁷ ...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire [when He comes again; Mark 8:38], inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed...

Conclusion: Knowing about → God's perfect creation, → mankind's fall into sin, and → the horrible consequences that await all who reject Jesus as Savior, let us begin to ♦ see the big picture of time and eternity, ♦ realize our desperate need to be saved, and ♦ rejoice in Jesus' first coming – *which we remember during Advent and celebrate at Christmas* – to take away our sins! And all God's people said: **Amen!**