

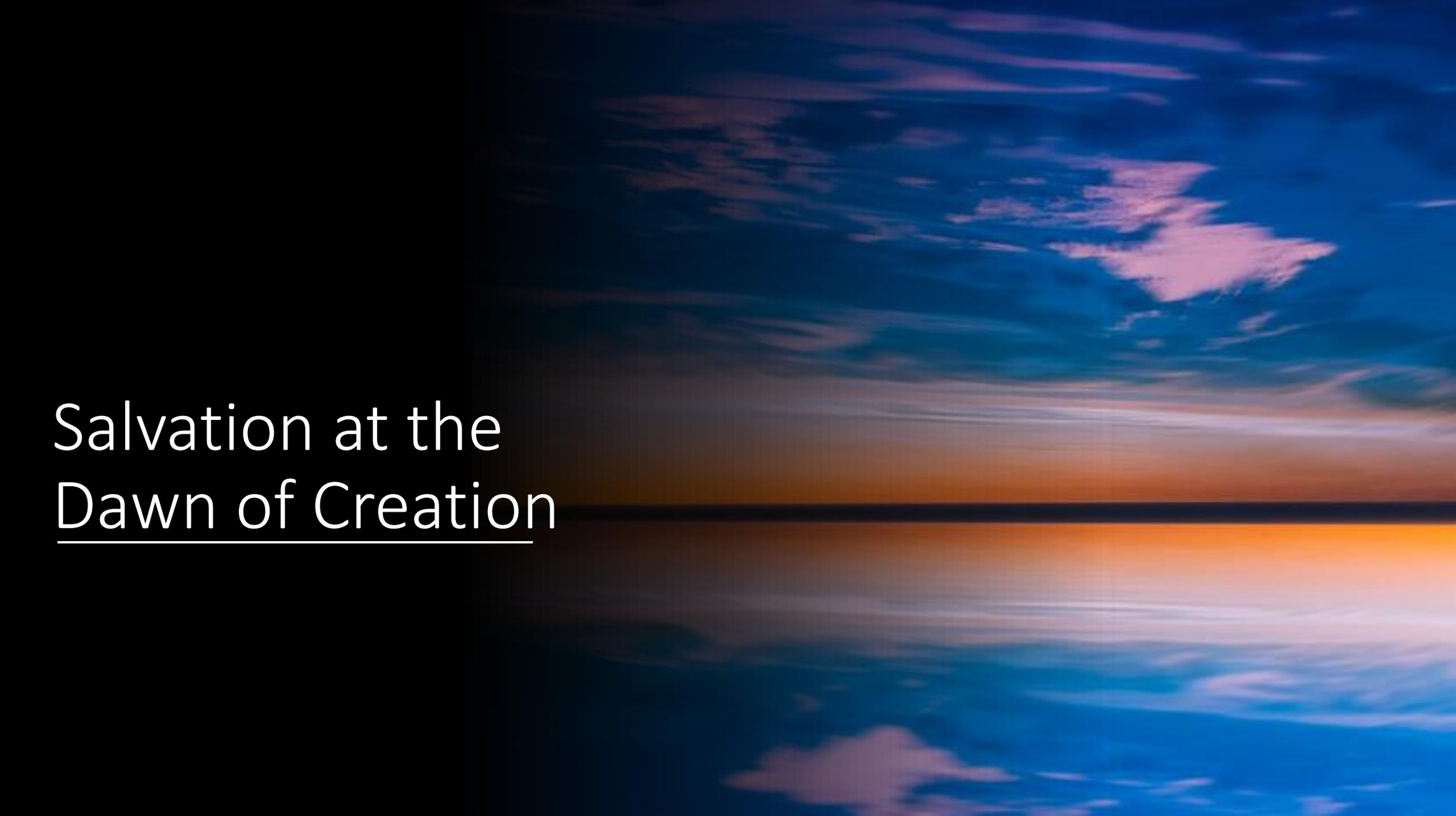
This Coming Week...

- Monday: **Two Queens**
(Esther and Jezebel)
- Tuesday: **Two Heirs**
(Joash and Rehoboam)
- Wednesday: **Two Regrets**
(Peter and Judas)
- Thursday: **Two Kings**
(Hezekiah and Saul)
- Friday: **Two Messengers**
(Paul and Jonah)

Theme: Citizens of Heaven



If Possible, Review Stories Ahead of Time

A serene landscape photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is a deep, vibrant blue, with wispy white clouds scattered across it. The horizon is a bright, glowing orange and yellow, which reflects onto the calm water below. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Salvation at the Dawn of Creation



In the
Beginning...

In the Beginning...

- Days 1-3 Bring Separation:



In the Beginning...

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 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.



In the Beginning...

- Days 1-3 Bring Separation:
 - Light separated from darkness
 - Waters separated from waters
 - Land separated from water
- Days 4-6 Populate:
 - Sun, moon, stars (18)
 - Fish, sea creatures, fowl (20-21)
 - Land animals; man (24-26)
- Separation Becomes a Key Biblical Concept
 - But I have said to you, 'You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the LORD your God, who has **separated** you from the peoples. You shall therefore **separate** the clean beast from the unclean, and the unclean bird from the clean. You shall not make yourselves detestable by beast or by bird or by anything with which the ground crawls, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean – Leviticus 20:24-25





Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

- Genesis 3 begins story of mankind's rebellion
 - Forfeited purpose of creation; did not separate from sin
 - Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth** and subdue it, and have dominion
 - Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the **earth was filled** with violence

And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will **destroy** them with the earth" (6:13)



Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

- Deconstruction
 - Note connection with creation
 - For in **seven days** I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground/ after **seven days** the waters of the flood came upon the earth (7:4,10)
 - Ark becomes a “hub of creation;” a floating Eden
 - What was separated is no longer separated

So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” (6:7)



Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened [...] The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep

Light from Darkness (Implied)



Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

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Light from Darkness (Implied)
Water from Water



Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

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Light from Darkness (Implied)
Water from Water
Land from Sea



Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

And **all flesh died** that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life **died**. He **blotted out** every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were **blotted out** from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark..

Light from Darkness (Implied)
Water from Water
Land from Sea
Life Ceases



Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

- Reconstruction

- Light and Darkness separate
- Waters Separate*

The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were **closed**, the rain from the heavens was **restrained**

*And God made a **wind** blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. (8:1b)

And the **Spirit** of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (1:2b)



Deconstructing & Reconstructing Creation

- **Reconstruction**

- Light and Darkness separate
- Waters Separate
- Land and Sea Separate

The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained/And the waters **receded** from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated

Major Bible Theme



Creation, Flood, & Baptism



Creation, Flood, & Baptism

- Creation theme continues in New Testament
 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. – II Corinthians 5:17
 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creation**
-- Galatians 6:14-15



Creation, Flood, & Baptism

- Where there is creation, there is a Creator

For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them – Ephesians 2:10

- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For **by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. – Colossians 1:15-17

- John 1: Jesus is light; He is the **Creator**

- He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the **Holy Spirit** – Titus 3:5



Creation, Flood, & Baptism

- Why I need to be re-created:
 - Like all of mankind, I left by purpose for being created
 - For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened./Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things **deserve to die**, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them
-- Romans 1:20-21, 32



Creation, Flood, & Baptism

- When I am re-created:
 - Genesis theme: Man created from ground
 - Deconstruction: Ground and water unseparated
 - Where do “dust” and water meet? Baptism
 - Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses – Colossians 2:12-13



Creation, Flood, & Baptism

- When I am re-created:
 - Flood theme also present in baptism re-creation
 - Because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. **Baptism**, which corresponds to this, **now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ – I Peter 3:20-21



Creation, Flood, & Baptism

- When I am re-created:
 - I become a new creation – separate from what destroyed
 - Therefore go out from their midst, and **be separate from them**, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” – II Corinthians 6:17-18
 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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. – Romans 8:38-39



Are you
Ready?

