

THE MAP OF GOD'S RULE

Genesis 1.31, 3.15; Revelation 22.3

God works in very interesting ways in history. It is his behind the scenes working that I find most interesting and fascinating. It is always easiest to see the problem; it is not always so easy to see God behind the scenes working. It is easy to see the presence of evil; there is tremendous difficulty in seeing the victory.

Matthew 3.2; 4.17; 6.9-10 Acts 1.6-7; Acts 4.19-22; 28.30-31; Romans 14.16-17; 1 Corinthians 6.9-10; 15.20-25; Colossians 1.10-14; Revelation 11.15

If you were to read any of these passages alone in isolation from the others it would lead to an imbalance or a limited understanding. We need the big picture. Once you take care of the whole, the little parts will have a framework to fit into.

The process of biblical unity revolves around what God **wants**. His will, what he wants, as expressed in Scriptures, centers on his created universe, both animate and inanimate. This is where the concept of the **Kingdom of God** comes in, for this seems the way to best describe God's will or desire as centered in his rule. When we talk about the Kingdom of God, it is important to understand three aspects: **Place, People and the Presence of God**.

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The Good Creation

*"God saw all that he had made, and it was **very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day."* Genesis 1.31

The Ruined Creation

*"And I will **put enmity between** you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."* Genesis 3.15

The Promise of the Path to Restoration

"No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him." Revelation 22.3

Victory through Conflict: The Means of Restoration Genesis 3.15

And I will put enmity between your . . .

Offspring

Cain (Gen. 4)

Ishmael (Gen. 21.10)

Satan (Genesis 3.15)

Flesh (Gen. 6.3-5)

hers

Abel 1 John 3.10-11

Isaac Galatians 4.28-29

Jesus Gal. 3.16; Matt. 2.13
Mk. 10.45; Phil. 2.5-8

Spirit Gal. 4.28-29; 5.16-17
2 Cor. 11.3, 14; Rom. 16.20

The battle between his seed and her seed and this great conflict, starting off in the garden, moving through Cain and Abel, Ishmael and Isaac, Satan and Jesus, is now between flesh and spirit. The battle goes spirit deep.

Before we look at Abraham, we need to look at how God chose to work out the redemption of the world. In Genesis 3:15 we see a curse and a promise of victory. In Revelation 22:3, we see the ultimate fulfillment of that promise of restoration. So how has God chosen to work through the ages to accomplish his will?