

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Dec '18.....Genesis 25-27.....The Deceiver
- 2) 09 Dec.....Genesis 28.....Not Alone
- 3) 16 Dec.....Genesis 29-30.....Family?
- 4) 23 Dec.....Luke 1 – Christmas Message.....Promise Kept
- 5) 30 Dec.....Genesis 30-31.....Home!
- 6) 06 Jan '19.....Genesis 32.....Transformed
- 7) 13 Jan.....Genesis 33.....Reconciled – Sort of
- 8) 20 Jan.....Sanctity of Life 2019.....Protect and Save
- 9) 27 Jan.....Genesis 34-36.....Assurance
- 10) 03 Feb.....Genesis 37.....Accept It
- 11) 10 Feb.....Genesis 38-39.....Tempted
- 12) 17 Feb.....Genesis 40-41.....Opportunity Knocks
- 13) 24 Feb.....Genesis 42-50.....Reunited

INTRODUCTION

- **Sanctity of Life.** God requires the death penalty for a certain type of killing (aka, murder – killing with malice intent). Why? Because humans are made in His image, which means every human is precious to God. Exceptions to the death penalty for killing a human include:
 - ♦ War..... Num 31
 - ♦ Self-defense.....Exod 22:2-3
 - ♦ Accidental killing.....Exod 21:12-14
 - ♦ Execution of Justice (Capital Punishment)..... Lev 24:17; Rom 13:1-4
- **Value of Life.** Our value of life should match God's perspective, and be it known, God has no problem with the following:
 - ♦ He wiped out the pre-flood population for their atrocities, except 8
 - ♦ He wiped out Sodom & Gomorrah for sexual perversion, except 4
 - ♦ He told the Israelites to annihilate the Canaanites – men, women, & children for their murders, adulteries, child sacrifices..... Deut 2:34
 - ♦ He told Saul to wipe out the Amalekites – men, women, children and their animals for their hatred of Israel.....1Sam 15:3
 - ♦ God shows no mercy to wicked widows & orphans..... Isaiah 9:17
 - ♦ ...and God nearly wiped out the Israelites for their atrocities of adulteries, murders, & child sacrifices, leaving only a remnant
- The common denominator is in the level of wickedness
 - ♦ If a nation is unjust, sexually perverse, oppresses the weak (widows, orphans, poor, and foreigners), and even condones killing of children – then watch out for God's wrath.....Zech 7:9-14

Passage	Comments
Gen 1:27. So God created man (male & female) in His own image.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The backbone passage about the sanctity of life revolves around every man and woman being made in God's image, which means both sexes are equal before God. Do you agree? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ♦ We are all one in Christ (races, genders, & classes).....Gal 3:28
Gen 9:1. And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. Gen 9:5-7. Surely, I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. (6) Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man. (7) As for you, be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it."	<p>Life for Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1,7. After the Flood, God reiterated the command He gave to Adam & Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..... Gen 1:28 • vv2-4. But, to preserve mankind and animal-kind, animals will now have an inherent fear of man especially as man receives God's permission to augment their original vegan diet (Gen 1:29) with meat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ A stipulation is made that an animal's life-giving blood was forbidden food. This established a respect for life • vv5-9. It is interesting that capital punishment for man and beast wasn't established till after the flood – BUT mankind proved to the world that "the intent of his heart is evil from his youth"..... Gen 8:21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The meaning is straightforward: a murderer must be put to death. Moreover, the command charges mankind with the task of executing the murderer— "...the murderer is to be put to death"

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The reason given for the command is likewise straightforward: "because in the image of God, He made man" ♦ v9. And this command was to be timeless for all mankind throughout all ages and cultures
Mat 5:21-22 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell."	<p>Jesus Puts the Act of Murder on the Thought Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is worse: 1) thinking about killing someone; 2) willfully killing someone; or 3) willfully degrading someone? Put another way, what does Jesus say is worse: <input type="checkbox"/> Our Thoughts <input type="checkbox"/> Words or <input type="checkbox"/> Deeds? • Jesus is probably using Hebrew parallelism here to emphasize sin (which deserves hell) begins in the mind (heart) where it should stay. BUT it often migrates from our lips and/or expressed in our deeds. • ALSO, be aware God does treat sins differently, and so should we. Some sins are outside the body while others are of the body (1Cor 6:18); some sins we can ignore (1Pet 4:8), other sins are tougher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If some don't work, they don't eat..... 2Thes 3:10 ♦ If some are contentious, avoid them.....Rom 16:17 ♦ If some are prodigal, leave them alone.....Lk 15:16 ♦ If some are unrepentant, treat 'em as a heathen..... Mt 18:17 ♦ For unrepentant sexual sins, remove from church.....1Cor 5 • BUT notice there is no capital punishment for these sins today
Political Thot: Do people respect the Law of the Land Today?	<p>Capital Punishment. If all 50 states were to abolish capital punishment (20 states have already done so), there is nothing biblically wrong with that stance since God never demanded nations, other than Israel, to institute such a practice – though there would be sociological repercussions for unappeased justice</p> <p>Consider This: 35 years ago, almost all 50 states had capital punishment and there were only 250,000 people in prisons throughout America. TODAY, more states are contemplating eliminating capital punishment and we have more than 2,500,000 people in prisons</p>

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Since we are living in a Post-Christian world, where God is being removed from the public and civic venues at an ever-increasing pace, Capital Punishment becomes a moot point
- Capital Punishment is only valid and meaningful from a Bible-centric perspective where every human life from conception has high value
- In other words, if God is ruled out of society then capital punishment, marriage, and even the speed limit are all meaningless practices, because who cares? Let's eat, drink, be merry, for tomorrow we die!

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 34-36. Dinah, Jacob's only daughter, is raped, and her brothers take revenge by killing every man in town and absconding with the town's women and wealth; and Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin. Will the drama and pain ever end?

