Week One—Day One

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we begin our journey through The Story – through God’s Word.  It’s a 31 day journey.  I will be dividing each chapter into five parts for my daily devotions and journaling.  I’ll share my thoughts with you.

Today I read about the six days of creation.  Some things to take note of are: 1) God created all that exists by the power of His Word.  He spoke and it came to be; 2) His creative activity is intentional, not accidental.  He is intimately involved in the creative act; 3) All that he created was good – perfect – without flaw or defect; and 4) man (human beings) were the crown of His creation.  They were created in His image.

God’s desire is to be intimately involved in His creation.  That is especially so with man.  There is a community aspect to creation.  God is intimately involved and connected with all that He has created.  Man is brought into community with God and with one another.  Even the animals live in community – not just with their own kind, but also in relation to every created thing.  That is evidenced by God giving man and all the beasts of the land and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground every green plant for food.  They were not in competition with each other.  They weren’t at odds with each other or enemies of each other.

This sets the context for the rest of God’s story.  The rest of God’s story is unfolding and accomplishing His plan of salvation in order to restore man and His whole creation to its original state – to that state of perfection when God looked upon all that He created and said, “It is very good.”  By the end of the week we will see why that restoration is necessary.

Week One—Day Two

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we look at God creating Adam and Eve.  It is quite a story and reveals much of the character and purpose of God.  In the previous section, God spoke and it came to be.  Here we get a bit more detail.  Here we see His special care – His intimate and intentional creative activity.  He tenderly shapes and fashions.  He breathes into man the breath of life.  And most importantly, He doesn’t want man to be alone.

He creates woman out of the man – He creates Eve out of Adam.  This speaks volumes to us (or should) about marriage and why it is established between a man and a woman.  Adam was created out of the dust of the ground.  Eve was created from the rib of Adam.  Already, in the creation of the woman, there is an intimate connection with the man.  And, one could say, there is a hole in the man that only a woman can fill.  That is why a man will leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.  We see the community aspect of God’s creative activity on display again.

This is such an intimate event – a tender episode in God’s interaction with His creation.  In God’s image they were created.  They were naked and they were not ashamed.  They lived in the Garden in perfect communion with God and with each other.

This quote from The Story (an editor’s note) provides a transition as we turn the page and asks a question that will be asked again and again as we journey through The Story.

“God has created a beautiful world and filled it with glorious, diverse creatures. Of all his creation, he singled out two humans to build a relationships with – Adam and Eve.  These two people were blessed to share their paradise with each other and with God, so why would they want anything else?”

Why indeed?