

YEAR OF THE MESSAGE: Moses
Law and Order: Divine Intent
“Creation and the Fall: From Very Good to What a Mess”
Genesis 1-11

Intro to Year: I have planned a full year of preaching. I will work to keep the BIG PICTURE in mind with each message. I will try to show how each part of the Bible fits into the whole.

I will also work to make clear application from the text of the Bible to your life today. This will not be a series about ancient history. This will be a series about your life and how to live it to the fullest.

I hope that you will read the Bible with me this year. You are only five days behind if you decide now to join us for this journey.

Intro to Series: “Law and Order: Divine Intent” is a series of seven messages from the first five books of the Bible, the books attributed to Moses.

Intro to Sermon: God made the world and everything in it, including humans, and it was all “very good.” God put humans in charge of the earth to tend it and keep it. One command of a negative nature was issued: don’t eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Adam and Eve fell to temptation and ate the forbidden fruit. Everything changed. They were driven from the garden. Murder and mayhem emerged.

God had a plan, even in the first pages of the Bible, for the restoration of sinful humans. Redemption begins.

We are introduced in these first chapters to:

I. The God Who Designed You: Genesis 1:1, 27

A. All things came from God.

1. The universe, galaxies, stars, planets, earth, and you (use a succession of ppt slides to depict from vastness to pic of one infant)
2. This was a self-evident truth to the ancients. It needed no argument for the existence of God.

***Show clip from MIB #1

B. You came from God.

1. You exist because God spoke you into being.
2. You exist as you are because this is how God wanted you to be.

II. The People He Desired: Genesis 2:7

A. God was personally involved in forming humans.

B. God wanted us present in his universe.

C. God wanted a relationship with us. This is evident from the story of the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:8. “The man and woman heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden.”

D. This is the entire reason for the teaching of the Fatherhood of God. He is paternal in his orientation toward us. We are important to him.

E. We make the jump here from a Deity that has power to create but has no particular continuing interest in his creation to a God who is both Sovereign and Providential, both all-powerful and all-loving.

III. The Law Which Defines You. Definition is in part a process of elimination. To define is to limit. The limits of God are both our great opportunity and sometimes our great resentment.

A. You are made by God, and you are MOLDED by God. To be made is one thing. To be molded is quite another. The picture of man's creation in Genesis 2:7 is that of molding. "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground..."

***The POTTER and the CLAY metaphor is used often in Scripture to describe how God relates to us. The Apostle Paul insists that the clay does not have the option to question the work of the Potter. Romans 9:21 says, "Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?"

B. You are molded to RULE. Genesis 1:28: "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

C. You are molded to TEND. Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

D. The question of our origin is crucial to our attitude in life. If we think that we are an accident of nature, two conclusions present themselves.

1. First, we have no ultimate purpose. We must live with the tough reality of our ultimate meaninglessness. We may deal with this truth by working to create our own meaning in a meaningless world. Or we may decide that suicide is indeed the only real decision that exists.

2. Second, we have no ultimate authority. If we take the Creator out of the picture, then no one rules over us. We are free to do whatever we wish without constraint from beyond ourselves.

3. The most interesting struggle in atheistic philosophy is that addressed, I am told, by the new movie, *The Golden Compass*. How do you find true moral guidance in a world without God?

***I worked on a subcommittee trying to develop a values curriculum for middle schoolers in the public school without reference to religion. I can tell you, we came up empty. Oh, we could think of plenty of principles that all of us learned from our churches. But when we excluded God from the moral equation, we were left with powerless, lifeless principles that had no compelling interest or authority.

IV. The Companion that Completes You: Genesis 2:18: *It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.*"

A. This companionship is necessary for man because he is made in the image of God, and God enjoys fellowship.

B. Marriage is the first reference for this companionship, and may be the most intimate of all human relationships. Hence the term, *Adam KNEW Eve*—Genesis 4:1.

C. But the larger picture is our need for OTHERS—our need to be in fellowship with other people and with God. This involves the divine gift of communication. What is the Word if there is no one to hear it?

V. The Temptation that Taunts You.

A. The Enemy Who Reviles You. *Hath God said?* Genesis 3:1

B. The Pride that Defiles You. *You will be like God*—Genesis 3:5

C. The World that Beguiles You. *She also gave to her husband, and he ate*—Genesis 3:6