

The LCMS View of the Bible



1

Denominations

- ◆ There are lots of different types of churches—we call them denominations.
- ◆ Each denomination does things a little bit differently, and believes and teaches Christianity in its own way.
- ◆ Some denominations are really good at spreading the Gospel, some are good at inspiring people, some are good at mission work, praise, how to deal with suffering, etc.
- ◆ A strength of our LCMS church is that we study the Bible really well. We choose pastors based on their education, and not on their power to inspire. We think we're good "thinkers", and we let other denominations be stronger in other areas.

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LCMS



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- ◆ Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- ◆ Lutheran = Following the ideas and principles of 16th Century German Monk Martin Luther (left)
- ◆ Church = Christian (center) Church which follows the 3 Creeds (I believe in the Father Almighty...)
- ◆ Missouri Synod = The Americanized and Anglicized Versions of Luther's Christian views, as established by Rev. C.F.W. Walther (right) and others in St. Louis, Missouri in the 1800s.

Zion Lutheran School

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- ◆ We are an LCMS school, and are supported by LCMS pastors, LCMS-trained teachers, and we use LCMS-printed Religion curricula. We're accredited by the National Lutheran School Association, which is an LCMS-sponsored organization.
- ◆ There are lots of ways to understand the Bible, but the LCMS interpretation is, to me, the only view that allows every verse of the Bible to make perfect sense. It the most sensible, the most complete, and the most accurate view of the Bible.

So here it is.

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God's 1st Plan:

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- ◆ The Garden of Eden
- ◆ Adam and Eve live happily with God forever.
- ◆ No sin anywhere

But, eventually...

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- ◆ Eve is tempted; she and Adam sin.
- ◆ Sin enters the world; God's Plan is in trouble.
- ◆ Sin keeps spreading...



Sin Keeps Spreading...

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- ◆ People are sinful...they keep sinning, in thought, word, and deed, by what they have done, and by what they have not done. As physical and spiritual descendants of Adam and Eve, sin is part of who and what we are.



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Pause.

- ◆ Why did God try again? Didn't he know it wouldn't work?
- ◆ Well, MAYBE he tried again with Noah, because he wanted YOU and ME to see that no matter whom he chose, Sin has come into the world, and isn't leaving.

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God's 2nd Plan

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- ◆ OK. The first plan was ruined by sin.
This second plan is going to be sinproof.

How does it work?

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- ◆ God's New Plan: I'm going to choose a dude. I'm going to bless him. His descendants will be my CHOSEN people, because I'm CHOOSING him.
- ◆ I'm going to bless these people.
- ◆ They'll be MY people, and I'll be THEIR God. I'll bless their whole country and they'll be my shining example.

God's 2nd Plan:

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- ◆ Then, when other people see MY people, they'll be like, "Wow, what a great country you have. Who is your God?"
- ◆ Then, MY PEOPLE will tell the OTHER PEOPLE, "Well, we've got this great GOD who loves us and is AWESOME." And, then those OTHER PEOPLE will join MY PEOPLE. (This, by the way is still part of the plan: YOU show God's love to others.)
- ◆ That way, my AWESOMENESS will spread throughout the whole world. Everyone will LOVE me, and I'll LOVE them.

Laws:

Show sin, Show love

- ◆ But, people will still sin. We'll need a way to get rid of the sin, because I can't be in the same room as sin.
- ◆ I'll give MY PEOPLE lots of rules to live by, so they know what sin is and how it hurts me.
- ◆ (Kind of like how you don't let your cat go outside, because you don't want her to get hurt.)

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Sacrificial Lamb gives forgiveness from sin

- ◆ Then, I'll give them a way to cleanse themselves of all their sins.
- ◆ They'll take their sins, and transfer them to their a baby lamb. Then, they'll kill the lamb, and that way I'll count their sins as killed.

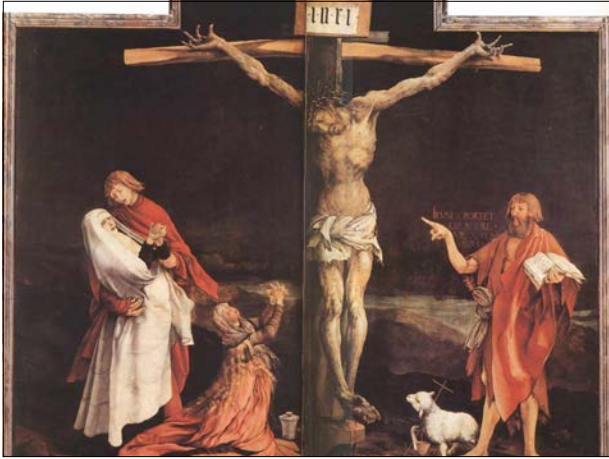


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But eventually,

- ◆ I'll need a permanent solution to sin.
- ◆ There's no way to completely remove sin from the world.
- ◆ Unless...

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Where is this Plan?

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- ◆ God chooses a dude, blesses his descendants to show HIS LOVE: Genesis 12: 1-3 through end of Revelation
- ◆ So, every verse we look at from Genesis 12 on will deal with God blessing his people--sometimes he's sad, sometimes he's angry, sometimes he's delighted, but he always fulfills the blessings he promises, including sending a sinless king, called the Lamb of God, to reign on the throne forever.

That is all.

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