My Relationship with the World: It’s Complicated
The World: Created and Re-Created

• Bible opens with picture of creation
  – Special place within it is the Garden of Eden
    • Keep: “To watch over, preserve”
      – In this, Adam failed

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it – Genesis 2:15
The World: Created and Re-Created

• Bible opens with picture of creation
  – Special place within it is the Garden of Eden
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      – In this, Adam failed

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. – Genesis 3:6
The World: Created and Re-Created

• Bible opens with picture of creation
  – Special place within it is the Garden of Eden
    • Keep: “To watch over, preserve”
      – In this, Adam failed
      – ...And his decedents failed
The World: Created and Re-Created

• Destruction and Re-Creation
  – World destroyed, except for “new Adam”/family

And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. – Genesis 6:19-20
The World: Created and Re-Created

- Destruction and Re-Creation
  - “New” world fell back into sin
  - God re-creates a new world within the old one

And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. – 17:8-10
The World: Created and Re-Created

• Destruction and Re-Creation
  – “New” world fell back into sin
  – God re-creates a new world within the old one
    • Israel became as corrupt as surrounding world
The World: Loved by God

• The renegade creation turned to a new leader – In which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – Ephesians 2:2
The World: Loved by God

• The renegade creation turned to a new leader – Into the darkness, God again sent Light
  • The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. – John 1:9-10
The World: Loved by God

• For God so Loved...
  – “New” world within the world...of great proportion
    • Admittance: Rebirth by water and Spirit
  – Creator born into own creation to bring light
The World: Loved by God

• For God so Loved...
  – Saves those who give Him allegiance

Whoever loves his life loses it, and **whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life**. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

-- John 12:25-26
My Relationship with the World

For God so Loved the World
    John 3:16

Do Not Love the World
    I John 2:15
My Relationship with the World

- Context is important!
At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

-- I John 2:8-11
My Relationship with the World

- Context is important!
  - God forbids love of what spiritually destroys
    - Christians, therefore, cannot flirt with sin!
    - Living for God means abandoning sins of the world

We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. – I John 3:12
My Relationship with the World

• Context is important!
  – We know the One the world does not

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. – John 17:20-21
My Relationship with the World

• Is There Any Room for Loving the World?
But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

— John 17:13-17
My Relationship with the World

• Is There Any Room for Loving the World?
  – Those in the kingdom take message to the lost

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. – Mark 16:15-16

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. – John 17:20-21
My Relationship with the World

• Is There Any Room for Loving the World?
  – Those in the kingdom take message to the lost
    • Love shown for enemies, neighbors, for all
    • As sons of God, we emulate the Son of God
  – How strong is my love for the lost?
    • About as strong as my hatred of sin
To Which World Do I Belong?