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The Scarlet Thread

By Teresa Hampton

My grandmother (we called her Granny) used words to draw vivid pictures in our minds. She taught us about the scarlet thread of the Bible. She wasn't talking about an actual thread or red ribbon in the Bible. Rather, she helped us realize that when we read the Bible then and when we read it now we can see Jesus woven in it from start to finish.

Jesus was in the beginning as the creative, hands-on maker of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:26, John 1:1-3). He was in the Garden of Eden, in the promise that He would crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). He visited Abraham and Sarah, telling them that one year later they would have the son of promise (Genesis 18:10). Jesus was prophetically woven throughout the writings of the prophets (Isaiah 53). In the gospel accounts, He took the form of man, "*God with us.*" Jesus taught, healed, rebuked, and gave the ultimate, sinless sacrifice. Confirming His resurrection, He sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles (John 16:7, Acts 2). He revealed Himself to the servant and preacher Stephen when he was being stoned to death, and then again in a blinding light that shone on Saul (Acts 8:56, 9:1-5). We continue to see Jesus in the letters to disciples, for example, as a groom anxiously awaiting the arrival of His bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25-27). And finally, in the last book we see Jesus, the Lamb of God, assuring the faithful of their great victory and home in heaven (Revelation 22:1-5).

Granny's vivid word pictures are still with me today, especially the scarlet thread. I've come to realize the color red flows from Genesis to Revelation, from before creation to the end of time. Jesus and His blood are woven as a beautiful scarlet thread throughout the entire Bible, from beginning to end, from start to finish.

Today's verse: "*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,*" says the Lord, "*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty*" (Revelation 1:8).

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