

# The Beginning of History

## Lesson Two

### Genesis 1-11

In this lesson we will be studying **The Creation, Man and Paradise, The Fall of Man, Cain and Abel, The Flood, and The Curse of Canaan and The Tower of Babel.**

The name "Genesis" is Latin, coming from the Greek term meaning

1. to be born
2. Genealogy
3. History of Origin

The Hebrew title for this book means Beginning. The book of Genesis deals with the beginning of everything except God who has no beginning or end.

The book of Genesis was written by Moses. In fact, the first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses.

The first eleven chapters of Genesis deal with a very exciting time in the story of mankind. The creation account is recorded here. Extensive coverage is given to the climax of God's creative activity--the creation of man. The record of the temptation of man and his subsequent fall into sin is contained in these chapters. The sad account of the first murder is recorded here. The chapters give us information on the populating of the earth and the rise in corruption and sin among the people. This continued rebellion against God culminates in the episode of Noah, the ark, and the great flood that destroyed all but those on the ark with Noah. The lessons of the great flood did not last for long. Soon mankind was again in a state of rebellion toward God. This time they tried to build a tower to heaven. God did not permit this, and the account of what happened is also contained in these chapters. The background is laid for God to begin to unfold what He plans to do through the nation He is about to bring into existence. Approximately 2000 years of history are covered.

Now we will look more extensively at all of the many episodes listed in the paragraph above.

## THE CREATION

### Genesis 1

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; 1 and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

**Look up Genesis 1:3 - 2:3.** Tell what was created each day. (Slides 2-8)



Day 1 Light

Day 2 Sky

Day 3 Dry land, Seas, and Vegetation

Day 4 Sun, Moon, and Stars

Day 5 Water, Creatures, and Birds

Day 6 Land Animals, Man

What happened on the seventh day? God Rested

## MAN AND PARADISE

Genesis 2

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

**Look up Genesis 2:8.**

Where did God plant the garden? In the east, in Eden

*And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it.*

**Read Genesis 2:16,17.** What command did God give to Adam? Do not eat

from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

*And the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." For when the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air, He brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them. **9** And Adam gave names to all cattle and to the fowl of the air and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh. **10** And the rib made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife. **11** And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

## THE FALL OF MAN

### Genesis 3

*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field. And he said unto the woman; "Yea, has God said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said unto the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" And the serpent said to the woman, "You shall not surely die; for God knows that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."*

*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit from that tree and ate it, and gave also to her husband, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, "Where art you?" And he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree whereof I commanded you that you should not eat?"*

#### **Read Genesis 3:12,13.**

Whom did Adam blame for what had happened? Eve (the woman)

Whom did his wife blame for what had happened? The Serpent

Now God pronounces His punishment for all of the players in the above drama.

#### **Read Genesis 3:14,15 to find the punishment for the serpent.**

Who is the serpent? Satan

Verse 15 contains the wonderful promise of God that He will set things straight.

Read it very carefully.

Who is the "you" that is being addressed? Satan

Who is the offspring of the woman? Jesus (The Messiah)

What will the offspring of woman do? Crush Satan's head

What will the "you" do to the offspring of woman? Strike His heel

Which injury results in death? Crushing the head

Write in your own words what this verse is saying. \_\_\_\_\_

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Adam and his wife were also punished.

*Unto the woman He said, "In sorrow you shall bring forth children; and your desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you." And unto Adam He said, "Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife, cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat of the herb of the field. In the sweat of the face shall you eat bread till you return unto the ground; for out of it you were taken; for dust you art, and to dust shall you return." And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and unto his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them . . .*

**Read Genesis 3:22-24. (Slide 12)**

Why would the Lord want to prevent Adam and Eve from eating of the tree of life?

So they would not live forever in sin

## CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4,5

*Adam called his wife Eve; and she bore Cain and said, "I have gotten a man from the Lord." And she again bore his brother Abel. **13** And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

*And it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord. **14** And Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock. And the Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering; but with Cain and his offering He was not pleased. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry. And why is your countenance fallen? If you do well, shall you not be accepted? And if you do not well, sin lies at the door. And to you shall be his desire, and you shall rule over him."*

Who brought the choicest of his products to offer to God? Abel

**Look up Genesis 4:7.** What warning is God giving to Cain? Straighten up  
or life will be difficult. Don't give in to sin.

*And Cain talked with Abel, his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against his brother and killed him. **15** And the Lord said unto Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?" And he said, "I know not; Am I my brother's keeper?" But the Lord said, "What have you done? **16** The voice of your brother's blood cries to Me from the ground."*

*"And now are you cursed from the earth which has opened her mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto you her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shall you be in the earth." **17** And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, You have driven me out this day from the land; and from Your face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass that every one that finds me shall kill me." And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whosoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark upon Cain that no one should kill him. And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.*

*And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth. **18** And the days of Adam, after he had begotten Seth, were eight hundred years; and he begat sons and daughters. And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.*

*From him came Enoch, who lived upon earth 365 years. And because Enoch walked with God, God took him; **19** and he was no more. Methuselah, the son of Enoch lived 969 years--the greatest age ever attained by man. His son's name was Lamech, who called his son Noah, saying, "He shall comfort us concerning our work and toil, because of the ground the Lord has cursed."*



Enoch was a descendent of Seth, and Methuselah was the oldest man who ever lived.



## THE FLOOD

Genesis 6-9

**Read Genesis 6:1-3. (Slides 20-21)**

What was the problem with the people on the earth? wicked

What was the cause of the problem? Inter-marriage with wicked women

The sons of God referenced in these verses probably refer to the godly men while the daughters of men probably refer to the wicked descendents of Cain. The reference to 120 years could be interpreted as meaning that the life expectancy of humans would no longer exceed 120 years. It could also be talking about the number of years God will give the people to repent. It was 120 years from this point until the flood occurred.

About how many people do you suppose inhabited the earth at this time? (Take into consideration the long life spans of the people and the many children they had.)

*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, for he was a just man and walked with God. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence. Make an ark **22** of gopher-wood, three hundred cubits in length, fifty cubits in breadth and thirty cubits in height. Make rooms therein, and pitch it within and without with pitch. A window and a door shall you make to the ark; and three stories shall you make it. And you shall bring into the ark, **23** of fowls and of cattle, and of every creeping thing, two of every sort. And take unto you of all food that is eaten, and it shall be for food for you and for them." And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.*

*And the Lord said into Noah, "Come you and all your house into the ark; for you have I seen righteous before me in this generation."*

### **Read Genesis 7:13-16.**

What were the names of Noah's sons? Ham, Shem, and Japheth

How many people entered the ark? eight

*In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. **24** And it rained upon the earth forty days and forty nights. And the waters increased greatly upon the earth, and bore up the ark; and all the high hills and mountains that were under the whole heaven were covered fifteen cubits. And all flesh died, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast and creeping thing, and every man. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days. **25***

*And God remembered Noah. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged. And the ark rested on the seventeenth day of the seventh month upon the mountains of Ararat. On the first day of the tenth month were the tops on the mountains seen. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark and sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him. But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and returned to him into the ark. And after seven days he again sent forth the dove. **26***

*And the dove came to him in the evening, and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf. Noah stayed yet another seven days, and sent forth the dove, which returned not again.*

### **Read Genesis 8:13-22. (Slide 27)**

By when was the earth completely dry? 27<sup>th</sup> day of the second month

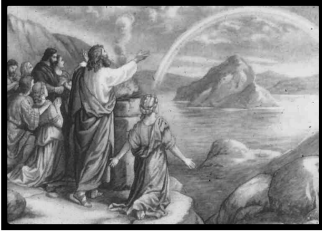
How long was Noah in the ark? (This takes some calculating. See 7:11 and 8:14)

1 year, 10 days. (verses 7:11 & 8:14)

What was the first thing Noah did after getting off of the ark? He worshipped God by building an altar and making a sacrifice to God.

According to verse 21, what is the nature of man from childhood? Evil

What promise does God make to Noah and his family? Not to destroy earth with a flood



*And God blessed Noah and his sons and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. And behold, I establish My covenant with you; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. I do set My bow **28** in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth."*

## THE CURSE OF CANAAN AND THE TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis 9-11

**Read Genesis 9:20-29. (Slides 29-30)**

What was Noah's condition in the tent?

A. drunk B. naked

Who discovered Noah in this condition? Ham

What did he do? Told his brothers

What did the brothers do? Backed into the tent and covered their father.

Who showed respect for their father? Shem and Japheth

What was the punishment for the youngest son? Serve the other brothers

**Read Genesis 11:3-9. (Slide 31-32)**

Why were they making brick? *To build the tower*

What was the purpose of the tower? *Build to heaven to show how great they were.*

To whom would the glory go in this endeavor? *themselves*

How did the Lord thwart their effort? *Confused communication by giving them*  
*different languages*

What was the name given to that place? *Babel*

Following Babel, the families of the three sons of Noah, (Ham, Shem, and Japheth), were scattered to three different areas in the world. The descendents of Ham generally populated what we now know as the continent of Africa. The descendents of Shem generally populated what we know as Asia and eventually some spread to the American continents. The descendents of Japheth generally populated what we now know as Europe.



## REVIEW

1. What did God use to create everything except man? Words
2. In what two ways was God's creation of man different?
  - A. Created him from dust.
  - B. Breathed into him the breath of life.
3. What curse is placed on men? Work hard for food
4. What was Abel good at? Sheep herding
5. What was Cain good at? Growing crops
6. Why was God upset with Cain's offering? Wasn't right offering & wasn't the best
7. How did the Lord protect Cain? Put a mark on him
8. Who were the "Sons of God"? Godly men
9. How many sons did Noah have? Three
10. Which two birds did Noah release? A. Raven B. Dove
11. What does the rainbow represent? God's promise not to flood the whole earth again.
12. Why did the Lord interrupt the building of the tower? It was done for selfish reasons.

