

Genesis 1-11

Introduction:

1. Genesis means beginning.
2. Eternity past through history all the way to eternity future.
3. Not verse by verse, but section by section, noticing the high points.
4. Divide all of life into two levels: Horizontal and vertical
 - a. Horizontal level: knowledge is acquired by reason and experience. We learn by reason and experience.
 - b. Vertical level: Someone from the outside revealing to us who He is and what He wants. This is where the Bible comes in.
 - c. People will ask who am I, where am I going, where did I come from? We need God's revelation to know these things.
 - d. God has revealed Himself to us:
 1. Creation: (General revelation) Psalm 19
 2. Special revelation (the Bible)-66 books, 31173 verses (or so), 8000 in N.T. and 23000 in O.T. (more or less), reading aloud est. 71 hours at pulpit speed, 365 days a year = 12 mins. a day.
 3. "A bible that is falling apart is and indication of somebody who is not." - Charles Spurgeon

I. General theme of the Bible

- A. Genesis-Revelation points to one person and two events:
 1. Jesus and the first coming to deal with sin (Genesis 3:9-15).
 2. The Second Coming to do away with sin completely and destroy the earth (1 Cor. 15:24-28; Acts 1:9-11).
- B. Genesis is the foundation of the Bible. If we do not understand Genesis then we will not understand the Bible. We get the beginning of everything in this book:
 1. Beginning of creation. (Gen. 1-2)
 2. Beginning of the human race (Gen. 1:26-2:25)
 3. Beginning of sin entering the world. (Gen. 3)
 4. Beginning of God's remedy to deal with sin (Gen. 3:14:19)
 5. Beginning of government and family (Gen. 2:22-25; 4:1ff)
 6. Beginning of civilization (4:16-9:29)
 7. Beginning of the nations of the world (10:11)
 8. Beginning of the nation of the Hebrew people through Abraham (Gen. 11:10-50:26)

II. Four great events (1-11):

- A. Creation or formation (1:1-2:25).
 1. Day 1: Gen. 1:1-5, (**created Space, Earth, Light**) everything that is knowable, everything in the universe could be categorized into one of five categories (scientists believe this):
 - a. Time (Gen. 1:1)- in the beginning
 - b. Force (Gen. 1:1) God

- c. Action (Gen. 1:1) Created
- d. Space (Gen. 1:1) The heavens
- e. Matter (Gen. 1:1) The earth
- f. In the very first verse of the Bible the precision with which this document will be put together by the Spirit of God. All of these five things are covered.
- g. If you can believe Genesis 1:1 then the rest of the Bible is easy.
 - 1. If you struggle with resurrection...
 - 2. If you struggle miracles
 - 3. Just go back to Genesis 1:1. If you believe that your God created everything out of nothing then the rest of the Bible is a cinch!
- 2. Day 2: Gen. 1:6-8 - **waters below and waters above**
- 3. Day 3: Gen. 1:9-13 - **dry land and plants**
- 4. Day 4: Gen. 1:14-19 - **sun, moon, planets, stars**
- 5. Day 5: Gen. 1:20-23 - **flying creatures and sea creatures**
- 6. Day 6: Gen. 1:24-31 - **land animals and first two people**
 - a. Gen. 1:26 “let us...” Every creep that you know God is over them too!
 - b. Gen. 1:27 “God created man in His own image...”
- 7. Gen. 2:1-2, God rested because God finished His work.
- 8. The most difficult problem for mankind is centered around one simple word **“Creation”**.
 - a. Here is where people will turn off God. For a lot people the whole idea of a God with a special creation turns people off.
 - b. It is not because of intellectual reasons but for moral reasons. (see lesson on [Authority](#))
 - 1. If there God then there is a standard. No God no rules. Get rid of God and you can get rid of all the rules and regulations and create a perfect system of [humanism](#) and [existentialism](#). Then you can do anything you want.
 - 2. Evolution is basis of many philosophies Marxism, Communism, Atheism and Nazism.
- 9. Evolution: ([Answers in Genesis](#) provides some great articles about creation and evolution from scientists)
 - a. In pop culture the idea of evolution is a done deal. It is a simple idea that everyone knows to be true. People accept it without questioning. People assume that since most of the educated people believe it then it must true.
 - b. The truth is that in the academic world there are many people that have difficulties with evolution. They have done the research, they have the hard facts. And they find it to be a position that cannot be proven. It is a THEORY.
 - c. Design: Any design requires a designer (illustrations: watch maker)
- 10. The history of creation: **Gen. 2:4**, on a clear night look up and think of this, “If the art in the night sky is this beautiful what must the artist look like? Look at the beautiful coral reefs and ask the same thing. **This is the theme of the Bible, pointing us to the very artist Himself. He created everything so great, and us so great.**

- a. How ridiculous is this? It just so happens that: the earth and the sun are 93 million miles apart, the surface temperature of the sun is 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit. But if the earth were as close as Venus we would all burn up. As far as Mars we would all freeze. The earth takes 365 times to revolve in its journey around the Sun. Why 365 and not 30 times? Because the days would be 10 times longer. The alternate episodes of heat and cold would kill us. The earth is tilted at 23 1/3 degrees on its axis and it gives us the balance of four seasons. The atmosphere is a combination of 79 parts of oxygen to 20 parts nitrogen and 1 part of variant gasses. What if it was 50% oxygen and 50% nitrogen? The first guy in history to light a match would see the biggest and last firework display.
 - b. You see, this did not just happen, it was not a coincidence. There was an intelligent Designer. "God created the heavens and the earth."
11. Gen. 2:8-9, 15-17-19¹, 20
- a. Every hippie's dream: Lay around in nature and play with the animals.
 - b. Adam got to name animals. He was very ambitious when he began the process of naming the animals. Hippopotamus (5 syllables) the day wore on and the names got shorter, Rhinoceros (4 syllables). Then elephant (3 syllables). As days wore on this got to be so laborious that he saw an animal and called it "pig", "dog", "cat"
 - c. Gen. 2:23, Does not sound too romantic, but there is a translation that says, "This is it!"
 - d. Gen. 24, marriage. Every day that God created something He said, "it is good (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, **31**). This is the first time in the entire creation story that God said that something was not good, 22:18.
 1. Isolationism is not good.
 2. Dog is man's best friend? No! God saw that the problem of aloneness is not good.
 3. God, the matchmaker: He did not have to hear about all the men she could have married. She did not have to hear about how his mother cooked. PERFECT!
 4. Marriage was designed to solve the first problem in creation - aloneness.
- B. The fall (3:1-5:32). Without this section we would not have a reasonable explanation for all of the heartache in the world.
1. "Now the serpent was more cunning..." 3:1 This is a different creature than the others. This one can speak, the others can not speak. This serpent is the super being behind all of the evil in the world.
 2. Man was given a negative command. **JUST ONE**. You can eat any tree you want to, except this one.
 - a. Wet paint.
 - b. Keep out.

¹ "...you shall surely die" From Gen. 2:17-Gen. 5 from Adam's family to Noah the phrase "...and he died" appears 8 times

- c. Do not touch.
- 3. Serpent contradicts God (3:4-6) and the woman takes the bait and “bites”. (cf. [1 John 2:16](#))
- 4. Notice Gen. 3:6 it says about Eve that she *saw, took, ate,* and *gave*. What did man do? He just ate. But who got blamed for this? Man! ([1 Timothy 2:14](#)) He got blamed because he evidently knew what was happening and he still ate.
- 5. This is the darkest day in the human race Even darker than the day when Jesus was crucified. This is when sin entered into the world, when death began, when human suffering was ushered in, when shame and guilt originated, this was when, pointing from eternity past through history into eternity future, God decided that His very own Son would have to die on the cross. I can almost hear the angels along with the Godhead in heaven gasping as they witnessed Adam eat of the forbidden fruit. ([Rom. 5:12](#))²
- 6. Gen. 4:3-6 the first home Cain and Abel
 - a. God accepted Abel’s but not Cain’s, why? ([Hebrews 11:4](#))
 - b. Gen. 4:6-8, Cain’s face was sad (he was bummed out) and God gave him a chance to “get over it.” God said to Cain that if he had done what was right he would not have a reason to be upset.
 - c. Gen. 4:8: Second murder (Gen. 3:3; [John 8:44](#)). Cain killing Abel.
 - d. Gen. 4:9-14 Cain was not **able** to enjoy fellowship with God anymore.
 - e. Gen. 4:25, A new son of Adam and Eve, Seth. Now the new son of promise. It would be through his bloodline that the Messiah would come.
 - f. Gen. 5 is a long list of genealogy from Adam all the way to Noah through the lineage of Seth.
 - g. NOTE: A chapter like Gen. 5 is boring, unless your name is in it. But notice that..
 - 1. 5:1-2, God named all mankind MAN (in Hebrew ADAM).
 - 2. This asserts God’s dominion over mankind like man’s over the animals when Adam named them.
 - h. Gen. 5:3-5, 25-27
 - 1. Adam lived 930 years (5:5)
 - 2. Seth lived 912 years (5:8)

² While it is true that because of Adam sinning we all now must die, it is not true that we have inherited such sin or guilt. I will be judged by my own actions not Adam’s. Sin and death entered through the first Adam, Forgiveness and salvation entered in through the second Adam. [Johnnie Edwards has a good article on Romans 5:12.](#)

3. Methuselah lived 969 yrs. (5:27) The name Methuselah is an interesting name, important one too.³
 - a. A couple of Hebrew words that when they are put together mean “*when he is dead it shall be sent.*”
 - b. Enoch was the father of ***When he is dead it shall be sent.*** Why name him this?
 - c. Enoch (5:24) walked with God. He had an intimate relationship with God. Maybe God revealed to Enoch that when that son is dead God would send judgment on the earth. How nervous would of his parents been? Making sure he did not fall or cut himself.
 - d. **When Methuselah died, God sent the flood.** Noah was 600 years old when that judgment came (Gen. 7:6)

C. The flood (6:1-9:29).

1. 6:1 notice the math:
 - a. Long life spans would = a rapid increase in population.
 - b. Calculation⁴: Took the genealogical record of Genesis, the average life span and the number of kids and figured that at the end of 18 generations there could have 774 million people on earth. And, at the time of the flood there could have a billion+ people on the earth.
 - c. It took from the time after the flood to 1850 before we saw 1 billion people in modern times. 1850-1930 2 billion, 1930-1962 3 billion, 1962-1975 4 billion. No there are about 6 billion. We are multiplying on the face of the earth.
2. Gen. 6:5-8 (notice the word ***but*** in vs. 5)
3. Gen. 6:10-13, world was so full of sin that it was time to clean it up.⁵
4. Gen. 6:14, 17-19.

3

The Flood of Noah did not come as a surprise. It had been preached on for four generations. But something strange happened when Enoch was 65, from which time "he walked with God." Enoch was given a prophecy that as long as his son was alive, the judgment of the flood would be withheld; but as soon as he died, the flood would be sent forth.

Enoch named his son to reflect this prophecy. The name Methuselah comes from two roots: *muth*, a root that means "death"⁵; and from *shalach*, which means "to bring," or "to send forth." Thus, the name Methuselah signifies, "his death shall bring."⁶

And, indeed, in the year that Methuselah died, the flood came. Methuselah was 187 when he had Lamech, and lived 782 years more. Lamech had Noah when he was 182.⁷ The Flood came in Noah's 600th year.⁸ $187 + 182 + 600 = 969$, Methuselah's age when he died.⁹

It is interesting that Methuselah's life was, in effect, a symbol of God's mercy in forestalling the coming judgment of the flood. It is therefore fitting that his lifetime is the oldest in the Bible, symbolizing the extreme extensiveness of God's mercy. ([link](#))

⁴ The Genesis Flood by John C. Morris and Henry M. Morris

⁵ ⁵ Will not deal with the Nephalim in this study.

5. Gen. 7:17-23, rained for 40 days, a lot of water!!! In the records of the Babylonians , Hindus, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks and the Chinese have records of a universal world-wide flood and an ark.
6. Ark:
 - a. 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, 45 ft. tall, displacing about 20 tons, roughly the size o the Titanic. If the ark had three levels you would have 1.5 million cubic ft. of space or the equivalent of 522 railroad cars would fit in the ark.
 - b. Ark could safely carry 18,000 species of mammals. There are around 15,000 species of mammals catalogued today. It was a big boat!!!!
7. Flood waters lasted 150 days (Gen. 83ff)
8. ***The rainbow covenant (Gen. 9) It was God's way of saying, "I have not forgotten you. Nor shall I ever forget you, or My promises to you. When you see the rainbow and I see the rainbow, we will remember each other." Only a God of love could have thought of speaking to His children in such a way at such a time. Having lost everything-money, home, all save life itself and what they had brought with them in the ark-these poor, homeless pilgrims surely needed a message of comfort and hope such as this.***
9. New social order on the earth, very important one:
 - a. Capital punishment is ordained (Gen. 9:6).
 - b. Human government (Gen. 9:7ff).
- D. The birth of the nations or the fallout (10:1-11:9).
 1. New physical order- seems like the life span has dramatically decreased.
 2. Table of nations in Gen. 10, a lot happens after the flood:
 - a. Noah's three sons have lots of kids:
 1. Japheth (2-5)
 2. Ham (6-20) 30 nations
 3. Shem (21-31)
 - b. Verse 24 (Eber⁶ is thought to be the father of Hebrew)
 3. Gen. 11, God told them to fill the earth and separate and they did not separate. The Tower of Babel.
 - a. Gen.11:1-99
 - b. It was called Babel, the gateway to god. They believed that the stars dictated how they ought to live. This is called worshipping the Zodiac.
 - c. Later it would be called Babylon.

Conclusion:

⁶ Abraham is the first person called a Hebrew (Genesis 14:13) in the Biblical text. What does the name Hebrew mean and where does it come from? Abraham's G,G,G,G,G Grandfather was Ever (or Eber) "And Arpachshad bore Shalach who bore Ever" (Genesis 10:24). The Hebrew spelling of the word Hebrew is עברי and the Hebrew spelling of Ever is עבר. When the letter י is placed after a name it means "one belonging to the family of ..." and in this case a Hebrew is one who belongs to the family of Eber. By definition, a Hebrew is one who is descended from Ever and this would include Abraham as well as his brothers Nahor and Haran. While the lineage's of Nahor and Haran seem to disappear, probably absorbed into other cultural groups, only Abraham and his descendents remain Hebrews to this day. ([link](#))

1. Think of the Bible as a contrast and a decision between two cities. The city of God and the city of man. Babylon/Jerusalem.
2. Which city do you belong to?
3. Gen. 3 a Redeemer is promised who would crush the head of Satan.

Plan of Salvation

4. GOD'S PART
 - a. The great love of God for man (John 3:16)
 - b. He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Saviour (Luke 19:10)
 - c. Sent the Holy Spirit as a guide (John 16:13)
 - d. Gave the Gospel as "the power" unto salvation (Romans 1:16)
 - e. Provided atonement by the blood of Christ (Romans 5:9)
5. MAN'S PART
 - a. Hear the Gospel. (Romans 10:17, John 8:32)
 - b. Believe the Gospel (Hebrews 11:6, John 20:31)
 - c. Repent of past sins (Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30)
 - d. Confess faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32)
 - e. Be Baptized (Galatians 3:27, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38)
 - f. Be faithful unto death (Revelations 2:10)