

The Whole Truth
Lesson #1

Old Testament—Genesis #1

Introduction to Series

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:14. 15 NIV

The Message—"bastion of truth"

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 NIV

Overview

A. The Old Testament (39 books/30 authors/Hebrew)

1. Pentateuch, Law, or Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy)
2. Historical Books (Joshua-Esther)
3. Writings (Job-Song of Solomon/Song)

NOTE: Wisdom, poetry

4. Major prophets (Isaiah-Daniel)
5. Minor prophets (Hosea-Malachi)

B. Pentateuch (Moses the author) see: Exodus 25:1, Leviticus 1:1, Deuteronomy 1:1, Luke 24:27

Pente=five, teuchos=scroll

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

NOTE: If Moses authored (1446-1400)

C. Divisions of Genesis

1. 2 blocks common
 - a. Primeval (1-11)
 - b. Ancestral History (12-50)
2. Walter Brueggemann (organizing center of Genesis—the call)
 - a. Pre-history—sovereign call of God
 - b. Abraham narrative—embraced the call of God
 - c. Jacob narrative—conflicted call of God
 - d. Joseph narrative—hidden call of God

Pre-history: The Sovereign Call of God

I. **Creation** 1:1-2:25

A. “In the beginning...”

1. Introduces the developments in preparing for the creation of man (1:1, 2)
2. Sequence and progression mark the era of creation and organization (1:3-2:3)
 - a. Day 1 (1:3-5)—light and darkness—day/night
 - b. Day 2 (1:6-8)—firmament set apart (waters and heavens from earth)
 - c. Day 3 (1:9-13)—separated land and water and vegetation appeared
 - d. Day 4 (1:14-19)—luminaries began to function
 - e. Day 5 (1:20-23)—sea and sky creatures
 - f. Day 6 (1:24-31)—land animals and man to inhabit the earth
 - Latter distinguished from former
 - Man give dominion
 - Vegetation to sustain humanity
 - g. Day 7 (2:1-3)—God rested
3. Man is the focal point of God’s creation and the centerpiece of the biblical narrative (2:4-25)
 1. Created in God’s image from the dust
 2. Breath of life breathed into him
 3. Man commissioned to name and oversee the animals
 4. The habitat of Eden

B. Issues of the Creation Narrative

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1. Unique nature of Judeo-Christian creation narrative
 - a. Other religions have them
 - b. No starting point—cyclical cycle of life
 - c. Bible—beginning and end—6 days

2. What biblical creation narrative is not:
 - a. Argument for the existence of God
 - b. Attempt to answer scientific questions

3. What biblical creation narrative is:
 - a. Proclamation of creation power of God
 - “ex-nihilo” out of nothing
 - b. Revelatory origin of humanity
 - c. Demonstration of divine order and purpose

4. Views of Creation
 - a. Gap Theory (1:1, 1:2; Ezekiel 28; 1:3)
 - b. Created with age
 - c. Metaphorical day
 - d. Day-Age Theology
 - e. Six-day Creation

C. Lessons of the Creation Narrative

1. God is One not plural deities yet exists in Trinity
2. Great distinction between creation and Creator
3. God is moral and holy

(You may, you may not)

NOTE: *R.C. Sproul—God’s holiness gives the basis for his moral demands.*

4. Humanity is distinct from all creation, created both male and female, created to subdue, yet limited in freedom.

II. The Fall of Man and its Consequence 3:1-6:10

A. Most crucial happening in man's relationship with God was the drastic change that took place as a result of disobedience.

1. The promise and warning (2:16, 17)
2. The temptation (3:1-5)
3. Eve ate and shared (3:6a)
4. Eyes opened and hid (3:7-13)
5. God cursed and clothed (3:14-21)
6. Drove them out in morning (3:22-24)

NOTE: The hope before them—

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15 NKJV

(SEED)

IMPORTANT: The creative power of God's Word in creation narrative and the hope-giving power of God's Word in the promise.

NOTE ALSO: The failure of humanity is followed by a promise!

B. The experiences of Cain and Abel reveal the consequences of a fallen state (4)

1. Hope of Eve when Cain is born (4:1)
2. Also Abel
3. Both worshipped—Cain rejected by God (4:3-5) *Heart Issue
4. Cain kills Abel
5. Cain's family (4:17-24)—long passing of time
 - a. Lamech—2 wives (4:19)
 - b. Lamech a murderer (4:23)

Pause Who did Cain marry?

- Not time given or age for Cain and Abel
- Abel had Seth at 130 lived until 930 (see 5:3)
- Could have had many sons and daughters before
- Incest? No law yet? No degenerative effects yet

C. Hope of renewal in Seth

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." 26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord. Genesis 4:25-26 NKJV

D. Hope in Noah

And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed." Genesis 5:29 NKJV

E. Man's fall reaches crisis point (6:1-10)

SIDEBAR

Sons of God/Daughters of Man

Theories

— Sons of God are angels/daughters of men human (sons of God—are often angels)

NOTE: Problem in Genesis 1-11 humans not content with being human (Eve, Babel)

— Sons of God—dynastic rulers—sin is polygamy as they take many wives

— Sons of God—godly line of Seth and ungodly Cainites

What we do know

— Can't be dogmatic

— Stimulus of story was daughters of men were attractive

— Sin of Samson, David

— God is angered—judgment must come

TRUTH: God promised judgment but would be preceded by 120 years of patient warning

And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." Genesis 6:3 NKJV

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. 9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Genesis 6:8-10 NKJV

III. The Flood: God's judgment on Man (6:11-8:19)

A. Noah followed instructions to build the ark

B. Shelter for Noah's family and representative animals

C. Almost a year on the ark and humanity destroyed to bring divine judgment on earth and start a new people

IV. Man's New Beginning 8:20-11:32

- A. Civilization after the flood began with sacrificial offerings and a covenant (8:20-9:17)
 - 1. New commitment to populate the earth
 - 2. Vegetation and properly slaughtered meat were ordained for food
- B. The human race was a racial and linguistic unit—summary on Genesis 10 of dispersion after Babel
- C. Babel is when God dispersed (11:1-9)
- D. The focus of Biblical narrative is on the Shemites (11:10-32)
- E. Climax is introduction of Abraham

READ 11:27-32

- F. The story of a nation begins

Take Aways:

#1

- Fall—Seed promise
- Flood—Blessing of Shem/Rainbow
- Babel—Blessing of Abraham (12:1-3)

God responds to human failure with grace

#2—Order/Disorder Motif

- Creation (Word)
- Fall (God, skins)
- Flood (Rainbow)
- Babel

#3—The Promised Seed

- Genesis 3:15
- Genesis 4:1, 2, 25
- Genesis 9:21-27
- Genesis 11:27-12:3

(Tereh/Abram)