

Japheth shared in the blessing of Shem (Gen 9:27). This blessing did not come to him because of family relationship or heritage, but by faith in God. There was no blessing for Shem or Japheth outside of faith in Yahweh. And there is no blessing or us outside of Christ (Ps 72:10).

Ham is called "the father of Canaan" (1 Chron 1:8). His clans migrated south. Egypt is called "the land of Ham" (Ps 78:51; 105:23).

NIMROD BUILT NINEVEH

Only one member of Ham's clans received special note in the Bible. Nimrod built an empire and cities (10:8-10). The first and greatest city was Babel = Babylon. Later Nimrod moved north and built Nineveh. He set up a government without God and began a new religion of idol worship.

The LXX or Greek translation of the Bible says he was 'a mighty hunter before the Lord'. At that time kings proved they were brave and strong by hunting lions. Pictures of kings hunting lions from their chariots were carved in rock and remain to this day.

After Nimrod's death, he was worshipped as 'Belus', or 'Bel,' the Lord.

It is said that, when God changed man's language at Babel, Nimrod went to Assyria and built Nineveh (Mic 5:6). In 1845 British archeologist Sir Austen Layard began to dig into the ruins of this ancient city. He filled the British Museum with its treasures, but they were from a later period of history.

God called Nimrod's city "that great city" (Jonah 1:1). It was a walled city some 7 1/2 miles around and very wicked. The population is thought to have been in the hundreds of thousands in Jonah's day (Jonah 4:11).

Sen-nach'-e-rib came from Nineveh and attacked Jerusalem in King Hez-e-ki'-ah's reign (Is 36-37). And the prophet Nahum had a vision of God destroying Nineveh (Nahum 1:14).

ABRAM THE HEBREW

➡ **Now read – Genesis 11:27-32**

This is the record of Terah, the father of Abram and all the people later called 'Hebrews' (Gen 14:13). Terah served other gods (Josh 24:2), but Abram heard God's voice and obeyed. God moved Abram away the moon-worshipping Babel nations (12:1-5).

TALK ABOUT 1. Who was Shem? 2. What do we know about Nimrod? 3. Who went to preach to Nineveh? 4. Did Abram's father worship the true God (Joshua 24:2)? 5. God called Abram to leave everything. Did he obey God?

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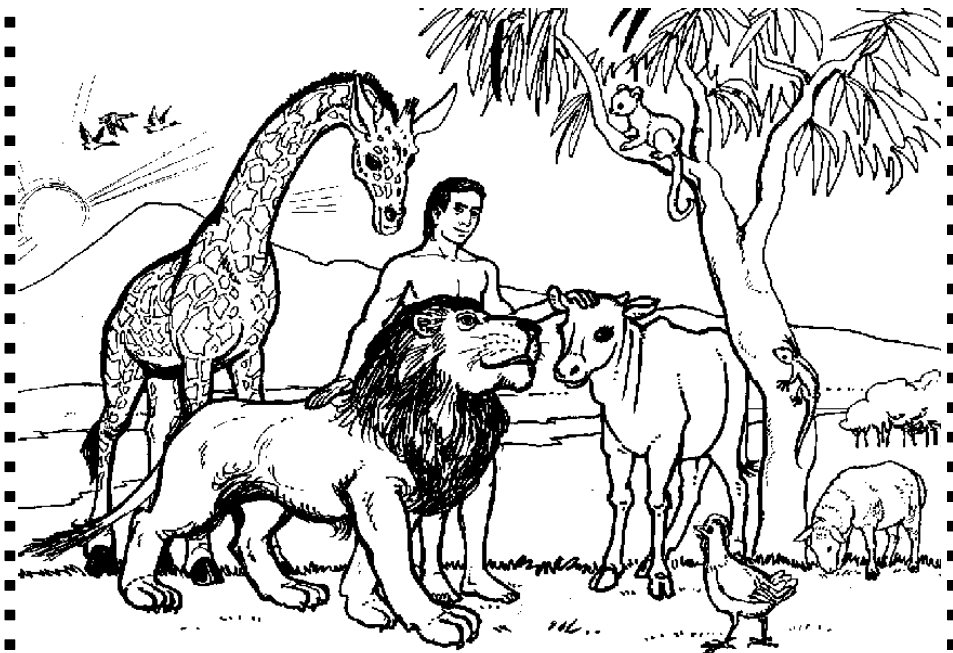
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Books of the Bible

GENESIS

(Chapters 1 – 11)



Bible Study Commentary
Written in Everyday English
Fred Morris

INTRODUCTION

This is the first book in a series of Bible study commentaries.

These commentaries present the truth of God's word in Everyday English.

Bible verses are part of the text so that those who don't have a Bible can read them as they study.

The books can be used for personal study or in a group. In a group study, each person should have a book of their own.

Bible readings are listed under the heads. Study leaders should read the Bible reading before the text in this book. When a second Bible reading is given, that reading supports the verses under study. The second reading may be passed over if time is short.

'Talk About' questions show how well the reader has understood the Bible verses. Questions may be used as a 'test.' They also provide a stopping point for a lesson, though the lesson can be stopped at any place.

Pastors and lay leaders will find these books very useful. They are presented as 'bare bones' Bible studies, without western stories or author experiences. The person leading the study should add experiences from their own Christian life.

Scripture references are meant to add important information to the verses under study. In a first review of the section, they can be passed over to save time. They should be checked later or given for study at home.

The New Testament was written with the Old Testament as its foundation. New Testament references are meant to show this link.

IN THE BEGINNING

Long ago, books were named after the first words in them. 'Genesis' is the Hebrew for 'In the beginning.' The Bible tells us about the beginning of the world and its people.

Big buildings stand on strong foundations made of concrete. The whole Bible stands on Genesis. Genesis is the foundation for the other 65 Books in the Bible.

The Bible is a wonderful Book. There is no other book like it. The Bible tells us that God created everything.

TO THE READER...

Read your Bible first, then study these notes. Bible verses are taken from the New International Version. They are shown as (7:6), chapter 7 verse 6. When verses are given from other versions, they are shown as:

KJV - King James Version;
NASB- New American Standard; TLB - The Living Bible;
NLT - New Living Translation.
Words for special study are underlined.

Astronaut Gene Cernan who landed on the moon wrote, "Looking back at earth I saw only a distant blue-and-white star. Out where I was dashing, stars and eternal blackness were everywhere. No one in his right mind can see such a sight and deny the existence of a Supreme Being. Some power placed our little world, our sun and our moon where they are. It is just too perfect and beautiful to have happened by accident."

mankind in many ways: 1. In nature (Rom 1:19-20). 2. In conscience (Rom 2:2-15). 3. In the history of man (Gen 1-9). 4. In Christ, the Son (Heb 1:2).

THE LORD IS ONE GOD

All heathen philosophies twist and change the original revelation of God. Satan blinds men's hearts so that they worship created things - rivers, hills, moon and sun (2 Cor 4:4). When man worships these he is worshipping demon spirits.

"The idol in itself is nothing (or has no power) but every idol has a demon associated with it who induces idolatry, with its worship and sacrifices" (Vine Dictionary). (1 Cor 10:20-21; Rev 9:20, compare Deut 32:17, Is 13:21).

THE GENERATIONS OF SHEM

☛ Now read – Genesis 11:10-26

These are the records of Shem (11:10). The family line runs from Shem to Abram. It is a 10-name family tree, like that of Seth (5:3-31).

Noah came from the family of Shem, which joined him with other men of faith (9:26).

In chapter 5, long life spans are listed for the men. Those that followed grew shorter and shorter. The record leaves out the total years each person lived as the Holy Spirit hurries us along to a man of faith, Abram.

The name of Terah is given at the head of this section because the record points us to the origin of the twelve tribes of Israel. In later years, God chose them as His people (Deut 7:7-9). First we must meet Abram and Sarai, the first patriarchs or family heads (12:1-5).

THE OLDEST LIST OF NATIONS

☛ Now read – Genesis 10:1-32

"Genesis chapter 10 represents the world as it was known to Israel at the time of Solomon" (F.F. Bruce).

This is the record of the families of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons" (10:1). In the ancient cuneiform writing, the original records were marked by colophons or words that joined what was written on one clay tablet to what was written on another. These colophons are in verses 5, 20 and 31.

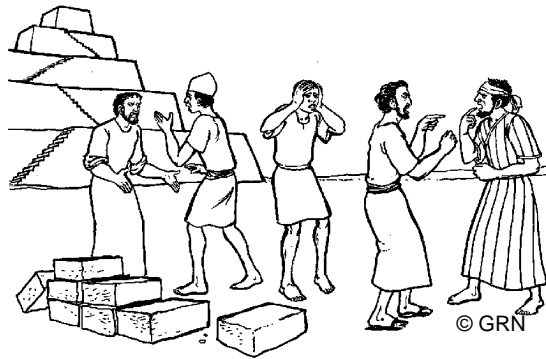
After Babel, each nation developed its own culture and language. These were:

- Japheth, the eldest of those named and his clans (10:2-5).
- Shem, the middle son and his clans (10:6-20).
- Ham, the youngest son and his clans (10:21-29).

Japheth's clans moved north and west or hugged the coast. Many were fishermen. Later they became maritime people and traders. "People of the Isles" is thought to refer to Japheth's descendants (Is 42:4).

THEY BUILT GREAT TOWERS

Men build great towers which remain in the ruins of ziggurats, stepped pyramids with a place of worship at the top. One of these towers may have been built at Babel by Nimrod (10:8). Another ziggurat rose above the skyline of Ur of the Chaldees in the time of Abram.



At Babel man tried to raise himself to be like God. He built his 'tower' to defy God. Perhaps that is why God called Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldees and follow Him (12:1).

The Babel tower 'reached to the sun' or 'the heavens.' Men used ziggurats to worship the sun. Sun worship was very common among the peoples of the Middle East.

Even Judah's kings practiced ancient forms of sun worship (2 Kings 23:11).

Men built the tower of Babel because of : a) Pride - man thinks he can reach up to Heaven. b) They wanted to stay together. c) Vain glory - man thought he could rule creation without God. d) Sun worship.

God was not pleased. His answer was: "Let Us go down and see..." (1:27, 3:22; 18:2,21; 19:1). a) God came down from Heaven to judge the men of Babel (11:2-3). b) He changed their language and scattered them. c) He did not allow them to make a great name for themselves (11:4).

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

God did not destroy these peoples as He did in the flood. But the scope of His judgment was just as universal. He sent them great confusion. One day they were all talking the same language and working very hard. The work was going right along when suddenly, and without warning, a mason could not understand the man working next to him! And he couldn't tell what the other men were saying!

So the big building project at Babel came to a sudden stop. They could not find workmen who talked the same talk. Within a few days they left the building site and began to look for new places to grow crops.

TALK ABOUT: Until the time of Babel, man recognized ONE God. The God of creation revealed Himself to

BABEL – BABYLON

Babel (Babylon) was called "the mother of harlots" (Rev 17:1-18). Here men made great advances in science and math. Here began: a) The duodecimal system of measure that we use today. b) The science of math. c) The twin sciences of astronomy and astrology. d) Codes of law. e) The cuneiform writing. Wedge-shaped marks made in wet clay which was then baked in the sun.

GOD PLANNED IT

God planned creation before time began, for God knows no time. He is working out His plan now in the world and men's hearts. He will complete it in future ages (Eph 1:22-23; 5:27).

God's plan looks beyond time and space, beyond the boundaries of nations, even human civilization (Is 60:1-3).

The mind of God is back of all history. The record He gave us is not to satisfy curiosity or help scientific investigation. It is for man's spiritual benefit. The record stands only to bring us God's message.

But there is much more that we cannot see with the natural eye. There are x-rays and radio waves and magnetic waves, electricity and gravity.

God planted His moral law in men's hearts. We call this 'conscience.' God says that man can know Him, the one true God. He said man is "without excuse".... (Rom 1:20; 3:19).

TALK ABOUT 1. Why did God reveal Himself to man? 2. Why did God give us the Genesis record (2 Tim 3:15-17)? 3. How long will the Bible survive (Matt 24:35) 4. How can we understand God's Word (1 Cor 2:13-14)?

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

Men worship many gods of wood and stone, but there is only one living God. The Bible does not explain God. Those who want to find the one true God must "believe that He is and that He rewards those who...seek Him (Heb 11:6). Faith in God must come first.

GOD REVEALED HIMSELF

God chose to reveal Himself to men. We can see just a little of the greatness and the beauty of His work. God's creation is pleasing to the eye and satisfies the mind. God's blessing in sunshine and rain meets our need of food and fills our hearts with joy.

GENESIS HAS ONE THEME

The message of the Bible is one message, so Genesis has one theme: God created us and He wants us to obey Him.

Even though the books of the Bible were written by some 40 different people, and over a period of 1,600 years, this same message runs through the whole.

This makes us think that one person wrote Genesis. Moses was the greatest man of the Old Testament times. He was best able to write or edit the first five books of the Bible (Deut 31:24). Jesus said the things Moses wrote were true and that men should believe Moses' writings (Matt 19:4).

We can estimate when Moses

A man of science observed that there are four basic things in physics: time, space, substance and cause. We find all four in the first verse of Genesis: 1. "In the beginning..." - time. 2. "God created..." - the cause. 3. "The heavens..." - space. 4. "And the earth..." - matter. One can only marvel that the vast field of physical science can be captured in so few words!

lived from another record in the Bible, 1Kings 6:1. The fourth year of Solomon's reign was 418 years after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt (Ex 12:31-42).

THE NAMES OF GOD

The Bible writers used many names for God. In Genesis 1, the writer used 'Elohim', a plural noun. It stands for God's majesty and greatness. It also has the thought of God being three persons, a trinity.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew God as El-Shaddai, the Almighty God (Gen 17:1). Another name for God, 'Yahweh' or 'the LORD' was so holy the Hebrews did not say it, so the way they said it was lost (Lev 24:16).

Because the Hebrew language had no written vowels, just four letters (JHWH) stood for this name. They were probably said like 'Jahwe.' But the people always said 'Lord,' or 'Adonai.' Later, as Bible scrolls were copied, men added vowels, so we have the word 'Jehovah.'

TALK ABOUT 1. Why did God create the earth (Is 45:18)? 2. How did God reveal Himself to men and women? 3. Who was Moses?

ORDER IN CREATION

👉 **Now read – Genesis 1:1- 2 (Psalm 102:25-27)**

Genesis tells us that "In the beginning God created..." (1:1). By His own power, God created our wonderful world out of nothing. He created "the heavens and the earth" and everything that is in them.

Now the earth was without form and empty..." (1:2). God had created the earth, but it had no form. The heavens were empty and dark and there was water everywhere (Is 45:18).

"And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (1:2). The Holy Spirit, who is God, 'brooded' over the land and water to bring order and shape to it. God worked a design into the matter that He had created.

God's Spirit goes and comes in the earth. He is everywhere at once. In the Christian Church, the Spirit moves in the hearts of believers (Ps 85:6).

TALK ABOUT 1. What does the word 'create' mean (1:1)? 2. Why did God's Spirit 'move' over the waters (1:2)?

"LET THERE BE LIGHT!"

👉 **Now read – Genesis 1:3- 5**

And God said, "Let there be Light" (1:3). The voice of God is the force behind all things (Ps 33:6,9; 148:5; Heb 11:3).

People say, 'God created light out of darkness.' But God IS light. He dwells in light that no man can come near (1 Tim 6:16).

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

"In the most fateful manner, the history of the world has followed this prophecy. In Palestine, through the Semitic Jews, especially under Joshua, the Canaanites were destroyed (Jos 9:21-27; Jud 1:28-30). "The lowest of slaves" (9:25), means the lowest of them all. This was partly fulfilled when Joshua made the Gibeonites slaves (Jos 9:27). Also in the whole conquest of Canaan. The same was true under Solomon (1 Kings 9:20-21). And the North African peoples were conquered by Japhetic Persians, Greeks and Romans" (*Eric Sauer, "The Dawn of World Redemption" p. 76*).

TALK ABOUT 1. Did the order established in creation continue after the flood (8:22)? 2. Are the billions of people on the earth today part of this order? 3. Does sin make man's moral failure certain? 4. How can men have peace with God? 5. Man lost part of God's image. Can it be restored (2 Cor 3:18)?

Only God can give life. Life is the most sacred thing God created. God warned, "for blood shed I will demand an accounting" (9:5). If that accounting is not made in this life, it will be made later. No murderer will escape God's judgment.

All blood pointed forward to the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ (Heb 9:26).

Christ would make the perfect sacrifice for man's sin by shedding His own blood once for all time and for all men (Heb 9:12).

THE ORDER OF THE NATIONS

👉 **Now read – Genesis 11:1 - 11:9 and 10:1 - 10:32**

We believe Genesis chapter 11 comes, in time, before chapter 10.

After Noah and his sons and their wives left the Ark, they had families. These families grew into clans, then tribes, then people groups. Chapter 10:1 begins the record of this growth of civilization and spread of people groups.

Once again God told mankind to 'fill the earth' (9:1). But these first people groups moved eastward to the area of Babylon and stayed together. One language helped them do this.

THE BABEL TOWER

👉 **Now read – Genesis 11:1-8**

"Now the whole world had one language..." Many years passed and memories of the flood quickly faded. Men moved eastward. "They found a plain in Shinar (Babylon) and settled there" (11:1-2). The 'whole earth' may mean the area where they lived, later called Mes'-o-po-ta-mi-a.

The peoples who moved eastward to the area of Babylon, stayed together to be safe. Their one language helped them plan big works. They developed new ways of building and learned to make bricks. They baked bricks in the sun and used tar for mortar. Before this men lived in tents.

did it become fermented? We don't know!

"Noah became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent" (Gen 9:21; Prov 23:30-32). This was a new temptation for Noah and his family. One that changed societies ever since. Noah was 'uncovered' to his shame. The enemy found a way of 'uncovering' Noah's human nature. Noah was a sinner by birth and a sinner by action, just as we are.

Ham made fun of his father's nakedness. Japheth and Shem did not. They covered their father's shame.

Maybe Ham had been drunk at some time himself. It is easier for those taken in a fault to rejoice over the same fault in others. God warns us not to make fun of sin (Prov. 14:9). And not to talk about the sins of others, our parents or anyone else. God's command is to "honour your parents" not make fun of them (Ex 20:12).

The Bible tells us that our 'flesh' and faith are weak. When Jesus comes again, will He find faith in the earth (Like 18:8)?

Man is a failure! Sin in mankind guaranteed failure, "that men might seek the Lord."

After the flood, God blessed Noah with a long life and much peace. Even in this life, God rewards His faithful servants.

NOAH AWOKE AND PROPHESED

👉 Now read – Genesis 9:24-29

When Noah woke up, he spoke a curse on Ham's offspring. The curse was not on Ham. Noah refused to speak Ham's name. At the same time Noah spoke a blessing on Shem: "Blessed be the Lord the God of Shem" (9:26). Did God show Noah that Shem's line would have more faith than his brothers? Or that Shem had believed in the God of his father and grandfather?

"May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem" (Gen 9:27). Japheth was to be blessed as he worshipped the God of Shem. This prophecy is one of the greatest in the whole Bible.

Japheth is joined to this blessing in the words, "May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem" (9:27). The sad thing is that despite this prophecy, by the time of Terah and Abram, Shem's descendants seem to have become idolaters (Jos 24:2).

We know that the flood did not change Noah's heart or the hearts of his wife, his sons and his daughters-in-law (Gen 8:21). They may have had more faith in God than they had before the flood, but that was all. Man's heart, in it's fallen state, was the same.

So the 'covenant' God made with Noah was not based on any change in his heart, but on the mercy and grace of God. And God left the way open for man to 'freely choose' to come to Him. Man must come in faith and obedience for salvation, cleansing, comfort.

Every prophet or person who had a vision of Almighty God saw this 'light of His presence.' Ezekiel said it looked like molten brass! When metal is heated it becomes 'red hot' and melts. Then it give off a bright light. This was the only thing Ezekiel could think of to describe his vision of God (Ezek 1:13-14).

EVENING AND MORNING

God created the sun which gives us physical light. Almost all life needs physical light. We cannot see without light. The 'light' God puts into our hearts and minds when we trust Him is much more wonderful (Eph 1:18). So light, in the Bible, is a symbol or picture of spiritual life and blessing. The Bible calls this 'the light of life' (2 Sam 22:29; Ps 49:19).

There was a morning as the first day dawned on the new earth and the sun rose over the trees.

God gave the light a name - 'day.' The darkness He called 'night.' And that ended the first day in the history of this world.

God set the sun and the moon in the heavens to 'rule' the physical light. To have order in the universe we must have rule. Time was governed by sun and the moon.

We say, "Time marches on." God said, "There was evening, and there was morning" - a beginning and an ending to each creative act.

Darkness was allowed to stay in certain places like space (John 1:5). Darkness will remain until the end of time. Then night and space will disappear (Rev 21:25;22:5). God said the light was good, but not the dark.

THE SIX 'DAYS' OF CREATION

👉 Now read – Genesis 1:6-13

We don't know if the 'days' of Genesis chapter 1 followed one another in time or if that is just the way this early record was written. Some people take these as days of 24 hours, but that is not necessary. If we take the order of days as random or literary, it makes it easier to bring the creation of the sun and moon

TWO KINDS OF LIGHT

Jesus said to His followers, "You are the Light of the world" (Matt 5:14). Jesus did not mean the light we see, but their holy lives. God had filled their lives with His light and they would live as God's witnesses in a dark world.

When men come to God in faith, they comes out of spiritual 'darkness' into the 'Light of God.' Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" (Eph 5:8a; Col 1:12-13).

God put a clock in our minds, also. Our subconscious mind seems to control this clock. Some are able to use it to advantage. It is a fragile time piece which can get messed up when we move quickly across time zones. This is called jet lag! Crossing time zones quickly upsets our 'clock's' rhythm.

forward to the time God commanded, "Let there be light" (1:3).

The record is given in two sets of three days. For three days God spoke and creation came into being. In the second three days God separated and gathered the elements and forces. He did all this without any effort.

When God gathered the waters, the dry land appeared. The land formed or came up "out of the water" and stood above it (2 Peter 3:5).

God set limits or boundaries to the oceans (Jer 5:22).

God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters..." (1:6). Many people think the expanse is the atmosphere that separates the moisture in the air from the waters of the seas.

TALK ABOUT 1. What are the two ways the word 'light' is used in the Bible? 2. What did God do on the first 'day' of creation (1:3)? 3. What tells us that God wanted order in His creation? 4. How did God 'fix' the seasons of the year? 5. Where there is no worship of God there is no 'light' of God's Spirit __ True __ False?

GOD FILLED CREATION

☛ **Now read – Genesis 1:14-25**

In the second three days, God filled the universe. He created sun, moon and stars, fish and life in the oceans and animals and man.

When you see the moon, the tides, the sunrise, God is showing you that He is Sovereign. He does as He pleases. He thought of and created all these wonderful things!

God created many of every kind - "great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing."

God finished His creative acts and blessed the work of His hands. He saw all that He had made and it was very good (1:31).

MAN MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

☛ **Now read – Genesis 1:26- 28**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in our image...and let them rule..." (1:26). "Let there be..." was God's word to the matter He had created, but now He said, "Let Us make..." 'Us' may mean the Trinity or God as three persons. Or more

GOD REVEALED HIMSELF:

God revealed Himself as three persons yet one God. God revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, His Son. Jesus was born a man like us, with a body like ours. He came to save us from the bondage of sin and to restore the "image of God" which man lost because of sin.

Jesus Christ was God's last word to man (Heb 1:1). There will not be any greater revelation than came in Jesus Christ. He was the last and greatest revelation of the nature and character of God (John 1:14).

At Pentecost, God revealed Himself as Spirit (Acts 2:4). The Holy Spirit is God. He was there at creation (Gen 1:2). When we are saved the Spirit of God come to dwell in our hearts (Rom 8:9).

GOD'S PROMISE TO NOAH

☛ **Now read – Genesis 9:1-7**

After the flood we read of: a) A new covenant with Noah and the earth (8:20-22). b) New commands (9:1-7). c) A new relationship (9:8-17). d) A new temptation (9:18-23). e) A final word (Gen 9:24-29).

The order God had set in creation would be the same. We learn from this that God provides for us in all seasons.

Noah's three sons had large families and spread out over the land. You may have a map in your Bible giving some idea of where they scattered (Gen 9:17). Among the hundreds of sons and daughters born to Noah, only three sons are named: Shem, Ham and Japheth" (6:10).

God's command to Noah and his sons was the same as it had been to Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth" (9:1).

This is a command with the blessing of families. God always had 'family' in mind – man, woman and children.

The animals from the Ark would still fear man. God told Noah and his family, "The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth..." (Gen 9:2). God told him, "They are given into your hands" (9:2b). Noah would eat the meat of animals, but not the blood. Why? Because "the life is in the BLOOD," God said (Lev. 17:11), and He is the giver of life.

God's image stayed in man after the flood. This is very important!

GOD SET A SIGN IN THE CLOUDS

☛ **Now read – Genesis 9:8-17**

God made a 'covenant' or agreement with Noah. God was saying, 'I now establish with you (the holy remnant) and your families yet to be born, a new day of opportunity.'

Agreements between two groups were always 'signed' and God signed His covenant with a rainbow of hope and promise (Heb 6:17). We may take it as our 'sign', too. The thicker and darker our 'clouds of trouble,' the brighter God's promises shine through!

The rainbow told of the triumph of God over the tempest, over the flood and death. The victory of divine love over wrath pointed forward to the triumph of Jesus the Son's victory over death (1 Cor 15:26).

NOAH WAS A MAN OF THE EARTH

☛ **Now read – Genesis 9:18-23**

Noah was a farmer-preacher before he began to build the Ark. Now he went back to farming. He tilled the soil and planted vineyards. After his grape vines bore fruit, Noah had a day of feasting and he drank old, fermented wine. How

closed..." (Gen 8:2) The rain stopped and the water drained off the earth. The Ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat, in Armenia, east of Turkey.

After 40 days Noah opened the window at the top of the Ark and let out first a raven, then a dove. Why did Noah wait 40 days? Because he waited for God's instructions, for God's answer (Prov 3:5-6).

The dove came back with an olive leaf, but Noah waited seven more days and sent the dove out again (8:12). When the dove did not return, Noah removed 'the covering' or roof. Noah saw that the land had dried out.

THE EARTH BECAME DRY AGAIN

👉 Now read – Genesis 8:14-22

Noah stepped out of the Ark onto dry ground. It was like a 'resurrection.' The earth had passed through death and come out into new life. Noah looked out on a brand new world.

"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord...and sacrificed burnt offerings on it" (Gen 8:20). The word 'altar' means 'lifting up of the sacrifice' or going up to God. The sweet smell pleased God, just as a holy life pleases Him (Ps 95:6-7). God accepted Noah's thank offering because Noah did it God's way.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

God's covenant with Noah was a promise made to all creation. Noah was named because he stood for a new beginning. Noah stood at the head of the 'new creation' just as Adam did the first creation.

Noah became the 'head' of a new generation of people (9:8-17), and God gave him a covenant sign. God put a rainbow in the clouds!

God gave Noah a promise: "As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold, heat, summer, winter, day and night will never cease" (8:22).

If Noah had great ideas about beginning a 'new world order' with peace and plenty for all, God's soon shattered them with the words:

"Every inclination of man's heart is evil from childhood" (Gen 8:21; John 2:25).

TALK ABOUT 1. God is just. He left the door of the Ark open for any who would enter. Does man choose his own destiny (Deut 30:19-20)? 2. Do those who obey God enjoy His special blessing?

GOD'S IMAGE IN MAN

Only Christ can restore that part of God's image that was lost when Adam and Eve sinned.

God can even restore lost years. Where we have fallen, He can make us fruitful again (Joel 2:25).

likely God spoke to the hosts of Heaven who obeyed His word (3:22; 11:7; Ps 8:5; Is 6:8).

Trees and animals cannot know God, so He created human beings who could know Him. God wanted a relationship with intelligent beings, not robots. He wanted persons He could love - a family who would love Him!

ONLY GOD IS IMMORTAL

God "breathed into his (the man's) nostrils the breath of life, and the man (the adam) became a living being" (2:7). Only God has immortality and lives forever, but He gave His immortality to man. He breathed His eternal life into mortal clay, creating an immortal being that would live for ever.

There was something very intimate and personal about God's act in creating Adam. As an artist signs his painting, so God stamped His imprint on His own work. God made man 'in His likeness or image' (1:27).

MAN IS NOT LIKE THE ANIMALS

"In His own image..." (1:27) means that humans are very different to the rest of creation: a) Man is a rational being. He can reason and plan (Is 1:18).

b) Man was created to rule over creation (1:28). c) In his moral conscience, man was created righteous. He had a right relationship to God (Eph 4:24). d) In his three-part nature - body, soul, spirit - man is like God (1 Thes 5:23). e) God gave man an immortal spirit. Man's spirit will live for ever.

Only some of God's 'image' was put upon man. We could think of it as the image of a king on a coin, or the likeness of one's face in an artist's drawing. The 'image' is not the person, but a likeness to that person.

Both men and women were created "in His (God's) own image..." The Hebrew word 'man' is generic and means both man and woman (1:27).

God planned work for the man.

GOD AND THE UNIVERSE

The God of eternity spoke the word and creation and life appeared. He decreed creation "according to the plan of Him who works out everything in...the purpose of His will" (Eph 1:11; Rom 11:36).

This world we live in is God's world (Ps 50:11-12). He made it perfect. He sustains and upholds it. No earthly power or authority is outside His control (Is 44:6).

It is true that "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it..." (Ps 24:1) But God is above and beyond the universe.

God's Kingdom is spiritual, not material: a) Jesus announced the Kingdom (Mark 1:15). b) Paul told the Christians it is spiritual, not material (Rom 14:17). c) Jesus told Pilate, "My Kingdom is not of this world..." (John 18:36).

This universe is here only for a time. One day God will wrap it up and put it away forever, as a man puts away the clothes he no longer wears (Ps 102:26; 2 Peter 3:10).

He told Adam, “subdue the earth and rule over created things” (1:28). Man must use created things for his own good (Acts 17:26). And without work, man is not satisfied.

TALK ABOUT 1. What did God create on days 4,5 and 6? 2. God created man to.....Him? 3. What made man different to all the animals (1:27)? 3. What was the likeness (image) that God put on man? 4. Was God’s image on woman also? 5. What did God say about the things He created (1:31)? 6. What is the theme of chapter 1?

GOD BLESSED THEM

“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number...” (1:28). God blessed Adam and Eve and He told them what to do. Both were equally responsible before God.

“Be fruitful and increase in number,” God told them, “fill the earth and subdue it” or rule over it. God made man to need to work, to raise children and to have discipline in his life.

Could they rule over the earth alone? No! They needed children to help them. Some men don’t want children! Some women don’t want children! Some governments don’t want children! But God said, “Fill the earth...”

To have children is God’s plan and part of His blessing. Nothing else can take the place of children in our lives or make us truly happy. Family is a blessing of God.

Our rule over creation reflects God’s image. “Subdue” = stamp on the created things. The Hebrew may mean ‘guard it’ against hostile powers. Rule over the creatures = tread down this creation, I have put it into your care.

Later God gave them this command: “Work it and take care of it” (2:15). This was necessary if the beasts of the field were not to get the upper hand on the earth. Also man must work at growing and gathering food. Adam was a gardener and a gatherer.



TALK ABOUT 1. Did Adam need anything more? 2. Did God tell him what work to do? 3. What is it in man that enables him to hear God speak? Do all men have this? 4. What is the difference between working for yourself and working for God? 5. How does God expect us to ‘rule over the earth?’ 6. God has given us His blessings to share with others ___ True ___ False?

MAN WAS TOLD TO BE HEAD

Man was told to rule over, or be the leader of his family and of all created things. Adam is pictured as ‘king of the earth.’

Some Christians think to govern or ‘rule over’ others is worldly and not a Christian activity. Paul said, “Do all to the glory of God...” (1 Cor 10:31). The

No! The seven days were wasted! Men and women went on “eating, drinking and making sport.”

We believe God shut the door of the Ark (7:11-12). God made sure Noah and his family were safe. Up to that moment, the door of the Ark stood open and God called, “WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME” (Rev 22:17). As soon as God shut Noah and his family in the Ark, the rain began. It came down in ‘bursts’ or ‘spouts.’ The rain did not stop for forty days and forty nights.

TALK ABOUT 1. Did God warn men of a coming flood? How did He do this? 2. Why is God so patient with sinners (2 Peter 3:9)? 3. What is going to happen to this earth in the end (2 Peter 3:10)? 4. Does God want His ‘sons and daughters’ to be different to the rest of the people? What did He do to make this possible?

The story of the flood was probably reported just as Noah saw it. Evidence of a vast flood abounds in the region. Many people groups have ‘flood stories’ in their oral or written histories. The Gilgamesh story is one that was written on clay tablets a very long time ago.

We believe the waters covered the highest mountains to 20 feet and that ALL LIFE, except that kept safe in the Ark, died (7:20). Jesus said, ‘Take note of those days, for in days like those of Noah the Son of Man will come (Matt 24:37). Jesus will come! again!

A FLOOD ON THE EARTH

👉 **Now read – Genesis 7:17-24**

The Ark bobbed around on the surface of the water which covered the earth (7:18). The mountains were covered with water “to a depth of more than twenty feet” and all living creatures died (7:20-23). We cannot fail to notice the force of these words: a) “Every living thing...” (Gen 7:21). b) “Everything on land that had the breath of life...” (7:22). c) “Every living thing on the face of the earth...” (7:23). d) “Only Noah was left, and those with him in the Ark” (7:23).

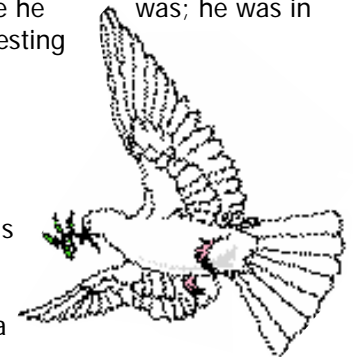
Noah waited for 150 days. He didn’t know where he was; he was in God’s care. This is a great example of man’s faith resting in God.

GOD REMEMBERED NOAH

👉 **Now read – Genesis 8:1-12**

“But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock that were with him in the Ark” (Gen 8:1). ‘God remembered Noah!’ He remembers us in the midst of our trials and temptations and ‘opens a way of escape’ for us (1 Cor 10:13).

“Now the springs of the deep and the flood gates of the heavens had been



God made a way to save the 'seed' of the woman. This 'seed' was the line of faith in the earth.

TALK ABOUT 1. What were the people like in the time of Noah? 2. What did Jesus say they were doing (Luke 12:19)? 3. Name some things that are the same today? 4. Why did Noah find favour with God (6:8)?

NOAH WALKED WITH GOD

👉 **Now read – Genesis 6:9-22**

"But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen 6:8). Noah had faith in God's promise. The writer called Noah "an heir of the righteousness that is by faith" (Heb 11:7).

Noah spoke against the evil around him. He pleaded with his world of sinners (Gen 18:22-23). Noah had heard God say: "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth..." (Gen 6:7).

God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people...so make yourself an ark of cypress wood...this is how you will build it..." (Gen 6:13-14).

These words probably began the countdown noted in Genesis 6:3, but men scoffed at Noah's preaching and took no notice of God's warnings.

The Ark was designed by God. Noah's 'ship' was the ideal size: 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. God gave Noah the very best size 'ship' to build.

In 1609 the Dutch Mennonite Peter Jansen had a ship built to the same size as the Ark, but one third as big. It was found to be very stable and carried "one third more cargo" than any ship of that size.

GOD CALLED IN LOVE

👉 **Now read – Genesis 7:1-16**

God caused the animals and birds to come to Noah. He did not have to go out and catch them. Then Noah and his wife and his sons and their wives went into the Ark, 8 persons in all (1 Peter 3:20). God said, "Go into the Ark!" That was God's command. It says to us that God would go into the Ark with Noah.

A loving God gave men a last seven days to repent (7:4). Would another person accept God's call to be saved? A child? A teenager?

NOAH 1. He walked with God! The are simple yet profound words. 2. His world was corrupt and filled with violence. 3. He was married and had three sons. 4. His three sons are named, Japheth was the eldest son. 5. Noah communed with God and heard God speak to him. 6. Noah obeyed God in all he did (6:22). 7. Noah built the Ark that saved 'the believing remnant'. 8. He and his family (8 persons) survived the flood. 9. After the flood, Noah built an altar and worshipped God.

God's call through Noah to the men of his day is like the 'call of the gospel' to sinners. Christ is our ark, already prepared. When the waters of judgment and death come upon us, we can go to Him and be safe. The Ark may also be a type of the Christian Church. Christ's Church will be born up above the waters of judgment in that Last Day, and be kept safe.

Bible does not separate a secular work from a work done for God.

Adam and Eve had dominion until they sinned against God. When they sinned, they lost this dominion to Satan. Now Satan 'rules' over all those who do not love God. Jesus called him "prince of this world" (John 12:31).

When we trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour from sin, He breaks Satan's dominion over us. He does this for each person who has faith. All who are joined to Jesus by faith share in His victory over Satan (1 Cor 15:57). As 'soldiers of Christ,' Christians take and hold territory taken from Satan. They raise Christ's banner over their homes and neighbourhoods. Their lives of courage and joy say to all Satan's hosts, "Christ is victor!" (2 Tim 2:3). In heavenly realms there is no doubt that God's purpose is fulfilled in the Christian Church!

TALK ABOUT 1. Why do men doubt that God created the earth? 2. How does belief in creation make it easier to believe in miracles? 3. If everything God created was good, why are there so many bad things in the world? 4. Why are we here on the earth and what should we be doing? 5. Can we walk and talk with God like Adam did? 6. In what ways is man made in God's image? 7. God told Adam and Eve to rule over the earth __ True __ False?

THE EARTH WAS AT PEACE

👉 **Now read – Genesis 1:29-30**

God made man and woman for Himself. He made everything for His own pleasure and to provide for the man and creatures He had created (Rev 4:11).

Everything that lived on the face of the earth ate seeds, fruits, nuts and green plants. The lions ate grass, too! No blood was spilled on the ground and all creation was at peace with itself!

This was God's plan from the beginning.

GOD MADE EVERYTHING MAN NEEDED

👉 **Now read – Genesis 1:31 - 2:1**

God is a good God. He only does good. God was "well pleased" with His creation and He said it was "very good" (1:31), or exactly as He had planned it. Created things were "completed, in all their vast array..." (2:1).

GOD-LIKENESS IN MAN

There are five main areas in which man bears the image of his Creator-God. 1. In his nature and being. Man has a mind that can reason, plan and create. 2. He can govern and rule over created things. 3. He has a free will to make choices. 4. In his conscience man knows right from wrong so that God says man is 'without excuse' (Rom 1:20).

God planted a conscience in every man and woman as a part of His holiness (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10).

5. Man is like God in that he is a three-part being - a body, a soul and a spirit (1 Thes 5:23).

It is hard for anyone to imagine the vast Amazon River basin in South America. The tall trees that flower above the jungle. The monkeys and birds that live in their branches. The hundreds of creatures that live on the ground beneath! And the hundreds more that live in the rivers and swamps!

Men were made "to dwell upon the face of the earth." That should be a warning against man building colonies in space (Acts 17:26).

AN IMMORTAL SOUL

☛ Now read – Genesis 2:2- 7 (1 John 3:2)

God always was and He always will be! He is without beginning and without end. He lives forever!

God created man "a living being" with an immortal soul. Man's body will die, but his spirit will live on for ever (Eccl 12:7). Man is made in God's image!

So we see man "crowned with glory and honour..." (Heb 2:6-8). He was bright and shining, like a coin that has never been used.

This was the age of man's innocence. Man was like a child. He had to look to God and depend on his heavenly Father for everything.

MAN CAN KNOW GOD BY HIS SPIRIT

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt 28:9). He created man a three-part being like Himself. Man is body, soul and spirit (1 Thes 5:23).

We understand God by our spirit. We understand who we are because we have a soul. We understand what the world is all about because our bodies have

TWO SIDES OF GOD-LIKENESS IN MAN

Like many doctrines in the Bible, the doctrine of man's God-likeness has two sides: an image or likeness that can be lost and one that cannot be lost.

One part of Adam's God-likeness was lost when he sinned. This could only be won back for man by Christ saving us from our sins (Col 3:10; Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 15:49; 2 Cor 3:18; Eph 4:24).

Another part of this 'image' can still be recognized in fallen man. God appointed man to be, for all eternity, an indestructible personality, with self-consciousness, understanding, reason, moral judgment and freedom to choose (Gen 9:6; 1 Cor 11:7; Acts 17:28; Jas 3:9).

Man 'rules' the earth by means of these faculties. This 'image of God' is the essential part of human nature, without which man would simply cease to be man.

Actually, and inwardly, this image of God is restored as a man accepts the plan of redemption (2 Cor 3:17-18).

Once saved from sin, a man's life must reflect God's moral nature in holiness and love. This is the 'image of God' as we possess it in a most personal way.

He did not live like the rest of the people around him. "He was no more because God took him away" to Heaven (5:24). These words are explained by the New Testament writer (Heb 11:5).

Enoch was a man at peace with Him. Such a man has victory over sin and death (Col 1:21-22).

Noah and his sons are next in the record. Some think Japheth was the eldest (10:21). Shem is put first here because God would bless him with His covenant blessing (9:26). Some say Shem was the eldest.

TALK ABOUT 1. Without God's promise, where would we be (3:15)? 2. We are all created 'in God's image.' What spoiled it? 3. Can we gain 'paradise' in this life (1 Tim 6:6)? 4. What does God want of us that Enoch gave Him?

JUDGMENT IN THE EARTH

☛ Now read – Genesis 6:1-7

There were men of great size and strength living in the earth and they became heroes for their wickedness! (6:6; Num 13:33). They were lost and without God.

"The earth was corrupt in God's sight and full of violence" (6:11). "The Lord was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain" (6:6).

Three Cainite women are named, but not one in the line of Seth. The three names were: Ada which means 'ornament' or 'beauty,' Zilla, 'the shady', maybe because of her long hair and Naama, 'loveliness.'

Sethite men were called 'sons of God.' Some of them married Cainite women and mixed the line of faith with the godless world (6:4).

Some say these words 'sons of God' mean that 'fallen angels' lived with humans. Most don't believe this because of Jesus words' to the Pharisees. Jesus said, "When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in Heaven" (Mark 12:25). Spirit beings cannot join in sexual relations with human beings.

"MY SPIRIT WILL NOT STRUGGLE WITH MAN"

The Lord God said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be one hundred and twenty years" (6:3). The verb "contend" can mean 'act in', 'rule in' or 'strive with.' God's Spirit was at work, but man refused to listen or take heed.

The period of God's grace toward man would be cut short. From the time God announced this judgment until it finally came would be 120 years.... the period Noah preached to the people (1 Pet 3:20).

God's Spirit called to men to repent, but they did not. Only in Noah which means 'rest' did God find 'a righteous man' (6:9).

God sent a flood because man's wickedness was so great. At the same time,

GOD WAS NOT WITHOUT WITNESS

☛ Now read – Genesis 4:26 - 5:32

Christ would have come through Abel's family line, if Abel had lived! Satan tried to stamp out the godly line of men, but failed. Seth continued the line of faith. He and his son Enosh, "called on the name of the Lord" (4:26). This may mean 'he proclaimed the name of the Lord.'

These were the men of faith in the earth. They preached about God and called men to repent. But men and women did not repent. Men and women became more violent and wicked. No one was safe.

And God waited in grace and with patience (2 Pet 2:5). God knew all about the wickedness in the earth.

A RECORD OF ADAM'S LINE

"These are the generations of Adam" (5:1). The Genesis story repeats itself here. This was a very common way of writing at the time.

Most important is the record of the line of faithful men who lived then.

These were: Adam (5:1-5), Seth (5:6-8), Enosh (5:9-11), Cainan (5:12-14), Ma-hal'-a-lal (5:15-17), Jared (5:18-20), Enoch (5:21-24), Me-thu'-sel-ah (5:25-27), Lamech (5:28) and Noah (5:29-32). Many names are similar to those in 4:17-24.

They all lived very long lives. Later, life spans were much shorter. Methuselah lived the longest. In Hebrew his name means "it will come." Bible scholars think the flood started the day he died.

"Adam had a son in his own likeness" (5:3) However, the 'image of God' had not vanished from his sons and daughters.

So man has passed on to his children by chromosome and gene, the divine image. Even so, it was greatly blurred by sin (NIV notes on Gen 5:5).

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

"Enoch walked with God...." (5:22). "To walk with God is to set God always before us, and to act as those who are always under His eye." (Matthew Henry).

To carry out or calling to be 'priests unto God,' we must 'walk' with Him every day (1 Sam 2:30,35; Zec 3:7).

Enoch's life was filled with true religion, which is holiness (1 Pet 1:15). When all the earth was full of sin and men fought and raped and murdered, God still had His witnesses (Acts 14:17).

God had warned men of judgment to come. God has always warned us (6:13). Through Joseph He warned of the seven-year famine in Egypt (41:30). Through Moses God warned Pharaoh of the ten plagues that would come on Egypt (Ex 7:1). Through Jonah He warned the city of Nineveh (Jonah 1:2;3:4).

five senses - seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling. God loves all His creation, but He lives with those who choose to love and obey Him (1 John 1:3). He has a perfect will for each life (Job 33:4). We can resist His plan, or disobey His commands, or give Him only a part of our lives. When we do this, we spoil His plan for us and must accept less than His perfect will for us.

THE SEVENTH DAY

☛ Now read – Genesis 2:2-3

"By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work" (2:2). Later God called the seventh day 'holy.'

God stopped creating. It took God no effort to create the heavens and the earth, so we don't believe God got tired and had to rest. The creation was finished, perfect, bathed in full sunlight and sparkling clean!

'Sabbath' (2:3), means a day of 'holy rest' and 'holy work.' The word 'Sabbath' is not in this verse, but the Hebrew verb for 'rested' is the origin of the noun Sabbath. Ex 20:11 quotes the first half of the verse and uses the word 'Sabbath' for 'rested.'

God did not need 'a Sabbath rest,' but man does. God calls man to a weekly Sabbath rest, a time of worship. Then man remembers, with thankful heart, how much he needs his Creator - the One who "gives all men life and breath and everything else" (Acts 17:25).

TALK ABOUT 1. Name the three parts of man. 2. What was God's plan for man and woman? 3. Does man need a Sabbath rest?

A SEVEN-DAY WEEK

God stamped the seven-days of creation on man's daily life. Sabbaths are as old as the world. Men of faith kept the Sabbath even before the flood.

No man can neglect God's command to rest on the Sabbath without hurting his body, his mental

A SABBATH REST

Sin broke the rest God planned for all men. Only after man sinned did God make Sabbath-keeping a law (Ex 20:8-11).

Now man has lost all sense of 'rest.' When God saves us, He puts His rest in our spirits (Matt 11:28). We want to honour and worship Him by resting from your work one day out of seven.

"These are the generations of..." If you read these words as a colophon (a colophon was a number of wedge-shaped marks in cuneiform writing that linked several clay tablets in a series) it can become a tool to divide Genesis (Youngblood).

We can divide Genesis into primeval history (1:1 - 11:26) and patriarchal history (11:27 - 50:26) This colophon, "the generations of..." occurs five times in each section: In Section 1. at 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1 and 11:10. In Section 2. 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1 (repeated at 36:9 for emphasis) 37:2 In this case 2:3 must be taken as the conclusion of the previous record.

health and his happiness.

We disregard the 'Sabbath of God' at our peril (Col 3:16).

A man in fellowship with God will keep the Sabbath (Heb 4:9). A man without God will find other ways to use the day. The Sabbath is either a 'weariness' (Amos 8:5) or a 'delight' to the people (Is 58:13).

Ezra the priest claimed that 'a Sabbath of rest' was a special revelation to Israel. Sabbath keeping was part of the Law given to Moses. (Neh 9:14)

Jesus Christ offers mankind 'a new and living way' way into divine rest. This is the 'Sabbath' of eternal rest in Heaven for the believer (Heb 4:1).

THE GENERATIONS OF...

👉 Now read – Genesis 2:4-17

"This is the account of..." (2:4) Older versions of the Bible used the word 'generations' which has the meaning of 'family history.'

Chapter 1 was written from God's point of view. It tells of His work in creation. Chapter 2 shows man at the center of God's world: 1. Man toward God - a living soul (spiritual dimension). 2. Man toward creation - a human body (physical dimension). 3. Man toward fellow man - a relationship designed by God. 4. Man's service - to cultivate and guard the garden. 5. Man's worship - the Sabbath rest.

A NEW NAME FOR GOD

"The Lord God formed the man from the dust..." (2:7). This is a great verse telling us how God created man. In this verse we see a new name for God, 'Elohim, the Lord God,' the God of power and creation (2:4).

The LORD, (Hebrew YHWH, Yahweh) is the personal or covenant name of God. This name shows God's relationship to man as man's Redeemer. The name means 'the God who keeps covenant.'

TALK ABOUT 1. What did God do on the seventh day? 2. What did God tell man to do on the Sabbath? 3. Can we enjoy God's rest (the Sabbath) on any day of the week? 4. How can man enjoy God's blessing in the earth? 5. What does the word 'generations' mean? 6. What is the main ideas in Genesis chapter 2?

God's name, 'Redeemer,' implies a relationship or agreement between two parties. In any covenant or agreement, each party must commit to and fulfill his or her part.

God's covenant made a way for man to worship His Creator. Yahweh revealed His purposes to Adam and guaranteed He would do what He promised (Deut 7:9). Adam, too, must obey the terms of the agreement.

(Mat 24:37).

Cain made a new start. His city was the first we read of and a pattern for all civilizations built without God. He named the city after his son Enoch. Enoch may have been Cain's firstborn for Enoch means beginning.

THEY WERE NOT CAVE MEN

The Cainites grew more powerful and more numerous than the descendants of Seth who worshipped God (Luke 16:8). They were not cave men! Those in Cain's family turned to science, arts, and engineering. God gives men the 'brains' to understand great things. The advance of man's mind in knowledge and skill is part of God's plan. It is part of man's taking control, his dominion over the earth.

The Cainites broke God's marriage law (Gen 2:24). Under God's law a man would take one wife only, but the Cainite Lamech married two women.



The history of the Cainites began with murder and ended in praise of murder. Lamech's song is a song of victory by the sword (4:23-24). Human life was no longer sacred (9:5-6). There were no laws or courts, so Lamech was not punished for his murder of a man.

Three sons of Lamech played important roles as inventors: 1. Jabal, a Bedouin, followed a nomadic life style. He lived in tents. 2. Jubal, the musician, played the

harp and flute. 3. Tubal-Cain forged cutting tools and became the father of the metal workers.

Man's chief occupations in those days were farmer, tradesman, artist and soldier.

TALK ABOUT 1. What three questions did God ask Cain (4:6-7)? 2. Why did God not accept Cain's offering (1 John 3:12)? 3. What made Cain kill his brother? 4. Did God give Cain a chance to repent of his sin (4:9)? 5. Why did God put a mark on Cain (4:15)? 6. What became of farmer Cain's sons and daughters? 7. How was Cain punished for his sin (4:11-12)? 8. "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord (4:15). If men believed this and left the avenging to God, would the world would have peace?

MEN LIVED LONG LIVES

Why did people live such long lives before the flood? There were: a) No hereditary diseases. b) No pollutants in the blood - or parasites? c) No substances of abuse? d) No harmful rays from the sun? e) No factories putting our harmful chemicals. But we really do not know the answer.

CAIN MURDERED ABEL

☛ Now read – Genesis 4:8-12

"Come to the field," Cain said to Abel. In the field, Cain attacked Abel and killed him. Abel was a righteous brother who did Cain no wrong. Cain should have protected his younger brother. Cain was 'of the world' and would kill his brother who was a man of faith. God had said, "I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your offspring and hers." It has ever been so!

Abel's death was the first record of anger and hatred. Cain struck at God Himself because God loved Abel.

"Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground," God said to Cain (4:10). Cain, you are guilty!

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain answered.

TALK ABOUT 1. How did Cain know what God required for worship? 2. Abel's blood cried for vengeance. (Heb 12:24) Christ's blood, spilled for us, cries for mercy.

CAIN HAD NO REGARD FOR GOD

☛ Now read – Genesis 4.13-16

God put a curse on Cain and he went out from the presence of the Lord (4:11). He became a vagabond in the earth. He wandered as a nomad, without peace of mind, a horror to himself and a terror to others (4:14).

God put a mark on Cain (4:15). Some suggest God's mark was like a tattoo. This is not likely because God commanded the people of Israel not to cut their bodies (Lev 19:18; Deut 14:1). You cannot have a tattoo without the cutting of flesh.

In God's mercy Cain was not cut off from life, but was given space to repent. God gives each of us many years, many chances, many calls!

Why does He do this? "He is patient, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9). However, sin brings its own reward: Cain was banned from God's presence. Sin separates man from God, and from those who love God (Is 59:2).

CAIN BUILT A CITY

☛ Now read – Genesis 4:17-26

Cain was a self-made man and he passed on the idea of redeeming oneself as a principle. He would win over the curse and make a way for man to develop his own abilities without God! Cain worked hard, but 'the Land of Nod' did not yield good crops, so he turned to business and became a builder. Some think of him as the 'creator' of civilization before the flood. He went to another country where no one knew him and built a city. This happened in the period before the flood

A GARDEN IN EDEN

☛ Now read – Genesis 2:8-12

"Now the Lord God planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there He put the man He had formed" (2:8). This place was not like the vast reaches of space. The garden was a cozy place, not a limitless expanse.

God wanted to talk with Adam and Eve. He came in the cool of evening. He also talked to Moses "face to face" (Ex 33:11).

Rivers were part of the landscape. This was necessary for the plants and trees to grow and produce. Man and animals both needed water. Much is said about water - water came up and the mists came down. We don't know for sure if rain fell at that time or not until the flood. We don't know for sure where the garden was (2:10-14). It is generally thought that Eden was in Mes-o-po-ta'-mi-a. Many think the flood changed the shape of the land.

The garden was fully grown and at its best. It would need work to keep it that way! It was not to be used to make 'a quick profit' but 'cared for' in a responsible way.

Outside the garden there were deserts and cold places as well as places of great beauty. So, also in the heavens. There are small and great stars, dull stars and very bright stars. There are planets, moons, galaxies and depths of space where there seems to be no end.

MAN AND CREATION

"The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth He has given to man" (Ps 115:16). God gave man the earth to 'care for' and enjoy. Adam was told to 'guard' it, 'work' it and make it produce.

"The Lord God commanded the man..." (2:16). Adam could choose to obey the Lord's command or not obey His command. God carefully guarded man's freedom. At the same time God gave man 'free will.' Man is free to choose to obey God's commands and to worship Him only.

GOD SET LIMITS

God set limits to teach Adam discipline. He knows what is good for man. God's laws are like guard rails on a high bridge. He gave them to us for our protection.

MAN'S SERVICE TO GOD

Man's service to God and creation had four parts: a) A place of service - the garden - then dominion over the earth. b) The persons in the service - the family with Adam as head. c) Activities of service - working the garden and worshipping God. d) Times of service - man worked six days then kept one day for rest and worship.

TO BE MATURE...

To grow in grace we must obey God and control self. Progress in the Christian life comes as we choose God's way and refuse evil. By learning to obey, Adam would grow closer to God and he would know more of God's will and purpose for him.

In his conscience man knows right from wrong. That is the reason man is 'without excuse' (Rom 1:20). Man's conscience is part of God's holiness implanted in every man and woman (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10).

TALK ABOUT 1. Why did God create man and woman (3:8)? 2. Did Adam know right from wrong? How was this? 3. In what ways did Adam and Eve serve God?

TWO TREES IN THE GARDEN

☛ **Now read – Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17**

God said to Adam, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for when you eat it you will surely die" (2:17).

The trees of the garden were for food and shelter, also for beauty (2:9). The two trees named in the Genesis record were real. The Tree of Life is a picture or symbol of Jesus. "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

"The Tree of Knowledge" was just the opposite to the Tree of Life. It was a symbol of man's pride as he lives without God (1 Cor 2:14).

IT IS BETTER TO OBEY

Adam heard God speak. He could understand language. Adam knew it was wrong to disobey God. If he obeyed, he would be blessed. If he disobeyed, death would overtake him (2:17).

Life or death? Which would it be? Adam had that choice.

CHOOSE LIFE

To enjoy life with God's blessing, we must obey His commands. Moses told the people of Israel, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live...for the Lord is your life..." (Deut 30:19-20).

How would the people of Israel 'choose life'? By obeying God's commands. That is how man chooses eternal life. We freely choose to follow Christ and live

If Adam had eaten the fruit of the Tree of Life, he would have had eternal life in union with God. He did not make that choice, but turned away to satisfy his own proud spirit and to please Eve.

By taking the fruit God told him not to eat, Adam developed his own manhood and wisdom apart from God. Instead of choosing the way of the Spirit, he chose the way of the 'flesh' (Rom 8:8).

Adam thought he could put the finishing touches to himself by being self-dependent. He could decide for himself. He could go forward or stop. He thought he was his own master!

From the day a man is born, he wants to be independent. He turns away from God. The Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov 14:12; 16:25).

paradise. He would do anything, he thinks, to get back to the 'perfect life' that he enjoyed in Eden.

The paradise of God remains, but no one can take 'fruit' from the Tree of Life, unless he repents. Then, God's forgiveness opens the way for God's Spirit and life to come and fill us.

The Revelation tells of eternal paradise. There doors are wide open and the sign above them reads, "Whosoever will may come" (Rev 22:2-5).

TALK ABOUT 1. Were God's words spoken to Adam to shame him or to help him repent (3:22; Ps 83:16)? 2. Why did God drive Adam and Eve out of the garden? 3. How can men and women enter the 'paradise of God'?

ANOTHER MAN

☛ **Now read – Genesis 4.1-7**

Eve said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man" (Gen 4:1).

Eve may have thought this man-child the 'seed' God had promised. Did she think, 'He will solve the problems I caused when I did not obey God'?

The people on the earth could have numbered one million before Cain died. Men and women had great physical strength and sharp minds, though darkened and twisted by sin.

The Bible does not tell much of the period from Adam to Noah.

EVIL SPREAD IN THE EARTH

The curse was everywhere. Evil spread through the earth like a wild fire. Sin in Adam's family is seen in the story of two brothers, Cain and Abel. Some think Cain was the first baby born to Eve (Gen 4:1). He was strong, proud and a type of natural man. Man is self-centered, proud, cynical and hard. He may appear very religious. He may go to feasts and give offerings. He may even seem to be humble. But he is like Cain until he repents and makes his peace with God.

THE RIGHT WAY TO WORSHIP GOD

God set down the right way to worship, the time, place and offerings. On a certain day, maybe a Sabbath, Abel brought the choice parts of a lamb to offer to God (4:3; Lev 3:16). Abel had faith in God alone (Heb 11:4).

God was pleased with Abel's offering. Matthew Henry thinks God showed His pleasure by sending fire which burned up Abel's sacrifice.

Cain brought "fruits of the soil" to offer to God (4:3). He worshipped God 'his way' (Lev 10:1-2). God did not accept Cain's offering.

"Cain was very angry and his face was downcast" (4:5). Cain was angry with his brother and angry at God. When we are angry we always need to ask, "What is making me angry?" We cannot blame anyone else. Anger comes from our own evil hearts!

of our own righteousness' which are worthless in His sight (Is 28:20).

Review: 1. Man was created in God's image (1:26). 2. God's image in man was broken by sin (Gal 3:22). 3. God's image is restored in man by the working of God's Holy Spirit (2 Cor 3:18).

TALK ABOUT 1. God tests us to prove our faith; Satan tempts us to make us fall (1 Peter 5:8). 2. How does God test us (Deut 8:2)? 3. Our sin nature makes us want to do our own thing. Paul said, "In my flesh dwelleth no good thing" (Rom 7:18). What did Paul mean? 4. Satan sets war in the hearts of his sons. They fight against the 'sons of light,' they persecute and kill. Who are Satan's 'sons'?

THEY WENT OUT

☛ Now read – Genesis 3:22-24

The King of Heaven spoke: "Man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil" (3:22). Hosts of angelic beings stood before His throne (Rev 5:11-12). There was great counsel in Heaven. Adam could still reach out his hand and take the fruit of the TREE OF LIFE and live forever as a sinner. God could never allow that to happen! "He (Adam) must not be allowed..." God commanded Cherubim to hurry the man and woman out of the garden and close the way back (3:24).

ADAM LOST GOD

So Adam went out into a world beyond the garden. Out into a life cut off from God. We can't imagine what that was like. It was an evil world, full of demon spirits because Satan is "the prince of this world" (John 12:31).

Adam did not want to leave the garden. God had to "drive him out!" (3:24). And he would never be able to go back. Cherubim with flaming swords guarded the way. Cherubim also guard God's throne in Heaven (1 Kings 6:23-28; Ezek 10:1).

Every time Adam looked back, or turned to do so, he was blinded by the light and glory of the angels (Cherubim) and the flaming sword that turned this way and that!

MAN LONGS FOR PARADISE

From that day until now, man has longed to get back into paradise. He is never satisfied with his work, his wife or his lot in life and he keeps knocking on the 'door' of

There are two very important covenants in the Bible. The Old Covenant is based on faith (15:6). This was a Covenant of promise. John the Baptist came as the last prophet of the Old Covenant. He prepared the way for the Messiah and the New Covenant in Christ (Luke 22:19).

The New Covenant spoke of possession. It filled out and perfected all that was written in the Old Covenant (13:14-17). In any relationship or covenant there are two parties. Each must have a chance to prove his/her loyalty. Under the Old Covenant, man had a chance to prove what he could do - with all the help God's grace could give him. In this man proved a failure. He did not trust God or keep His commands (Heb 3:12-19).

Under the New Covenant God proved what He could do with the man who receives the gospel and has God dwelling in him. God saves the man and changes him. The man, still feeble and without much faith, has the Holy Spirit present with him in a new way. God's Spirit gives the man all the strength he needs to overcome sin and temptation. From that day, the man wants to serve God and do His will.

according to God's word. God is the source of life - Christ is our TREE OF LIFE!

The garden itself was a picture of Heaven. Christ, the Tree of Life, was in the center of the garden of God. He is 'the river of life' that flows out from the throne of God. (Ps 46:4; Ezek 47:1; Rev 22:1).

God sent the Son so that we could have Life! (John 6:63). LIFE is the 'fruit' of Christ's work. He came that we might have life and that more abundantly (John 10:10).

MALE AND FEMALE

☛ Now read – Genesis 2:18-20a

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him'" (2:18).

Then God brought the animals to Adam, so that he could name them (2:20). God let Adam choose the names. There was no thought of him making a mistake or giving the wrong name.

Think of the animals coming to Adam. Perhaps they came in pairs: Mr and Mrs Elephant, Mr and Mrs Lion, Mr and Mrs Giraffe.

When the last pair of animals left Adam, he was alone. Was it then that God said, 'He is very lonely. I will make a helper for him?'

Genesis 1:27 tells us that God's creative purpose was 'male and female' man (Heb. adam). A helper for Adam would be different to any creature God had created, so Eve was always in God's plan.

Men and women are different from each other, but much more different to the animals which cannot reason or know God.

God gave man an eternal or ever-living spirit. He did not give the animals an ever-living spirit. Animals cannot know God!

TALK ABOUT 1. Was Adam and Eve equally responsible before God? 2. Why can't the animals know God? 3. Why did God leave man free to choose? 4. Adam and Eve saw creatures in the garden die ___ True ___ False? 5. Most people do not want God to rule over their lives ___ True ___ False? 6. People may want Jesus to be their Saviour, but not their

Christ slept in death so that the Christian Church might be born. So the Church is 'born' of Christ's very own Self, "bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh." He is the Head, even as Adam was the head of creation, and we, the called of all nations and tongues, are Christ's body (Rev 7:9).

MARRIAGE – CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Now read – Genesis 2:20b - 24

When God created 'man' - "male and female He created them" (Gen 1:27). The Hebrew word for 'man' is generic and means both sexes.

God spoke of two sexes making the complete 'man.' A woman and a man would make their 'kind' complete.

"So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep...God took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man..." (2:21-22). God acted while Adam slept. Man was to have no part in this work of creation.

A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER

After God created Eve, He "brought her to the man." In this 'marriage-uniting' they became "one flesh" and Adam sang a wedding song (2:23). It is said, "If man is the head of the human race, woman is the crown!"

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (2:24).

The man must LEAVE his parents to begin a new family. In that family, he will take responsibility for his wife and provide for the children born out of their union.

Today men leave home for no reason at all. This was probably not the case in early civilizations. Until he chose a wife and set up a new family of his own, he worked with other members of his larger family.

In Bible times a young man depended

Our Lord Jesus left His home to redeem His Bride. He risked everything to win her hand. One day she will be complete and He will take her home to be with Himself forever. Heaven will not be the same after the Bridegroom takes His bride home! (Matt 13:43).

The Bride will worship her Lord and Master. In His glory, she will shine as the sun (Matt 13:43).

She will be an everlasting testimony to His love.

He came to save them from sin. All the promises God made are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul said, 'Look to Christ!' All God's promises are 'Yes' in Him (2 Cor 1:20).

At that time Adam named his wife 'Eve' (3:20). This word had the meaning of 'woman' or 'she-man' ('Isha' fem. of 'Ish' man, Gen 2:23). Later the word became a proper noun and probably means 'living.' Eve was the only hope Adam had that human life on earth would continue.

Now the name Adam was associated with death (1 Cor 15:22). Eve had the name of a living soul, for she was the mother of all human life.

CLOTHES OF SKIN

Now read – Genesis 3:21

In His great mercy, God spared Adam and Eve. He could have destroyed them there and then! That would have meant a victory for Satan. Moses reasoned like this when he asked mercy for the people who rebelled against God (Ex 32:11-12).

The man and woman could have repented of their sin and renewed fellowship with his Creator, but as far as we know they did not.

"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them" (Gen 3:21). God provided animal skins to cover their shame. Their animal-skin clothes were a symbol of the righteousness of Christ or, as some think, a picture of redemption. Christ covers the believer with His righteousness like a garment.

Adam and Eve's could not cover their shame by their own 'works,' nor could they take their guilt away. So God, in grace, covered man's sin.

God clothes His children with 'garments of salvation' (Is 61:10; Matt 22:11; Col 3:12; Gal 3:27; Rev 7:13). The fig leaves Eve sewed were like the 'rags

THE GARDEN AT LAST

At the last day, those who love Jesus will have a place in Heaven's garden. Redeemed men and women will have perfect fellowship with God. They will live forever with Him. That was God's plan from the beginning.

Christ competed God's plan of redemption. God gave the Son this 'work' to do in eternity past, before the heavens and earth or man existed (Eph 1:5-7).

As a man, Jesus Christ bore the thorns, the nails, the cross – all signs of the curse that came upon Him as He took my sin and yours. He was 'the second Adam.' (1 Cor 15:45). He took Adam's punishment.

Jesus rose again in a glorified body, the firstfruits of all those who, by faith, would put their trust in Him. They are redeemed from the curse of sin. The word redeem has two meanings in the Bible: To buy back something which had been sold (Rom 7:14), and to deliver a prisoner from bondage (Gal 3:22).

Did God's attitude toward man changed? No! God acted in mercy and in judgment. God's grace saved mankind from permanent separation from the source of all life. His grace made a way for man and God to be reconciled and be at peace.

ADAM'S NATURAL SONS

"Strike his heel" and "bruise his head" speaks of the struggle that was to come. Satan: 1. Tempted Jesus in the wilderness (Luke 4) 2. Terrified Him in His agony (Gethsemane, Matt 26:38). 3. Put it into the heart of Judas to betray Him (Luke 22:3). 4. Moved Pilate to condemn Him to death.

Peter said the sufferings of Christ continue in His saints. They "fill up the sufferings" of their Saviour (1 Pet 2:20-25). The 'war' with Satan goes on!

Christ, THE HEAD, is now in Heaven, beyond the devil's reach. So Satan persecutes Christ's BODY, the Church. Satan bruises the 'heel' left here on earth. That is why Jesus prayed for HIS BODY and asked the Father to protect them (John 17).

Satan tramples on the woman's seed. But her 'offspring,' the sons of faith, have always been more than conquerors through Christ (Rom 8:37).

SATAN'S DOOM

At the very dawn of history, Almighty God spelled out the final doom of Satan and the final victory of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified on a Roman cross, but He rose from the dead and went back to take His throne in Heaven (Acts 1:9). At the cross, Jesus dealt a fatal blow to Satan's kingdom, a wound to Satan's 'head' that will never be healed (Col 2:15).

TALK ABOUT 1. What did God's promise in Gen 3:15 mean? 2. Who did the 'seed of the woman' point to (Gal 3:16)? 3. If Christ is the HEAD, who is the BODY? 4. When will HEAD and BODY be joined? 5. Are you a member of Christ's BODY?

GOD'S PROMISE TO WIN MAN

👉 **Now read – Genesis 3:15-24**

In Genesis 3:15 God promised a Redeemer. Christ came as the Redeemer of fallen men and women.

THE GARDEN RESTORED

In Christ, God opened a way for the fellowship of the garden to be restored. His way was to provide a substitute! (Mark 10:45; 1 Cor 15:3; Heb 10:20).

Many think of Jesus coming to earth as a baby. Some think of Him coming as a great teacher. Others say He was an example for us to follow. He was all of these and much more.

JESUS CHRIST OUR HIGH PRIEST
"He has appeared....to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb 9:26). The most important work the High Priest did was to go into the Holy of Holies, in the inner part of the Tabernacle where the Ark was and offer the blood of sacrifice for the sins of the people.

God has a 'garden' for us in Heaven. We enter through the shed blood of Christ. We come again into God's blessing in the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There we can feast on the fruit of the TREE OF LIFE, which is Christ Himself (Rev 2:7).

on his father. After marriage, he had to trust God: a) That he had made the right choice of a bride. b) To earn a living to support his family. c) That they would serve God together. d) That God would bless them with children.

Many husbands have never taken this step of faith. They do not leave their parents or step out with God. Instead of looking to God, many men look to their wives for support.

God used the marriage of a man and woman as a picture of His Covenant with His people, Israel (Hosea 2; Jer 2). Paul also used the marriage of a man and woman as a symbol of Christ and His Church (Eph 5:25-27).

THE HUSBAND, A TYPE OF CHRIST

God planned marriage to last for a lifetime. One man married to one woman is God's command (Mal 2:15; Matthew 19:4-6).

To make this bond strong, a man must put his wife's welfare and interests first. This may go against modern practice and culture and we often find just the opposite!

"Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her" (Eph 5:25). Christ's love for mankind led to His giving up everything. He "gave Himself up for the Church," not just once at the cross, but "from the foundation of the world" (Eph 3:11).

Paul wrote of Christ's love for His Bride. He went back to God's marriage law (2:24), back to a time before sin became an issue, before any atonement for sin was needed. Paul showed that Christ's love for His Bride was not only set forth in the cross, but was there from before creation and all through Christ's life on earth!

Christ loved His Bride so much that He gave Himself up: a) To leave Heaven's glory and harmony b) To come to this sin-filled earth c) To live as a poor person. d) To be rejected by His own countrymen e) To die on the cross, with all its suffering and shame.

TALK ABOUT 1. What do you think God meant by 'helper' (2:18)? 2. What is God's marriage law (2:24)? 3. What did Christ do to win His 'bride' (Eph 5:25)?

Adam and Eve were not tested by physical things, but by God's command. God's way is not physical, but spiritual (John 14:6; 1 Cor 15:46, 49).

Man can change physical things, but only God can change spiritual things! God does this as man yields to His authority and command.

For Adam and Eve, it was not the matter of nibbling a tasty fruit, but accepting another way, not God's way. Adam's way challenged the absolute authority of God to rule over His greatest creation.

What man lost was not in the sphere of his body, but in his spirit. God's glory in man's spirit had gone out. Over Adam and Eve we could write the word 'Icabod' (1 Sam 4:21).

GOD'S IMAGE SPOILED

☛ Now read – Genesis 3:1-12

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made" (3:1). Satan is a wicked spirit. He used 'the serpent' to tempt Eve. Satan entered the serpent and used it to speak to Eve.

Satan and evil spirits were free to come and go in the earth. We know this because God asked Satan,

"Where have you come from?" and he replied, "From roaming through the earth" (Job 1:7).

God had warned Adam and Eve: "When you eat of it (the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil), you will surely die" (2:17). But Satan said to Eve, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Satan tempted Eve to doubt God's goodness. Did God really want what was best for them?

"You will not surely die," the serpent lied..., "for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (3:4-5).

Eve thought, 'Why not be wise like God and her husband wise, too?' So she "took some (fruit) and ate it. She also gave some to her husband...and he ate it" (3:6).

The moment Adam and Eve ate the 'fruit' they knew they had done wrong. They were afraid of the Creator-God and they saw that they were naked. This made them feel shame, so Eve found some big leaves and sewed them together to make aprons. She and Adam tried to 'cover' the shame they felt in their hearts. And they hid among the trees.

ADAM'S SELFISH CHOICE

The history of the world is the result of Adam's bad choice. From the moment Adam ate the 'fruit,' he began to die and men have been dying ever since.

"By the trespass of one man, death reigned through that one man..." (Rom 5:17).

Many years later, God said to Abraham, "Walk before Me and be blameless..." (Gen 17:1). 'Fulfill the purpose for which I have called you.' Abraham obeyed God's command! His heart was toward God. He wanted to please God so, every day, he made that decision to walk before his Lord.

Abraham's faith in his Creator pleased God and "He credited it to him as righteousness" (Gen 15:6). God marked 'righteous' against Abraham's name.

God says to us, "As ye have received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk ye in Him" (Col 2:6 KJV).

God's great love passion is that men freely choose Him as the object of their love. He wants men and women to worship Him and want to become more like Him in their characters.

Sadly, all through history, man has turned away from God to worship the works of his own hands.

God's curse on serpent-kind began at once. From that day the serpent went on its belly and licked up the dust. From this point on, 'serpent' became a name for Satan. And the snake, in history, became a type of the devil. (Rev 12:9;20:2;2 Cor 11:3) We note the use of snakes in Satan worship!

Next God spoke to the woman. She would bring new life into the world, but not without pain. In this life, the woman's glory is complete when she gives birth to a child. Little girls talk of being 'mother' and play at it! God gave Adam to be 'head' of his wife and family. After the fall, Adam ruled by means of his sex.

A CURSE ON THE GROUND

God had given Adam dominion or headship over creation. Now creation would rebel against his rule: a) The soil and the elements. b) The animal kingdom. c) Even his wife and his offspring!

Before this, Adam was 'king.' Now he was a slave to the earth. The immortality he had vanished with the words, "to dust you will return" (3:19).

TALK ABOUT 1. Why is it so hard for a man to see his failings? 2. Did Adam and Eve understand death (2:17)? 3. What excuse did Adam give for eating the fruit (3:12)? 4. Does God ever tempt us to sin (James 1:13)?

THE PROMISE OF A REDEEMER

☛ Now read – Genesis 3:15

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (3:15). God's promise comes like a pause amidst the curses. It was spoken more directly to Satan, but it was also spoken to the man.

The forces of God were always set against the forces of Satan. God did not have to do any more. His plan was always there in Heaven (Eph 1:4).

The world under Satan's control hates God's people and tries to destroy them (Matt 10:17-22). It has always been so! It was always so in world history and true of our own times.

God's promise was a prophecy veiled in hard words. It was fulfilled when Christ died on the cross. The woman's 'offspring' or 'seed' (singular) refers to the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus (Gal 3:16;4:4). "Offspring" also means all Eve's 'children' who believe in Christ. They are all believers of every age who make up the Body of Christ, the Church.

SATAN'S SONS

All who refuse the Gospel of Jesus Christ are 'natural sons' of Adam. Jesus called them 'sons of the devil' (John 8:33,44). They are God's enemies. If you have 'Satan's sons' in your fellowship and call them 'brothers,' watch out!

God (Rom 3:10-11; 2 Cor 3:14-15).

Adam tried to redeem himself. He put on an apron of leaves and thought he had 'covered' his sin. But fear of God overcame him and he hid in the bushes (3:10).

TALK ABOUT 1. Do you think Adam knew evil lurked near at hand? 2. Was Eve alone when Satan spoke to her? 3. How easy was it for Satan to tempt Eve? 4. What makes us feel shame and try to hide from God (John 3:19)?

DID YOU EAT...?

☛ **Now read – Genesis 3:11-15**

God asked Adam, "Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to eat from" (3:11)? God knew what Adam and Eve had done, but He asked for an accounting (Rom 14:12). God commands us to repent and confess our sins (Acts 17:30). If we do not obey, we come under His judgment (John 3:36).

Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. Men blame others for their sins when they themselves are to blame.

A CURSED CREATION

☛ **Now read – Genesis 3:14-19**

In this chapter we read of: 1. A curse on Satan and on the serpent. We do not fully understand this. 2. A curse on the land, thorns and thistles. A hard life for the man. 3. Painful childbirth. A hard life for the woman. 4. Man's body would die and return to the dust from which he was made. In adding these curses, God helped Adam see his failure. From that day on, failure would be part of their lives!. The curses were meant to help man see his need of a Saviour and turn back to God.

A CURSE ON SATAN

The first curse was spoken to the serpent Satan had used as his mouthpiece: "Cursed are you above all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life." (3:14)

Adam sinned, but God had a plan! He always had this plan, even before He created the world, because God knew what would happen (Matt 25:34). He was not caught by surprise.

God's plan is called "The Redemption of Mankind." It is the greatest plan ever devised. If you study it all your life, you still won't understand it fully. It has been the subject of hundreds of thousands of books, written by men of great wisdom. Even more wonderful, you can know God and follow His plan even if you don't fully understand it! And you will never be disappointed that you chose to follow God's plan. Never!

Even a five-year-old can know and follow God's plan. Any child of five can respond to God's love. This is so because it is not so much what we understand of the plan that matters, but how our hearts respond to His love for us (John 3:16).

THEY FELT SHAME

☛ **Now read – Genesis 2:25; 3:21**

Shame comes from Satan. Any time we feel shame, Satan has been at work. When God created Adam and Eve "the man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame" (Gen 2:25).

Adam and Eve did not have any sense of shame until they sinned. Were they shrouded in the light and glory of their Creator? Did this suddenly fall away, leaving their bodies 'naked,' as they had never seen them before?

WE WILL SHINE

"The righteous will shine...like the sun..." (Matt 13:43). This seems to be the original state of the man and woman in the garden - shining beings! What hinders our shining now? The veil of sinful flesh? The Bible says that 'no good dwells in it' (Rom 3:11; 7:18).

Man's mind and body has been dragged down by sin. All men and women have a sin nature which they inherited from Adam.

One day believers will receive a new body and a new nature. They will shine again. They will be changed into Christ's likeness, and shine with His perfection. That is God's plan for all who love Him.

TALK ABOUT 1. How are men and women protected by God's Marriage Law (2:24)? 2. How is society protected by it? 3. Talk about Christ, the heavenly husband, loving His bride enough to die for her (Eph 5:25). 4. How can we have a personal relationship with God, our heavenly Father? 5. Why did Adam and Eve feel shame? 6. What changes people to make them like Jesus (2 Cor 3:18)?

"It is God who comes in the cool of the day and seeks an intimate relationship with mortals. But time after time we have hidden ourselves, covering ourselves with the leaves of busyness and higher priorities and stubbornness." – Rambo

GOD CAME TO THE GARDEN

☛ **Now read – Genesis 3:8-10**

"The man and the woman heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid" (3:8).

Adam heard God walking - perhaps like the wind blows? - and he was afraid!

Adam and Eve were not tested by physical things, but by God's command. God's way is not physical, but spiritual (John 14:6; 1 Cor 15:46, 49).

Man can change physical things, but only God can change spiritual things! God does this as man yields to His authority and command.

For Adam and Eve, it was not the matter of nibbling a tasty fruit, but accepting another way, not God's way. Adam's way challenged the absolute authority of God to rule over His greatest creation.

What man lost was not in the sphere of his body, but in his spirit. God's glory in man's spirit had gone out. Over Adam and Eve we could write the word 'Icabod' (1 Sam 4:21).

"The Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you'" (3:9)?

God did not wait for Adam, He came looking and calling for him. God seeks us sinners. He sent Jesus to 'seek and to save' sinners (Luke 19:10).

From the beginning, God 'walked' with Adam. He did not out-run him or overpower him, but waited for Adam's 30-inch stride. This is what we must do if we are to walk with another person. I had to practice walking with my wife. I have long legs and a long stride. She has short legs, a short step.

The Bible speaks of being 'in step' with the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:25). Walking together allows time for fellowship, communion...the opening of one heart to the other. And it takes time.

HE SEEKS US

Christ comes where meek hearts and open minds seek Him. When His people call upon Him, or come together for fellowship, He is there with them (Matt 18:20).

When we draw aside and listen for His voice, we hear Him speak to us by His Holy Spirit. We need to get alone and be still if we want to hear God's voice. He said, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10).

Many people say, 'God must be, so we believe He is.' But they do not know Him living in their lives (Heb 11:6) They do not 'walk' with Him. We can know God just as Adam did. Those who know Him walk with God by His Spirit, just as Adam did.

TALK ABOUT 1. How did Adam 'walk' with God? 2. How did he 'talk' with God? 3. Can we do the same? 4. What must we do to draw near to God (James 4:7)? 4. What are the benefits of drawing near to God in prayer? 5. How does God 'speak' to us today (Heb 1:1)?

THE FALL OF MAN

Adam and Eve did not obey God. Their sin changed the history of the world and changed our own lives! For we are all children of Adam. Death came to Adam and death comes to us. "In Adam all die" is God's judgment on sin (1 Cor 15:22). Adam's body did not die then, but he was cut off from the life of God!

We each received our sin nature from Adam. Because of our sin nature, we

LITERAL OR SYMBOLIC...?

- Two people in a garden (2:15).
- Two fruit trees (2:9).
- Satan in a snake (3:1).

What did the apostle Paul think? Read what he wrote in 2 Cor 11:3.

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

In Christian marriage, each partner is called upon to give himself or herself up for the marriage union. God places more responsibility on the husband, the head of the new family (1 Cor 11:3). He must give himself up completely and in everything for his marriage to reflect Christ. If he does this, his marriage will be what God ordered in Gen 2:24.

A husband gives himself up for his family's protection, provision, comfort and happiness, as Christ did for His Church (Eph 5:25).

Sin brought 'war' to the heart of every human being. It also brought a terrible struggle in the universe. Somehow, we don't know how, man dragged the whole creation down into sin with him (Rom 8:22).

But it is in conflict, that man overcomes. "To him who overcomes," God said, "I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in...paradise of God" (Rev 2:7)

God gave Adam and Eve this promise (3:15). God offers the same right to all men and women. He said, "To all who receive Him, (Jesus Christ) to those who believe in His name, He (the Father) gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

What remains for us to overcome? The world, the flesh, the devil? All these tempt us, but all have been overcome by Christ (John 16:33). Now we must overcome them through Him.

We overcome by faith. Faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us can overcome the world. Jesus Christ has destroyed the Destroyer, death! (1 Cor 15:26).

God is at work training and maturing our spirits. God speaks of a greater awareness in our spirits – a growth and maturing of our relationship with Him as He 'grows' and matures our spirits (Eph 4:13).

God offers: 1. The rest of faith which allows us to trust Him fully. 2. Light in our spirits. His presence and power in our lives and His word of authority over our enemy Satan. 3. The opportunity to serve the Him in worship and praise; intercession and warfare; suffering for Christ and lifting Him up to the world.

are 'sinners' by birth and by action. If we do not receive Christ as our Saviour, we cannot be 'alive' in our spirits or have fellowship with God.

God said everything He created was "very good," so it is wrong to think that Adam's world was hostile, with a demon behind every tree and rock. In the garden, Adam enjoyed a perfect world (Gen 1:31; Mark 10:18).

In sinning against God man lost everything: a) His fellowship with God. b) His garden paradise. c) His authority over nature and over his own family. d) All hope for the future.

God gave man up to his own ego. In his blindness, man saw himself as righteous and God as unjust. As long as man thinks this, he will never reach out for

