

Genesis Chapters 1–11: BEGINNINGS

- ◆ Why God made the world
- ◆ God's 'words' in DNA
- ◆ Marriage and families
- ◆ How sin destroys life
- ◆ How God punishes sin
- ◆ Noah's Flood explained

THIS BOOK explains how and why God made the world and everything in it. It teaches the purposes of God which are important for us today. It shows how everything was perfectly made from the beginning but was later spoilt by sin. It warns that God punishes sin but promises hope for those who obey Him. It also gives details of the worldwide Flood at the time of Noah.

MANNA PUBLICATIONS supply Bible teaching commentaries written by Fred Morris. For many years Fred, and his wife Lorna, travelled round the world teaching and preaching. When they returned home they wrote these notes for printing and selling wherever there was a need for basic foundational Christian teaching.

THIS REVISED UK edition is written in easy-to-read Worldwide English which will add understanding and also speed up translation into other languages. It gives basic teaching for all readers plus additional notes for Bible students, teachers and pastors.

THESE BOOKS are to use on your own or to study in a group. They will teach you God's truth. They will help you to know God's Son, Jesus Christ. They will help you to talk about your faith in God. They will stop you from going the wrong way in life. They will help to lead you closer to Christ. They provide food for life.

WE PRAY that you may have a new peace and purpose in life as you read the Bible and use these commentaries.

Manna Publications

FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE TEACHING COMMENTARIES

'The secret of God's Kingdom has been given to you' (Mark 4:11)



BEGINNINGS

The Origin and Purpose of Life

A Bible Teaching Commentary in easy-to-read Worldwide English for personal or group study by Fred Morris



Genesis Part 1
Chapters 1 to 11

To the reader or leader

These Bible teaching commentaries explain the truth about God's Word in a way that is easy to read and understand. You can use these books to study the Bible on your own or with others in a group. In a group study, each person should have his or her own book and a Bible if possible.

There is a lot of information in this book. Please study it slowly and thoughtfully. Ask God to help you apply the things you learn to your own life and situation.



Now Read: Where you see this, it means you or your group leader should always read the Bible passage first before reading the words in this book.



Talk about: Where you see this, there are questions that can be asked in a group study. They also help the reader to understand the Bible verses.



Multiple choice questions. Where you see this, there are questions with three possible answers; some are right answers, some are wrong answers. These questions help you to think carefully about what you are reading. The answers to these questions are given at the back of the book. You can use the questions as a personal test.



Where you see **ruled boxes**, the information inside is mainly for Bible students, teachers and preachers.

Additional Bible readings are there to give you important information. God will use them to speak to you. This is why you should check all readings now or later and use them for study at home. Some readings are from the Old Testament (O.T.), which we call 'the holy writings'. That is the part of the Bible written before Jesus Christ lived on this earth. Some readings are from the New Testament (N.T.), the part of the Bible which was written after Jesus Christ lived on this earth.

Manna Bible teaching commentaries give God's truth as a foundation for all believers. The people leading the study should add applications and experiences from their own Christian life and culture.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Chapters 1–5 ,

1 = (a); 2 = (b); 3 = (c); 4 = (b); 5 = (a); 6 = (b);
7 = (a); 8 = (b); 9 = (b); 10 = (c).

Chapters 6–11,

1 = (b), 2 = (a); 3 = (a); 4 = (a); 5 = (a); 6 = (b);
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4. Noah knew there was dry land when —
 - a) the dove did not return;
 - b) he removed the cover from the Ark;
 - c) the raven did not return.

5. After the Flood God made a covenant —
 - a) to never again destroy everything with a flood;
 - b) that there would always be a rainbow after the rain;
 - c) that everything would be changed.

6. Canaan was cursed because —
 - a) Shem was blessed;
 - b) Ham did not honour his father;
 - c) God knew he would sin as his father had sinned.

7. God made people speak different languages because —
 - a) they were getting too clever;
 - b) they failed to spread out over all the earth;
 - c) they were making a name for themselves.

8. Shem —
 - a) was an ancestor of Jesus;
 - b) became the servant of his brother;
 - c) was older than his brothers.

9. God —
 - a) allows us to choose between good and evil;
 - b) stops us from doing wrong things;
 - c) provides all we need to do what is right.

10. Jesus —
 - a) was with God at the beginning of the world;
 - b) is Son of God and Son of a woman;
 - c) is still alive today.

INTRODUCTION: Genesis part 1, chapters 1 to 11

Genesis is the first of five important books in the Old Testament. It was first written in the Hebrew language 3500 years ago. It contains the holy writings of God. It tells us about:

- How and why God made the world and everything in it.
- The purposes of God and the purpose of life.
- The reasons for both good and evil.
- The importance of marriage between a man and a woman.
- The importance of having children.
- How sin separates us from God.
- How sin spoils the world.
- How God punishes sin.
- How God wants to save us from sin.

THE BIBLE AND THE BEGINNINGS OF LIFE

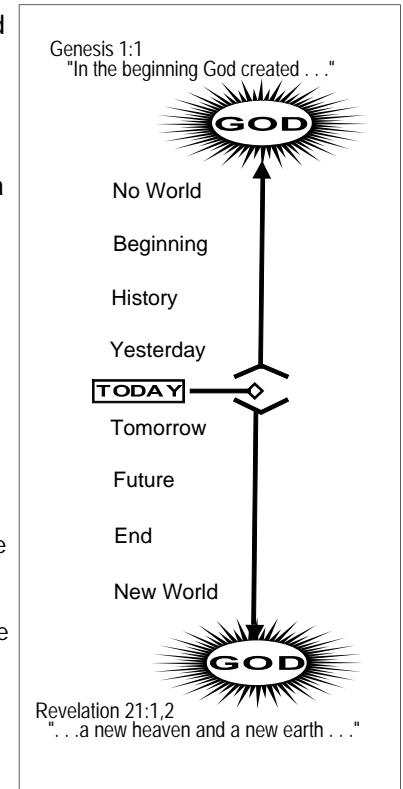
The Bible says God was always there. He is the only true, living God. He is called 'Yahweh' in the Hebrew language. It is Yahweh who made the universe. He is the one true God – there are no other gods who created life. He was there before the beginning of the world. Before He made the heavens and earth, God was there. He will always be there.

God has no beginning and no end. We call God's life 'eternal life'. Eternal life goes on and on, forever and ever. It is everlasting.

We all had a beginning when God gave us life. We are alive because God 'gives life and breath to all people. He also gives them everything else' (Acts 17:25). A person's life begins inside a mother's womb. Then nine months later that person is born. We are alive because God gives us life. No-one should take that unborn life away. It belongs to God. Sometimes life is short, sometimes it is long. Life here will end one day, sooner or later, but God lives forever.

God is above and around us. He is everywhere all the time. He loves us even more than our parents do. He is near to those who talk to Him. 'Turn all your worries over to Him because He cares for you,' the Bible says (1 Peter 5:7).

The Bible is God's Word. The Bible tells us the truth about God. In Genesis, God tells us how He made our world and people. God did not tell us everything, but He told us everything we need to know. Here is what Paul said about God in Acts 17:24-29:



'He made the world and everything in it. He is the Lord of the sky and the earth. He does not live in houses that people make with their hands. Men cannot worship Him by things they make with their hands because He does not need anything. He is the one who gives life and breath and everything else to all people. God made one man. From that one man He has made all the nations of men to live on the whole earth. He has given to each nation a certain time and a certain place to live. He did this so they would look for Him. He wanted them to reach out and find Him. He is not far from each one of us. In Him we live, and move, and are alive. Some of your own writers have said, "We have come from Him". Therefore we have all come from God. So we should not think that God is something made of gold, or silver, or stone. He is not made by men's hands.' (TJB)

WE CAN KNOW GOD THROUGH JESUS

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It tells us the truth about God's creation – what He made and how He made it. The rest of the Old Testament tells us what happened before Jesus came to live on the earth. It is the history of God at work in the world. The greatest message in the Bible is that we can have everlasting life in heaven with God if we obey Him and if we believe that Jesus Christ is His Son and our Saviour. Jesus made it possible for us to know God!

We can see God's wonderful work in nature and in the night sky. The large number of plants, animals and stars tell us that God has great power. God created all these things and we cannot change them. We cannot stop the sun from rising or the tide from coming in.

But God is greater than His creation. He works in and through His creation. He is King over heaven and earth. The Bible says 'He is Lord of all.' He is the Most High God. God is Lord and King because He made the world. Everything in it belongs to Him. Since God made me, He is my Lord, too.

We know from the Bible that God is also a person. God thinks. He plans. He creates. He spoke and the earth was made! He loves the world and the people He made and He wants us to love Him.

In the Bible, God tells us about Himself. We can know Him just like we can know another person. God had a wonderful way to show us what He is like. He first showed us how great He is in things that He created. Over 4000 years later, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world for 33 years. Christians believe that Jesus is with God. He is in heaven with His Father. Jesus told the Jewish leaders, 'I AM before Abraham was born' (John 8:58). Jesus used here the special words that only God used – 'I AM' (Exodus 3:14). Jesus came to live on earth to show us God. He came to show us what God is like. He is like God because He is God's Son.

Jesus was always with God the Father in heaven, even before He created the heavens and earth. (Genesis 1:26; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2.)

The Bible says that Jesus Christ 'upholds' all things. That means He is in control. Nothing happens without Him. He does everything in a way that pleases Him. And He allows things to happen which are part of His plan to bring people back to



Ask Jesus to save you from your sins. Then read more about God's plan for yourself in the Bible. You can have peace and joy in your life. You can belong to the Kingdom of God – a 'nation' of people without boundaries.

SUMMARY

This Bible commentary on Genesis 1–11 has taught us about the beginnings of everything. It also explains how sin spoilt God's wonderful world which made it necessary for Him to destroy everything and start again with Noah's family. We see the results of sin all around us today. But we can have our sins forgiven by God through believing and following Jesus. He is our Lord and Saviour.

We have learnt things about creation, people, sin, marriage, society, languages, the plans of God, His provision for us and the purpose of life itself.

The next part of Genesis tells us about Abraham, the father of the Jews and all people who have true faith in God. ***God still calls people of faith to serve Him today.***



Talk about:

1. Why did God confuse the language at the time of Babel (Babylon) (11:1-6)?
2. What happened as a result, which was part of God's plan (11:9)?
3. Whose family did Abraham (Abram) come from (11:10,27)?
4. What have you learnt from studying the first eleven chapters of Genesis? Has it changed your faith in God, your purpose in life and your understanding of what is wrong in life?
5. Have you experienced the joy and peace of knowing Jesus as your Saviour and your sins forgiven by God?

QUESTIONS BASED ON GENESIS 6–11


Answers are given at the end of this book

Choose the correct answer a, b or c

(Note: Sometimes there is more than one correct answer)

1. God was sad that He had made man, because —
 - a) they were all going to die;
 - b) they were all sinning;
 - c) they were all too clever.
2. Noah built an Ark —
 - a) and warned the people about the coming Flood;
 - b) and was the only one to be saved;
 - c) because he was afraid of water.
3. The door of the Ark was —
 - a) shut by God;
 - b) shut by Noah's sons;
 - c) shut by Noah.

This is a warning that only Christ can bring unity among believers of all nations. We must not unite with false religions or witchcraft.

 **Genesis 11:10–27**

GOD CALLS PEOPLE OF FAITH

'The generations of Shem...' are his family history. The family line from Shem to Abraham (Abram) has 10 names in it (Genesis 11:10–27). From this we can build up a time chart which shows that God's creation could be less than 10,000 years ago and the Flood happened less than 5000 years ago. (A lot of scientists today believe that the earth is young – not millions of years old as taught in many schools.)

During these early years of mankind, we have learnt that people rarely repented from their sins even when God instructed them.

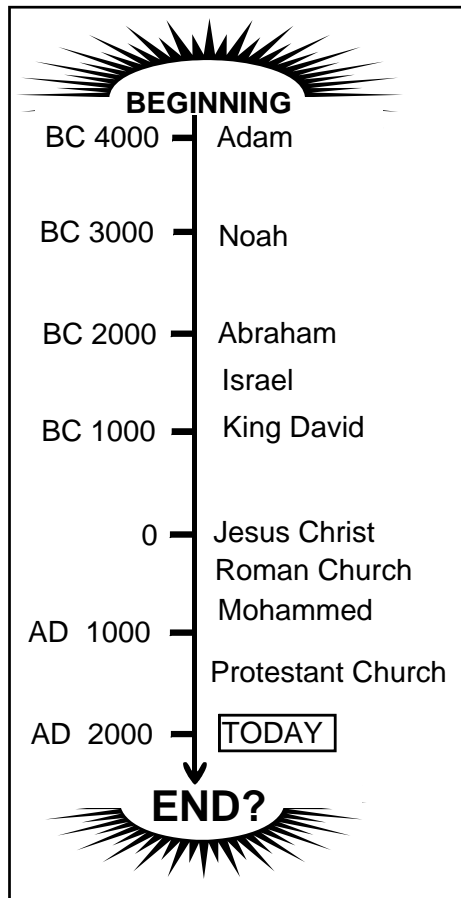
We also know that God did not leave man to continue in his sinful ways. He chose men of faith and made agreements (covenants) with them. They would continue His promise into the future and be His witnesses in the earth.

We also know that there have been great periods in history when the people have turned back to God (4:26).

When the time was right, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save men from sin. He came to look for the lost and to save them (Luke 19:10).

Now, by faith in Jesus, we can return to God. Saved sinners can go to heaven because Jesus was punished in our place. God's judgement came against Him so that we can go free. Jesus Christ opened the gate to heaven to all people (Revelations 22:17). God sent Jesus to take our punishment. God loves the world that He made. But at the time of Noah He punished the people for spoiling what He had made. He said He would not do that again. At the time of Jesus He punished His own Son instead of punishing the people for their sins.

'For God so loved the world that He sacrificed His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16).



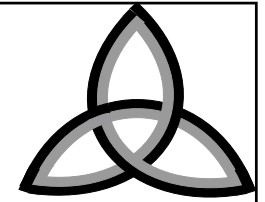
GOD: Father, Son and Spirit (Trinity)

Christians believe that God is in three persons – Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit – three in One. We sometimes say this is God the **Holy Trinity**. This means that Jesus and the Spirit of God were together with Father God at the beginning, before the world was made. This is why the Bible says:

- Let US make man in OUR own likeness [like WE are] (Genesis 1:26).
- The man has become like one of US (Genesis 3:22).
- Come let US go down and mix up their language (Genesis 11:7).
- Who shall I send, and who will go for US? (Isaiah 6:8).

This is why Jesus said, 'WE speak what WE know and WE give witness to what WE have seen' (John 3:11). He also said that He lived before Abraham (8:58).

The Trinity is a mystery to many people. Pray for wisdom to understand it and faith to believe it. Then God will show you the truth about Himself.



The Celtic Christians in Western Europe 1900 years ago drew a symbol which helped them to understand the Trinity. It is called the Celtic Rope. It is in three parts but each part is joined with the other two parts; all three parts are one — God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:19).

worshipping God His Father. He also sends His Holy Spirit into the world to teach people the truth about Himself. The Holy Spirit helps us to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. He helps us to know God as our father.

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

So what kind of a person is God? God is a spirit but God is a person, too. God loves and cares. He does no wrong thing and He is not happy with the wrong things that people do. These bad things are called SIN. And we do them because our lives are wrong. He is sad when people die before they hear and learn the truth about Himself. He is sad when babies die before they are born or soon after they are born. He wants people to learn about Himself.

Before time began, God had the creation of the world in His thoughts. He also knew us by our names, even before we were born. He even knows the number of hairs on your head. God is very great. He knows everything. He knows what will happen tomorrow and who will be born next year. Our minds can't understand how great and wonderful God is. He knows everything in the past, present and future.

Long ago a prophet of God wrote, 'O Lord, you are my God. You have done wonderful things. You planned them long ago' (Isaiah 25:1). We are all part of His wonderful creation. But God is sad when sin spoils the world He made. We will read later that God allows us to choose between good and evil. We are free to choose. We can love God or we can love evil.



Talk about:

1. Are you **ready** to read the book of Genesis with an 'open mind'?
2. Are you **willing** to give time to understand the origins and purpose of life as given in Genesis?
3. Are you **able** to ignore any false teachings that you have heard from those who do not know and love God?

Pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to you while you study God's holy writings.

There is much to learn about God and about life by reading the Bible. So let us begin . . .



God created the world in love

The Bible teaches us that God made the world and the creatures and mankind for His own pleasure. God is love (1 John 4:16) and God loved what He created (Genesis 1:10,25,31). It was all good in His sight – especially mankind (Ephesians 2:4). He made us so that we could have a special friendship with Him, so that He could provide for us, and so that we could live with Him forever. He also made us like Himself (in His image) so that we can love others. True love must be given freely and willingly. **God made men and women, boys and girls, to love Him**

and to worship Him. But He does not force us to love Him.

He made us so that we can choose to love Him or not to love Him. God made man free to go his own way – with God and with love for God – or without God and without love for God. When Adam and Eve first sinned, they chose to go their own way. And ever since, most people want to go their own way without God. Going against God is sin. We all start life as sinners (Romans 3:10,23). The Bible tells us about sin. God is Holy: He loves us but must judge sin.



But the Bible also tells us about the great love of God. It shows how bad we are but it also shows us how God helps sinners to come back to Him, to love Him and to go His way. The Bible tells us how to love God and to love each other.

The way back to God. God showed the way back to Himself through punishment, through hard work, through sacrifices of blood, through sacrifices of food and money, by examples of faith, by types of Christ, through promises and through laws. He showed the need for a way back through warnings and through exiles, through separation and through selection. (We read about this in the Old Testament part of the Bible.) But none of these ways worked well, such was the greatness of man's sin. So last of all God showed the way back from sin through the sacrifice of the blood of His own dear Son, Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus, all sinners may now be forgiven by God and know His love. Such love is righteous love. (We read about this in the New Testament part of the Bible.)



Genesis 11:1–9

THE PEOPLE FORGET GOD

'Now the whole world had one language...'

God commanded Noah to 'increase in number and fill the earth' (9:1). The peoples who moved to the area of Babylon stayed together to be safe and to help each other. One language helped them to stay close.

The story of Babel tells us why God made a new beginning in history.

Many years had passed and thoughts of the Flood quickly went from people's minds. Men did not think about God (Romans 1:21–25).

The people found a new way to build. They made clay bricks and baked them (Genesis 11:2–3). They used pitch (tar) to lay the bricks. Before this men lived in tents or built with stone.

What they built is preserved in the great ziggurats which reached up towards the sun. They are like pyramids with steps on all sides, leading to the top. At the top, there was a place for men to worship the sun. Babel was probably a ziggurat. Another ziggurat rose into the sky at Ur of the Chaldees in Abraham's day.



Ziggurats (towers)

These ideas led clever men to build great towers:

- a) **Pride:** man wants to be as big as God.
- b) **Disobedience:** God said 'spread out', but men did not obey and instead they moved together and used their skills to build great buildings and cities.
- c) **Selfishness:** they wanted to 'make a name for themselves'.
- d) **Idolatry:** an excuse to worship the sun, moon and stars instead of God. Today men still love to build tall buildings. We must ask this question: is this to glorify God, is it to glorify man, or is it to worship other gods?



GOD DESTROYS THE CLEVER THINGS OF MAN

God's answer was: 'Let Us go and confuse their language. ...' (Genesis 11:7). God came down from Heaven and judged the people of Babel. He scattered the people 'over all the earth and they stopped building the city' (11:8). (Notice the word 'Us' — a reference to the Trinity of God. See page 5)

God did not destroy these people at Babel, but He mixed up (confused) their talk. One day, they were all talking as one and working very hard. The work was going well when suddenly, and without warning, a builder could not understand the man working next to him! And he couldn't understand what the other men were saying. So the big building project at Babel suddenly stopped. 'Babel' today means 'confusing noise of voices'.



The Beginnings of World Religions

The peoples of the world descend from the three sons of Noah: Shem, Japheth and Ham.

Through them, we can see how the religions of the world were formed. The prophecies and curses of Noah came true.

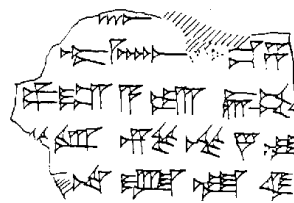
1. The families of Canaan (son of Ham) were very evil and included the Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites. They sacrificed babies and did many bad things which angered God, including the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah. God sent the children of Israel to live in their land and to destroy or rule over them.
2. Other sons of Ham moved into Africa and later formed the ancient people of Southern India, Australia and South America. They took with them a belief in the creator God but mixed the worship of spirits into their religion.
3. The families of Shem (Semitics) spread throughout Asia and probably across to North America. They took with them their belief in God the creator but later formed many new religions that we still see today. Only the Semitic people descending from Abraham's first marriage kept faithful to the one true God. These were the children of Israel, the grandson of Abraham.
4. The families of Japheth spread into Europe and at different times enlarged their empires or territories around the world. This included the empires of the Greeks, Romans and Scandinavian peoples. Later the British, Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Belgians extended their empires by which time they had become faithful to the one true God of Abraham through converts to Christianity of the first century AD.

Source: Dave Hilsley, *Tishrei Study Paper No. 3*

(Babylon) was the first of Nimrod's cities. Nimrod gathered the people into towns and built walls to protect them. Towns grew into cities which were called city-states or kingdoms (10:10).

At this time men used:

- a) the decimal system of measure used today.
- b) the science of mathematics.
- c) the twin sciences of astronomy and astrology (the study of stars and their meaning).
- d) codes of law like Hammurabi's which were copied using a clay roller or seal.
- e) the cuneiform system of writing. They made wedge-shaped marks in wet clay and then baked the clay tablets in the sun until they were hard.



Cuneiform writing



Talk about:

1. After the flood what promises did God make (8:21-22; 9:8-17)?
2. What did God tell Noah and his family to do (9:1-7)?
3. What did Noah say to his three sons (9:24-27)?



Genesis Chapter 1

GOD'S WORK OF CREATION

Genesis is at the beginning of the Bible. It tells us about the beginning of everything and of life itself. It tells us about the origins and purpose of life. In Genesis we read, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth' (Genesis 1:1). The universe was empty and dark. Then God's Holy Spirit moved over it (v.2).



No people! No morning! No evening! No sunrise! No sunset! No days and weeks and months! At first the world had no shape. (v.2) It was empty and God's Spirit moved over the waters. Then God put the land in one place and the waters of the seas in another. He set up time. God made the days and weeks, with evenings and mornings. God created the trees and animals, then He created Adam, the first man on the earth.

The Hebrew word 'create' is a very special word. It belongs to God alone and to His work. Only the Living God could create the heavens and the earth out of nothing. Men can only make things out of what God has already created.

This word 'create' is used three times in the first part of Genesis. In verse 1, God created the heavens and the earth: that means 'everything'. In verse 21, God created animals. In verse 27, God created man.

THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION

God said everything that He made was good. We see this in the world around us. God gave us His holy writings which tell how He created the earth and all the things in it. This is written in Genesis Chapter 1 so you can read it for yourself.



The Creation of the World

At the beginning there was darkness, waters and God's Spirit.

The Bible account agrees with what scientists say happened next:

- a) First there was light (heat).
- b) Then water 'below' and water 'above' with air and sky in between.
- c) Then seas, land and green vegetation.
- d) Then sun, moon and stars.
- e) Then fish and birds.
- f) Then animals and other living creatures and man and woman.

The Earth was different before Noah's Flood (Genesis 7) from what it is now:

- water was held in the sky above the earth (Genesis 1:7).
- no rain fell on the ground (Genesis 2:6) — the mist gave water.
- people lived much longer (Genesis 5:5-32) — no severe weather.
- there were giant people (Genesis 6:4) and giant creatures.
- no rainbows occurred because there was no rain or storms until after the Flood (Genesis 9:13).
- There was no hot or cold, desert or ice.

We must thank God for the Bible which tells us what happened 'in the beginning'. If we did not have the Bible, we would not know where this wonderful earth came from. Or why we live here. In the Bible, God tells us about the origins and purpose of life.

Men have written many things about how they think this earth was made, but they are only ideas. No-one can prove that their ideas are right. God did not tell us everything about how He created the heavens and the earth, but He told us everything we need to know. It is in the Bible.

The creation took place because God wanted it. He spoke the words to do it and He said it was good. He loved what He had made.

GOD'S WORDS OF CREATION

God spoke at creation. His words are powerful and they are true. His words create life. The Bible tells us clearly about things that happened long ago. The Bible is God's word to us. He will help us to understand what it says when we read it.

God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light (1:3). There could not be life on the earth without light and heat and God wanted to create life. He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light 'day', the darkness He called 'night'. The light also provides heat. When the light appeared God said that it was 'good'. Everything God does is good. Then God pushed the waters back and made the land (v.9). Some of the waters were in the seas and some above in the sky (v. 6-7). At this time it did not rain. No water fell from the sky. A mist kept the ground wet and covered the earth (2:5,6).

BIRDS, FISH AND ANIMALS

Then God said, 'Let the waters be filled with living things and let the birds fly in the sky above.' (1:20) This happened very quickly. God spoke and there were fish in the sea and smaller things for them to eat. God was not happy to make just one or two kinds. He made hundreds of different kinds of fish and birds.

God covered the land with many kinds of grasses and plants. Then God created the animals and the insects to eat the plants. God created many different kinds of animals — both male and female — including pigs, chickens, horses, monkeys and camels. There were also very many insects and creatures that crawled on the ground.

Each type has babies that have a built-in design to make the same type of fish, bird, insect or animal. God made sure that each type produced the same type each year, year after year. He used a new set of DNA 'words' from His book of life for each type.

At last all of God's creation was in place. The earth, seas, trees, fruits, plants, insects, birds, fish and animals. Then God made the first people.

[Continued on page 11]

- a new relationship with Him and a promise in the sign of the rainbow (9:8–17);
- a new test (9:18–23);
- a final prophecy for mankind (9:24–29).

NOAH'S THREE SONS

Noah's three sons had large families. They soon spread out over the world (9:19). At this time, a new temptation came to Noah. What happened changed every society.

Before he began to build the ark, Noah was a farmer-preacher. After the Flood, he went back to farming and caring for animals. He worked the ground and planted grape vines. When the grapes were ripe, he had a big party with his family, and he 'became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent' (9:21; Proverbs 23:30–32).

Satan had found a way to 'uncover' Noah. He was a sinner by birth, and showed it in his actions, just as we do.

Ham made fun of his father's naked body. Japheth and Shem covered their father's shame (9:23). God warns us not to make fun of sin (Proverbs 14:9). God's command is, 'honour your parents...' (Exodus 20:12).

Because Ham had no respect for his father, Noah spoke a curse on Ham's son: 'Cursed be Canaan!' (Perhaps Canaan was with Ham and also sinned against Noah.) At the same time Noah blessed Shem (9:26). Japheth was joined to Shem's blessing by the words: 'May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem' (9:27). The family of Shem were religious people. Japheth would be blessed as he joined with Shem in trusting Yahweh, the only true, living God. They took their faith in God with them as they extended their territories around the world.

God showed Noah what was going to happen to his three sons, and the peoples and nations that came from them. The history of the world has shown that this prophecy was true.

'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem' (9:26). Did Noah know that Shem had more faith than his brothers? Or that Shem would have true faith in God?

NIMROD RULED WITHOUT GOD

From Ham's family, Canaan and Nimrod receive special mention in the Bible. Nimrod built an empire and cities (10:8–12). The first and greatest city that Nimrod built was Babel = Babylon. Later, Nimrod built Nineveh.

Nimrod set up a government that was against God, and he started a new religion of idolatry. He was 'a mighty hunter'. At that time kings proved how strong and brave they were by hunting lions. Rock carvings show pictures of kings hunting lions.

After Nimrod's death people worshipped him as 'Belus', or Bel = the Lord. Babel



The Covenants of God

In the Old Testament, the covenants of God are called **covenants of obedience**. (God promises to bless people if they obey Him.)

In the New Testament, the new covenant of God is called the **covenant of grace**. (God promises to save people who believe in Christ.)

That sacrifice – the blood that was spilled – was a picture of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for you and me (Romans 5:11). ‘God demonstrates His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us’ (Romans 5:8). Jesus was innocent: we are guilty of sin.



Genesis chapters 9 and 10

A NEW BEGINNING AND GOD’S PROMISE

Noah was head of a new world, just the same as Adam was head of the first creation. It was a new beginning. God made a new agreement or covenant with the earth (Genesis 9:8–17) and gave Noah a sign. This sign was the rainbow. Noah saw it when it rained. The rainbow looked like a bridge from earth to Heaven, and it made Noah remember God’s promise: ‘Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life’ (9:15). (Before the Flood, there was no rainbow because there was no rain.)

God’s covenant with Noah was a promise that He made to all His creation.

After over 1,600 years without a written law, God began a new relationship with Noah and his family. God’s goodness is in the words that a poet might use: ‘As long as the earth lasts, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease’ (8:22).

After the Flood, God gave Noah:

- a new covenant with the earth (8:20–22);
- new rules to live by to control the earth (9:1–4);
- a warning: the punishment for murder (9:5–7);



The changes in the world after the Flood

The old world before the Flood was destroyed by God (2 Peter 3:6). The world had changed forever because of man’s sin and God’s punishment through the Flood. Now there were:

- deep layers of hardened mud containing the bodies (fossils) of creatures which died in the Flood; also buried layers of coal and oil;
- no layers of water above to protect the earth so causing areas of much heat and much coldness; colder nights;
- many areas of land unsuitable to live in such as deserts and frozen wastelands;
- daily changes in weather – rain and storms followed by sunshine with rainbows (Genesis 9:14);
- annual changes in weather – fixed times for harvest (Genesis 8:22);
- rapid build-up and advance of snow and ice sheets;
- harder living conditions which meant people and creatures did not live so long;
- Shortage of food so that many animal species died out.

(Source: H. Morris, *The Genesis Record*, Baker Books)



God created all life

God was pleased with the heavens and the earth that He had created. They were just as He had thought of them and planned them. He ‘saw that His creation was good’. So He said, ‘Let the land grow grass, herbs and trees with fruit with its own seed in it’. Yes, He created the first plants with its own seed already in it. He placed life in every tiny seed. Only God can create life. Each seed has its own design built in to make more of the same plant. In this way, God made sure that each plant would produce the same type each year, year after year, without change. (Man tries to change what God has done by chemicals, by ‘selection’, by ‘cross-breeding’ and by ‘changes to the gene cells’.)

Even seeds that people leave in a dry place for hundreds of years will grow into the same type of plant. Scientists tell us that every seed has its own ‘words of life’ in it. They call it DNA. In this way God gave His ‘words of life’ to every plant and to every creature. Each one was different — each kind had its own DNA words. The DNA words spoken by God control what grows — nothing is allowed to grow into another kind. God spoke the words of creation and each plant and creature was made. And everything was good and perfect.



Life is precious because God gave it. All life comes from Him. He created certain kinds of life in the trees and the plants, other kinds of life in the fish, and still other kinds of life in the animals.

God created ‘everything after its own kind’. So the seeds always grow baby plants that are like the parent plants. God said that it must be so. In this way, every kind makes its own kind. This is a part of God’s order and control in creation through DNA.

Animals and people must have air to breathe, so God created plants first to help to make the air that we need. We must care for the plants and the trees. They give us our food and the oxygen in the air.

God created the sun to give the hours of light. He allowed darkness, but only for some of the time. The cold nights make mist and dew to water the plants whilst they are making the air supply for creatures to breath.

The sun gives light and heat to the earth. Plants use this light and heat to grow. The sun keeps the earth warm so that we do not get cold and die. God also made the seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. He made and named the stars and put them in their places. They always stay in the paths God gave them. This is another part of the order God put into His creation.



Evolution or Creation?

The Bible says that the first man and woman were the special creation of God. They were like their Creator and were very different from the animals and other creatures on Earth.

Today, many believe that people came from apes or monkeys, but this is not true according to the Bible or according to the ancient bones (fossils) we find in the ground. Charles Darwin thought that through natural selection (the survival of the fittest creatures) one type of creature could improve or evolve into another type over time.

This is called the theory of evolution. However, none of the links between the types or species have been found or proved. Darwin's 'missing links' are still missing! Christians believe that dogs have always been dogs and apes have always been apes and men have always been men. They have never been linked together. All dog varieties are still dogs. Varieties of apes are apes. Varieties of people are people. God made sure that each creature could not change into another type – their seeds or eggs are always the same type, but with many different varieties.

Darwin did not know about this 150 years ago but today scientists have proved that the DNA in each creature does not permit change from one type of creature to another type. The DNA code has built-in words of each type and produces only its own kind of seed (see Genesis 1:12).

If you believe in Darwin's evolution, then you have no purpose in life, no reason for living, and no hope after death.

If you believe in God's creation, then you have a special purpose in life, a reason for living, and hope of life after death.



Row of stooping 'apes' drawn to try to explain evolution.

This shows the wrong ideas of Charles Darwin drawn by Richard Leakey. The series of stooping 'ape-men' never existed but are often shown in school text books. In more recent years, Dr Leakey admitted that the fossils prove that apes have always been apes and men have always been men. (Source: Victor Pearce and Henry Morris.)

raven, then a dove. Why did Noah wait 40 days? Because he 'walked' with God. He was in step with God (Amos 3:3). Noah asked God what he should do. He was not in a hurry. He waited for God's answer and God gave it to him.

The dove came back to Noah with an olive leaf in her beak. Noah waited seven more days (Genesis 8:12), and sent the dove out again. This time it did not return. Then Noah took off 'the covering' (perhaps it was part of the roof) and saw that the land was drying up.

Perhaps we would have jumped out of the ark, but Noah waited. Then God said, 'Come out of the ark...Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you...' (8:15-17).

NOAH BUILT AN ALTAR TO THE LORD

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed some of the 'clean' animals as burnt offerings (8:20). God accepted Noah's sacrifice. God had told men how to walk by faith and how to worship Him. The word 'altar' means 'a place of sacrifice'. The blood of innocent animals had a special meaning to God.



God forgave Noah's family and made them holy because of Noah's sacrifice. The sweet smell of the burning sacrifice pleased God, just as Noah's holy life pleased Him.

All animal sacrifice pointed to Jesus' death for man's sin (1 Pet. 1:19-21; Hebrews 9:22). In place of the sinner's death, God accepted the innocent blood of an animal sacrifice. The blood was a 'covering' or an atonement for the sins of the people. 'Atone' means 'to make peace with God' (Num. 28:22).



God's covenants with man

The covenants of God with man are a very important part of the message of the Bible. 'I will make My covenant with you' (Genesis 6:18) is the first one. All covenants show God's loving grace and mercy towards sinful man.

A covenant is more than a promise or an agreement. It has to be kept by God, never broken! We would say it is 'legally binding' – guaranteed for ever – it cannot be cancelled or changed.

In Bible times, a covenant was taken so seriously that often an animal was killed as a sacrifice and a sign was given to show that God would keep His promise. In God's covenant promise to Noah (6:18), it was fulfilled after the Flood (8:21 to 9:17). Animals were killed as a sacrifice (8:20) and God gave the sign of the rainbow (9:13-17).

5,000 years later the rainbow still means the same thing – that there will be no more floods of water to punish the sinful world. There were many other covenants made by God pointing towards His final plan of salvation for all mankind. God's final covenant with man was made when Jesus died on the cross to save the world from the punishment that it deserves.

God's first covenant with man was made when He saved Noah's family from punishment.



Genesis chapter 8

EIGHT PEOPLE WERE SAVED

Now the waters from the deep parts of the oceans and the 'windows' of the heavens were closed (8:2). The water level went back down (8:3). At the end of 150 days, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat, in Armenia, east of Turkey. After 40 days Noah opened a window at the top of the ark. He sent out a search team, first a



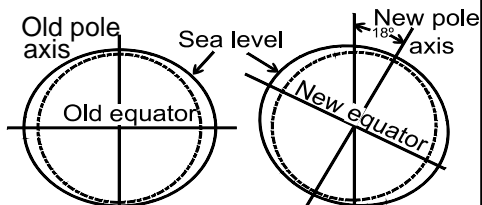
Why God sent a great flood

• During the first 10 or more generations from Adam to Noah, men developed new technology with skills in bronze and iron objects (Genesis 4:22) trading, farming and building (Luke 17:28) and music (Genesis 4:21). But they did not bring glory to God: they did many sinful things.

- They became obsessed with pleasure, sex, eating and drinking (Genesis 6:2; Luke 17:27).
- They thought and planned bad things all the time (Genesis 6:5).
- They spoke harsh words against God, grumbling, finding fault, boasting about themselves and speaking well of others to get advantage of them, following their own evil desires (Jude 14:15).
- Violence was common (Genesis 6:11,13).
- Society was completely corrupt (Genesis 6:12).
- They did not use the extra time God gave them while the ark was being built to turn to God and repent (Matthew 24:38; Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5).

God allowed many years for the people to change their ways but they did not change (Genesis 6:5). God was patient (1 Peter 3:20). Only Noah and his family stayed faithful to God, 'Noah walked with God' (Genesis 6:9).

Many Christians believe that the times we live in are very similar to the days of Noah. This is why Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will come again soon. We must get ready for His coming. We must warn people to get ready to repent.



The above diagram shows how the deep sea water at the equator moved when the earth's axis changed. The sudden change caused flooding across the world and took many days to settle down. It left deep layers of vegetation and fossils buried in the mud and sand.

The Bible says that water came from above the earth and from deep places below (Genesis 7:11,12). The greatest amount of water is at the equator. When the earth suddenly moved on its axis then the equator moved and the deep water flooded across the land like a huge tsunami. Many years ago 'magnetic evidence shows the earth began to rotate 18 degrees away from its original pole' position. (Source: Victor Pearce, *Evidence for Truth*.) This also explains why we now have summers and winters as stated by God (Genesis 8:22).

WHY GOD MADE MANKIND

On the fifth day, God finished making all these wonderful things, but 'there was no man to work the ground' (2:5). God made man to take care of God's creation (1:28). Caretakers watch over other people's property. We should obey God and care for His world He has created.

Genesis 1 tells us **why** God made mankind:

- To be like God (v.26,27).
- To rule over God's creation (v.26).
- To have children and populate the earth and bring it under control (v.28).
- To live by eating the good things that grow on the earth (v.29).
- To give us His love and for us to worship Him.



Talk about:

1. What has God created for His pleasure?
2. What has God created for our pleasure?



Genesis chapter 2

HOW GOD MADE MANKIND

Genesis 2 tells us **how** God made man. 'The Lord God formed a man. He made him from the dust of the ground. He breathed into him the breath of life and the man became a living person' (2:7).

God used the basic elements of the ground when He created life (2:7, 19). Although people (and other creatures) do not look like dust and soil and rocks, we are actually made from the same elements of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, calcium, etc. We are made from the same stuff that God used at the beginning.

Adam was also given an ever-living spirit like God's Spirit. Adam had a mind and he could think about things. He could know God and be his friend. God could have fellowship with Adam.

The animals cannot talk to God or know God as man can. God wanted a person to love, someone like Himself, so He made Adam 'in His own image'. He gave him a 'living soul' or 'personality'.

God made Adam as a grown-up person. Adam could talk to God and listen to what He said. He did not make noises like the pigs or apes. He spoke the words of a proper language, and he understood what God was saying to him. He knew what was right and could choose to do right. Animals do not have a spirit life, like man. Man is not like anything else that God created. He is not like an animal or fish, bird or tree. Man can think like God. He can know what is right and choose to do it. We say man is a 'moral being'.

Then God told Adam to give names to the animals. The animals came to Adam and he gave names to all of them (2:19).

Later in Genesis 2, the Bible tells us how God made woman.

A SPECIAL PLACE FOR ADAM

God is loving and very wise. When God made Adam, He took him to a special garden (2:8). God made this garden in Eden. Its exact location is given in the Bible (2:10-14). God put every good thing in the garden for Adam to enjoy. Everything that Adam needed grew there.

God told Adam to live in the garden and take care of it. He told Adam how to care for the plants and animals. His plan was for man to rule over the creation. And there would always be sufficient to eat. There was also a 'tree of life' which is the same tree that will grow in the New World at the end of this age (Genesis 2:9, Revelation 22:2). There was also the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Because God said 'rule over creation,' man likes to be a leader. And he needs work. A man is not happy if he has no work! God told Adam what to do and the things he should not do. He told him how to rule justly and with care. Everything God tells us to do is good for us. God is love and God is just and right.

Adam took care of God's garden and God talked to him about everything. Adam was busy naming all the animals as he sat with God (2:19). But none of the animals were equal with Adam.

A FRIEND FOR ADAM

After all the animals passed by, God looked at Adam. He sat there all alone. God said. 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him' (2:18).

God knew Adam needed one of his own kind, a person who would be his friend. So He created Eve. She was like Adam. While Adam slept, God took a rib from his side and made a female person (2:21).

'In His image... male and female, God created them' (1:27). Eve, also, was made 'in God's image' or in the likeness of God.

When Adam awoke, God brought Eve to him. He saw at once that she was like him. She was not like the animals. She was a special friend to him. Then Adam named her too. He called the woman 'Eve' and she shared in everything he did. Eve was Adam's wife.

Note that:

1. Adam and Eve were the only two people who entered the world without actually being born. They were God's special creation.
2. Adam and Eve were the only people who entered the world free of sin, apart from Jesus who is sometimes called 'the Second Adam'.

THE DAY OF REST

On the sixth day God stopped creating (2:2). God did not create anything more after He created Eve. God called the next day 'a holy day' or 'Sabbath'. This was to be a time of rest and worship for Adam and Eve. This is why many religions around the world keep a Sabbath day of rest and worship each week.

The seventh day was a time of pleasure and rest for God. Note that the seventh

God gave mankind a final seven days to accept His offer (Genesis 7:4). Would anyone else repent and go into the ark and be saved? No, not one person came forward to join Noah and his family. The seven days passed like every other day, with men and women 'eating, drinking and marrying...' (Luke 17:26-27).

A FLOOD COVERED THE EARTH

Then God shut the door of the ark. The day Noah was shut up in the ark, it began to rain. This was the first time that it rained on earth.

Also the waters from the deep parts of the world came up and flooded the land. Soon the world was completely covered with water and the ark floated on the water.

All the mountains tops were covered with water and all living creatures died except fish. We notice the force of these words:

- a) 'Every living thing...' (7:21).
- b) 'Everything on dry land that had the breath of life that moved on the earth...' (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 did not know where he was. His life was in God's hands. This is a great example of a man's faith. When we trust ourselves to God, He takes care of us (1 Peter 5:7). For over 100 years, Noah obeyed God by building the ark ready for the day of the Flood. He kept faith in God.

Now for 150 days Noah waited for God to 'remember' him. 'The ark floated on the surface of the water' (Genesis 7:18). Noah did not try to steer the ark. In the will of God, a Christian is lifted up above the evil, as our heavenly Father cares for us. We can trust Him to be in control of our lives.



Talk about:

1. Why was God sorry that He had created people (6:6,13).
2. What stopped God from destroying all the people and animals (6:8)? What is a remnant?
3. Who made the remnant of animals and people go into Noah's ark (7:7-9,13-16)? Who shut them in?



The four arks of God

1. Genesis 6:14 — an ark of pine wood to keep safe a remnant from God's flood.
2. Exodus 2:3 — an ark of reeds to keep safe Moses who later became a leader and saviour of Israel.
3. Deuteronomy 10:1 — an ark of acacia wood to keep safe the Ten Commandments.

Each ark was used to give God's people a new beginning. They are a part of God's covenants with mankind.

A fourth ark was shown to John by Jesus in a dream:

4. Revelation 11:19 — an ark of wood called the ark of the covenant of God in the temple in heaven.

However, God was pleased with Noah (6:8). Noah trusted God in a world that was filled with hate and murder. He was married but we don't know his wife's name. He had three married sons – Shem, Ham and Japheth. He loved and obeyed God (6:9,22).

Noah was a man of great faith and courage. He told everyone that God would judge the earth because of their wickedness. He warned men that God would send a flood. He was not discouraged when his neighbours mocked him because his faith was in God alone (Hebrews 11:7).

In His grace and mercy God saved Noah and his family — eight people. God saved this small number of people from punishment and death. We call this small number a 'remnant'.

GOD PLANS TO DESTROY THE WORLD

God said to Noah, 'I am going to put an end to all people... so make yourself an ark of pine or cypress wood... Here is how you will build it...' (6:13-16).

God designed the ark. The word 'ark' is very old. It is also used in Exodus 2:3 and Deuteronomy 10:1.

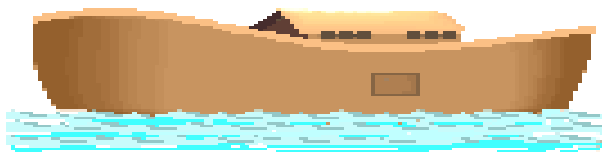
This ark had ideal measurements – nearly 150m × 30 m × 20 m – because God gave them. In 1609 the Dutchman, Peter Jansen, built a ship one third the size. It was very stable in the water and carried one third more goods than an ordinary ship of the same length.

Then in 6:17 God re-states clearly His plan to destroy 'all life'. He then introduces the word '**covenant**' for the first time (6:18). This is not just a promise like the promises He made to Adam and Eve. God's covenant with Noah, and the later covenants, are more important than promises – and become more and more important as time goes on. They are all part of His salvation plan for sinful man. The first covenant of God mentioned in Genesis 6:18 was fulfilled in Genesis 8:21 to 9:17.

As the day came for God to send the Flood on the earth, He called to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and your whole family' (Genesis 7:1).

God's call is tender, like a father calling his children to come into the house away from a coming storm.

'Come in! Come in!' God calls, but most people do not listen. Only Noah and his wife, their three sons and the three sons' wives went into the ark.



Then the animals and birds came to Noah. He did not have to go out to find them God sent them. Noah also took extra animals to sacrifice to God and for food.

Then God shut Noah in. Why was this necessary? To make sure that they were safe, and to keep all others out. Up to that moment, the door of the ark stood open. God's word to all people today is that anyone who wants to come can come (Revelation 22:12-17).

'day' does not have an ending like the other six days. God is still enjoying His creation. So should we! The best way to keep the Sabbath rest is to worship God and then take pleasure in His creation at all times.

God put His own Spirit in Adam and Eve. He gave them life that would go on forever. All life comes from God, so man should obey Him and worship Him only (Exodus 20:3). However, we know that sin shuts out God's Spirit and stops us from having everlasting life. Jesus is the way back to God and to receive His Spirit and to have everlasting life.



Talk about:

1. What did God say about the seventh day of the week (2:2)?
2. What do you know about the two special trees in the garden of Eden (2:9,16)?
3. What does Genesis 2:24 teach us about God's plan for marriage and families?



Genesis chapter 3

God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good' (Genesis 1:31). He created Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, and took them to a beautiful garden in Eden. He put all kinds of fruit trees and nut trees in the garden. Adam and Eve had everything they needed.

The garden was a safe place. God told Adam to work in the garden and take care of it, and to take care of Eve. God was King and Adam and Eve did what God told them to do.

He did not leave them to find their own way. He was always there to guide and help them.

Every day, God walked and talked with Adam and Eve. He wanted them to get to know Him and love Him as a very dear friend.

GOD GAVE ADAM A COMMAND

God said to Adam: 'You can eat the fruit from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. For the day you eat from it you can be sure that you will die' (Genesis 2:16-17).

God was King and this was His command. Adam could understand God's command; he knew that God's words were true.

God loved Adam and wanted only the best for him. He knew what was good for the man. He wanted to protect Adam and Eve from danger. He wanted to protect Adam from knowing evil. If Adam obeyed God it would be easy to work the garden. But God created Adam free to choose. Adam could choose to obey God or choose not to obey. To not obey God is very wrong; it is sin. And sin must be punished.

SATAN WAS PUT OUT OF HEAVEN

Satan wanted to spoil God's creation. He came into the garden looking for Adam and Eve. He used the snake in the garden to speak to Eve. The snake may have been very beautiful. But it was more able to trick others than any animal that God had made (Genesis 3:1).

Satan (the chief devil) was once a beautiful angel, but he was proud and wanted to be greater than God. So God put Satan out of heaven (Luke 10:18). Jesus was with His Father, God, at the beginning (John 17:5). Jesus saw Satan fall from heaven (Luke 10:18).

Eve heard Satan's voice speaking to her. He said things about God that were not true. Satan wanted Eve to choose the wrong way, then he could get power over the man and his wife. Satan wanted to be 'king' over God's creation.

God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). Everything God says is true. All lies come from Satan. The Bible says, 'The bad spirit, the devil... is a liar, and all lies come from him' (John 8:44).

'Did God really say that you should not eat from any tree in the garden?' Satan asked Eve. Satan changed God's words to make God seem unfair. Did God really care for Eve and her husband?

Eve told Satan that God said, 'Do not touch or eat fruit from the tree in the centre of the garden, or you will be sure to die' (Genesis 3:3).

Did Eve believe what God had said? Did she believe what Satan told her? She had to choose between God's command and Satan's lie. She had to make a choice. We, too, must choose what is right!

Some angel spirits followed Satan. All the angel spirits who did not obey God

6. Adam and Eve —

- a) were glad that they had eaten the forbidden fruit;
- b) were not sorry they had eaten the fruit;
- c) wanted to leave the garden of Eden.

7. God —

- a) punished Adam, Eve and the snake;
- b) said there would be peace for them all on earth;
- c) made Adam and Eve some clothes from leaves.

8. Abel —

- a) hated and killed Cain;
- b) brought the right offering to God;
- c) was the first child born to Adam and Eve.

9. Which sentence is true?

- a) Tubal Cain was a musician;
- b) Lamech had two wives and killed a man;
- c) Seth was the son of Enosh, Adam's son.

10. The sin of Adam and Eve —

- a) only affected Adam and Eve;
- b) only affected people born before the Flood;
- c) affected all people born before and after the flood.



Genesis chapters 6 and 7

FROM BAD TO WORSE

The first six verses of chapter 6 describe how bad things became due to man's desire (lust/appetite) for sinning.

Although we do not understand all the events described in these verses, we know that God was very sad:

- God sees it all (v.5). God is never so far away that He cannot see our sins.
- God suffers when we sin (v.6). He has feelings.
- God judges sin and takes action (v.7). He decided to destroy every living thing. 'I am very sorry that I have made man.' Our sins deserve punishment – even death.
- God decides to start again using Noah and his family (v.18). God is always preparing for our salvation. Amazing grace!

NOAH, A MAN OF FAITH

'The Lord was grieved that He had made man on the earth and His heart was filled with pain' (Genesis 6:6). God loved His creation but the earth was filled with wickedness.



Our Wonderful Creator: Our Wonderful Saviour

Genesis 1 provides us with a wonderful picture of our God:

- Our God is the only god.
- Our God is the only creator.
- Our God's creation is perfect and good.
- Creation shows God's wisdom and purpose.
- Creation shows God's nature, beauty and kindness – His glory.

But the story of life is that men and women disobey God and choose evil instead of good. Genesis 1-11 tells us about the goodness of God and about the sin of mankind and the rest of the Bible tells us about God's answer to sins: His salvation plan for mankind.

To keep us from sinning, God has provided:

- His Bible as His **guide** (to do what is right and understand His holy laws for living).
- His covenant promises as a **guarantee** of His righteous judgement.
- His Holy Spirit as His **god** (like a pointed stick to encourage us to obey and to work hard).
- Our conscience as His **guard** (against doing wrong).
- His son, Jesus, as His **gateway** to heaven (there is no other way or person to bring us close to God).

The first Adam brought sin into the world. The 'Second Adam' (Jesus) brought salvation into the world. His Hebrew name, Yeshua, means 'salvation'

- d) none in the days of Lamech (Genesis 5:29);
- e) none in the days when Noah prepared for a coming flood (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5).

Men became more violent and fought each other. No-one was safe. There were no laws or courts, so Lamech was not punished for his murder of a man.

And God's grace and patience waited (1 Peter 3:20).

Lamech's song is a song of victory on the use of the sword (Genesis 4:23-24). Cainite history begins with murder and ends with the praise of murder. Human life was not held sacred, as God commanded it should be (Genesis 9:5-6).



Talk about:

1. What choice did God give Cain (4:4-7) and why?
2. What do we learn about Cain's respect for God (4:3,5,9)?
3. How does the Bible describe the family of Cain (4:19-24)?



QUESTIONS BASED ON GENESIS 1 to 5

Answers are given at the end of the book

Choose the correct answer a, b or c.

1. In the beginning, God —
 - a) made all things well;
 - b) made good and evil;
 - c) made us very different to Himself.
2. God —
 - a) is just spirit and we are just body;
 - b) is a person and spirit and so are we;
 - c) does not have feelings as we do.
3. In the beginning, Adam —
 - a) was not able to make any choices for himself;
 - b) was afraid of God;
 - c) was given freedom to choose what to do.
4. Eve —
 - a) was a servant for Adam;
 - b) was a helper and companion for Adam;
 - c) was the first of Adam's wives.
5. Satan, speaking through the snake —
 - a) deceived Eve;
 - b) deceived Adam;
 - c) wanted Adam and Eve to know the difference between good and evil.

were put out of heaven. There are many of these evil spirits, with Satan as their leader. In the Bible they are called devils or demons. Satan uses demon spirits to try to gain power over men and women. He is our great enemy.

THE CHOICE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL

In the Garden of Eden there were many good trees for the food of life. But there were two special trees: the Tree of Life that offered eternal life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil that offered death (Genesis 2:9,17; 3:22).

When Adam and Eve chose to eat from the wrong tree, they gained knowledge – knowledge of both good and evil. But by disobeying God, they lost eternal life. (In John's vision of the Holy City of God (Revelation 22:2) the tree of life will be there but not the tree of knowledge of good and evil. There will be no evil or temptation to do evil in the next world.) Man's greatest reward had now been lost because of sin. God knew it was not a good thing for man to know evil and to live for ever. God wanted man to obey Him, to choose to worship Him and have fellowship with Him.

The Bible tells us about man's sin against God and about God's plans for mankind to choose the right way back to worshipping Him – freely, without force.

The Bible tells us all about God's love for mankind, His hatred of evil and the sin of mankind. It is the record of the greatest love story ever told – of God's love for us despite the destruction, poverty and terror caused by our sins. The Bible tells how He worked in the lives of people like Adam, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Judah, Moses, David and the great prophets and judges of Israel. To these people He gave a 'way back to God from the dark paths of sin'.

Then finally, through Jesus, His only Son, He provided a way for all of mankind to be saved from sin and to receive eternal life. Christians believe that Jesus is the only way 'back to God' (John 14:6). This is possible if we truly believe that the sacrifice of the life of Jesus was so that our sins could be forgiven. If we believe in Jesus, we can know God's forgiveness, His love, His provision and His eternal life! It is only through the love of God – His grace, His mercy, His provision – that we can be saved, if we believe.

THE FIRST SIN

Satan saw that Eve was not sure. Her faith in God was not strong, so Satan quickly took control. He said to Eve, 'You can be sure you will not die! For God knows when you eat the fruit of that tree, your eyes will be opened and you will know things you have never known before ...both good and evil' (Genesis 3:5). Satan told Eve a lie. He is the 'father of lies.' Eve put out her hand and took some of the fruit and ate it. It was the fruit that God told them not to eat. Then she gave the fruit to Adam and he ate some.

That day, in the beautiful garden in Eden, a very bad thing happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command. God had created them free to choose, but Satan came and tempted them. When they were tempted, Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. They listened to Satan and obeyed him instead of God.

They did wrong and their sin turned their hearts away from God. Sin separated them from the Creator who gave them life.

What happened? Did they drop dead? No, their bodies did not die then, but death came to their spirits. They were lost from God. The wrong things we do, and say, and think, cut us off from God. Sin comes between us and God. Sin separates us from each other.

'The wrong things that you do have cut you off from God. Because of this He has turned His face away from you and He will not listen to you any more.' This is what Isaiah the prophet of God said many years later (Isaiah 59:2).

ADAM AND EVE KNEW THEY HAD DONE WRONG

When God first made the world and everything in it, it was 'very good' (Genesis 1:10, 21, 31). There was nothing wrong: no pain, no suffering, no disease, no poverty, no famine, no fighting, no sin, and no death. But things are NOT 'very good' in the world today.

And nothing seemed right any more for Adam and Eve. They were afraid of their Creator-God. They were no longer innocent and they felt shame because they were naked. What had happened? They had listened to Satan and obeyed him. Now Satan was their master and sin held them tight. Sin had spoilt God's perfect world. And yet it was God Himself who allowed Satan to tempt Adam and Eve. God wants people to choose wisely between good and evil. Adam and Eve chose to please themselves instead of pleasing God. They believed the lie of Satan instead of the truth of God.

Adam and Eve knew that they had done wrong. They knew that they had sinned against God, and they felt very bad inside. They knew that they were naked and they wanted to cover themselves and hide from God (3:7-8). They were slaves to sin.



How innocent blood covers over sin

God's law says, 'The person that sins must die'. Adam and Eve had done wrong. How could God be just and fair and still let them live? God had a plan. He would let something die in their place. So God took an animal and killed it. Then He made coats for Adam and Eve from the animal's skin (Genesis 3:21).

In this way, God used the blood of the animal that was killed to 'cover over' Adam and Eve's sin and shame. (The had tried to 'cover over' their bodies by making clothes from leaves.) God says that we cannot cover over our sin and shame by anything we can do ourselves. We cannot put right our sins. We must ask God to forgive us and then thank Him.

God gave Adam and Eve forgiveness through the repeated sacrifices of innocent blood. Before His Son, Jesus, died for us, God used the blood of innocent animals as a picture of the way He would use the blood of Jesus to forgive sins. Jesus was innocent – He did not sin. So by His blood we, too, can be forgiven. God alone is able to save us from our sins through the blood of His Son. This is because of the grace and mercy and love of God. After Jesus died, there was no need for any other sacrifice of innocent blood.

Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for all people and for all times. If you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then you can have your sins forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ. Read more about this in your Bible (Mark's Gospel) and in Manna Publications Bible commentaries.

done. How foolish! God knows all about us, and He knew all about Cain! He sees deep into our hearts and our lives (Hebrews 4:12).

SATAN, THE FATHER OF LIES

So Cain copied Adam and chose to do wrong. Satan even put murder in his heart and he murdered his brother. Jesus said that those who follow Satan are 'sons of the devil' (John 8:44). Satan is 'the father of lies'.

God gave Cain time to repent and confess his sin. From beginning to end, the Bible calls men to repent and confess their sin to God (Acts 17:30). And God waits for us to do this. But he does not wait for ever.

When God spoke to Cain again, it was in judgement. If we don't obey God's voice when He calls us to repent and trust Him, what is there left for us? Only His judgement! (Hebrews 10:30-31).

GOD PUNISHES SINNERS WHO ARE NOT SORRY

Cain was judged because of his sin against God, the giver of life, and for killing Abel, his brother, who was made 'in the image of God'. (Genesis 9:6) God told Cain, 'You will never have a place that you can call home. Your father and mother will not want you and the land will be even harder for you to work than before...'

'It's more than I can bear...' Cain said. He was too proud to say that he had sinned and that he should be punished.

Cain went to another country, where no-one knew him. He and his sons built a city there. Cain named the city after his son Enoch.

Cain made a new start. Men in Cain's family learned science, art, and engineering (4:21-22). They spread out faster than the sons of Seth (Adam's third son), who were godly people. Cain's tribe did not care about God's laws and men began to take more than one wife. Under God's law a man must take only one wife (2:24), but Lamech married two women (4:19).

Cain's family were clever but they did not love God. They loved the things of this world that God had made but did not love God, the creator of all things (Romans 1:18-25).

However, there were times when people wanted to turn back to the Lord God (4:26). We should pray that this will happen today before it is too late – whilst there is time before Jesus returns.

GOD SENT MEN TO SPEAK FOR HIM

God sent men of faith among the people to speak for Him, but most of the time no-one wanted to hear about Almighty God or to repent of their sin (Romans 3:10-12). We find:

- a) no repentance that we know of in Adam and Eve;
- b) no repentance in the days of Enosh, son of Seth, when men of faith 'called on the name of the Lord' (4:26);
- c) none in the days when Enoch warned of 'judgement to come' (Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 14,15);

Out in the field, Cain killed his brother because he could not control his anger. Anger is like a fire. It burns deep in men's hearts.

Abel's blood 'cried out to God' from the earth where it had been spilled.

God spoke to Cain again. Oh, the mercy and grace of God! His sweet voice keeps coming to us sinners, again and again. Oh, the grace of God that He does not go on His way and leave us to suffer in our sin!

'Where is your brother?' God asked Cain.

Cain again had to make a choice. He could confess his sin and ask for pardon. But he chose to avoid God's question and he told a lie to cover up what he had

God gave us a way to know when we do wrong. We do not feel good about ourselves. Something inside, called our conscience, says to us, 'You have done wrong.' God gave us a conscience that helps us know right from wrong.



Talk about:

1. Why did God make both men and women?
2. Why did God make us 'in His own image'?
3. Why did God allow Satan to tempt Adam and Eve?
4. What did God give us to help us to do what is right?
5. Did God make anything that was not good?

THEY TRIED TO HIDE THEIR SHAME

Adam and Eve found some big leaves and sewed them together to make aprons (skirts). They tried to hide their shame by covering their nakedness with aprons. They put on the aprons and crept away into the forest. They knew God would be coming to talk with them. He always came to the garden in the evening when it was cool (3:8).

Would He come? Would He stop loving them? No! He did not stop loving them, but He was very sad. When we disobey God's laws it hurts God, it hurts us and it hurts others.

In the evening, God came to the garden to talk with His friends. Adam and Eve were hiding because they knew they had done wrong. How foolish for them to think they could hide from God! The Bible says 'No-one can hide from God. His eyes see everything we do. We must give an answer to God for what we have done' (Hebrews 4:13).

There is only one way for people who have lost God to come back to Him. They must be sorry for their sin and wrong doing. They must tell God they are sorry for the wrong things they have done. They must repent. They must turn away from the wrong things they do and come back to God.

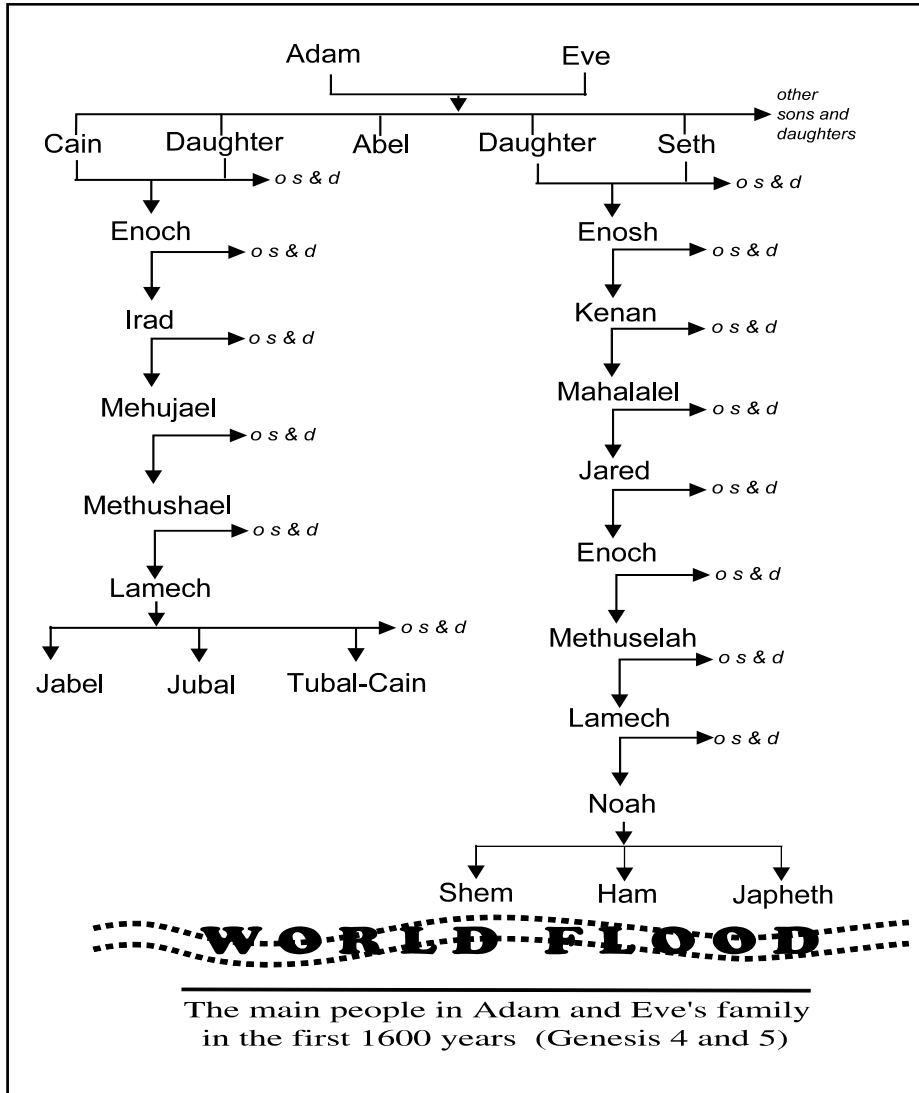
God wanted Adam and Eve to 'own' their sin and to be sorry for disobeying His command. He wanted Adam to confess his sin, so God came calling to Adam, 'Where are you?' (Genesis 3:9)



THE EFFECT OF DOING WRONG

Adam was afraid. He did not want God to find him. He no longer wanted fellowship with God. Sin destroys our relationship with God.

You may ask, 'How could God create a world with so much sin and sickness and suffering in it today?' The answer is that God created a perfect world. God said everything He created was 'very good'. But people have done wrong, and sin has become their master. They are sinners and sin stops people obeying God. It brings anger and war and destroys our relationship with God.



Our bad ways have turned the world into a sad and troubled place. The Bible says, 'All people have done wrong and all people are far from being as good as God' (Romans 3:23). This happened because one man (Adam) did a wrong thing. This is why Christians believe that we are born with sin in our lives — we are not perfect!

God did not forget about Adam and Eve, or the beautiful world He had created. He calls to all people to leave their sin and come back to Him. Many people do not want to seek after God, but God calls to us. God wants to be friends again.

'Where are you, Adam?' God called. Of course God knew where Adam was. He knew Adam and Eve were hiding. God wanted Adam to come to Him and say that he had done wrong. He wanted to forgive Adam and Eve for what they had done and to be friends again.

Do you think Adam and Eve were sorry? No! They blamed each other. Eve said it was the snake's fault and Adam blamed God for giving him Eve as his wife (Genesis 3:12).

SHUT OUT OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The Bible says we cannot blame others for the bad things we do. We cannot blame our mothers, or say that we grew up in a poor part of the country, or that we had bad friends when we were young. God says, 'Every person must give account...' (Matthew 12:36). They will pay for every wrong thing.

Because God is true and fair, He must punish sin. So God put Adam and Eve out of the garden and closed the way back. A mighty angel guarded the way back with a sword of fire (Genesis 3:24).

God told Adam and Eve some sad things that would happen because of their sin.

God told Eve, 'You will give birth to children in pain...'. To Adam God said, 'The ground is cursed because of you. By hard work you will eat food from it all the days of your life' (Genesis 3:17). That was the worst day in the history of the world. Pain and hard work would become a normal part of life.

From that day on, Adam had to work hard and dig the hard ground to get enough to eat. And every time Eve had a baby she had pain. All this was part of the curse that came on men and women because of their sin. Sin always makes trouble. Sin always causes us pain and suffering.

Mighty angels guarded the way to the garden and a sword of fire turned this way and that way. The garden was a picture of heaven and the sword was a picture of God's judgement on sin. Sin must be cut out before any sinner can enter heaven.

GOD'S PLAN TO STOP US DOING WRONG

If God had fully judged Adam and Eve for their sin, they would have died at once. And we would not be here now! God is a holy God and does not allow sin. But God found other ways to help people to stay true to Him and to avoid punishment. The Bible tells us about the good people who obeyed God. People like Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who we will read about later. The Bible tells us about God's salvation plan for those people He calls to obey Him.

The Bible also tells us about the bad people who caused a lot of trouble in the

The Bible tells us, 'The Lord looked in favour on Abel and his offering...' (4:4). The sacrifice of Abel was pleasing to God. But God did not accept Cain's sacrifice and Cain had an argument with God about it. So God spoke to Cain and gave him a chance to change his mind. God called Cain to repent and to do what was pleasing to God.

God always moves toward us in grace and mercy, even when we do wrong. His love and favour are always toward us.

When God speaks to us we have two choices. We either believe Him and obey, or we don't! We all have to choose. People listen and obey God's Word, or they listen to the 'sinner's voice' in their own hearts. When they turn away from God's voice and go their own way, God is sad. He may allow them to have trouble to make them listen, but He does not force them to listen to Him.

CAIN KNEW RIGHT FROM WRONG BUT FAILED

Cain thought he could obey God his own way, but God said to him, 'If you do what is right, you will be accepted' (4:7).

In everything we do, there is a right and a wrong way. How can we know what is right? God tells us in His word. His word is TRUTH. You can trust God's word! He has given us a conscience. He has also given believers His Holy Spirit to guide us.

But Cain rejected God's way of doing what is right. He then became angry. His life was spoilt by sin. He became the servant of sin.

God waited for Cain to repent. If Cain was sorry, then God could receive his true worship. Cain knew that God was not pleased with his offering. But he did not want to offer what Abel offered. He did not want to ask his brother for a lamb to sacrifice to God. He was too proud to ask. He knew what was right to please God but failed to do it. He was angry with God.

And he was angry at his brother, too! That was not right. It was not Abel's fault. It was Cain's fault.

'Why are you angry?' God told Cain, 'Do what is right, then you will be accepted.' The Bible says: 'By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did' (Hebrews 11:4). And again: 'Do not be like Cain who belonged to the evil one (Satan)' (1 John 3:12).

GOD GIVES CAIN ANOTHER CHANCE

God instructed Cain. 'Do what is right (live by faith in God) and be accepted...' God said, 'If you do not do what is right, sin is waiting at your door to grab you. But you must rule over it (4:7). Cain knew what was pleasing to God. He knew that the sacrifice of an animal was acceptable to God. But instead he became angry and would not ask his brother for one of his lambs to offer to God.



Martyrs

Abel was the first person to be killed for serving God. We say he was a martyr. The Bible tells us about many, many martyrs who died because of their faith in God.

Dear reader, please continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with your friends and relatives even if this causes you a lot of suffering. Remember Revelation 3:11 and Matthew 24:42.

God told Adam and Eve to take charge of the earth (3:23). They had work to do. They could not do this alone; they needed children to help them. And they had to teach their children about God. God wants order in our families. 'Adam made love to his wife. She became pregnant and gave birth to Cain' (4:1).

God made Adam and Eve in His own likeness (5:1). But the children of Adam and Eve were born as sinful humans. Like them our hearts are 'always turned to what is evil'. The only other person to be born in the likeness of God was His own Son, Jesus. Jesus was born through the Spirit of God to the virgin Mary. He was born as a human being but without sin from birth. Nor did he yield to temptation.

LIFE OUTSIDE THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Soon after this Adam and Eve had another son and they called him Abel. (4:2).

I am sure that Adam told his two boys about the garden in Eden and the things that happened there, how God put him and their mother out of the garden because they did not obey His command. Now they were cut off from God's special life in the fertile garden. Eden was behind them and they would never be able to go back (Genesis 3:23).

God sent mighty angels with swords of fire to close the way (3:24). It was a picture of God's judgement on sin, and of His curse on Satan and on all evil. There will always be war between men who followed Satan and those who had faith in God (Genesis 3:15).

When Adam sinned and did not obey God, his mind and heart turned away from God. Sin changed Adam's whole nature. Sadly, he passed his sinful nature on to his children and they passed it to their children (Romans 5:12). We all have Adam's sinful nature! We have all sinned through our father Adam and our selfish nature rules over us. Without the Spirit of God in our lives, sin is our master! Because sin is our master, we do wrong things. God's word says, 'All have sinned...' (Romans 3:23). Our thoughts remind us of sin but our desire must be for God. This is why we must understand God's great salvation plan. God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. There is no other way back to God and live in His likeness.

CAIN AND ABEL TRY TO FIND GOD'S WAY

When Cain and Abel were small, they worked with their parents in the fields. They learned how to use the land to grow crops and care for the animals. As they grew older, Cain chose to grow food. It was hard work breaking up the ground, and weeds grew among his vegetables.

Abel chose to work with the sheep. Every morning, he took them out to find grass. In the evening, he brought them in to a safe place. One day, Cain and Abel chose to bring an offering to God. It was to show that they wanted to worship Him and bring their 'Thank You' gift.

That morning Abel went out into the field to find the best lambs to offer to God (4:4).

Cain cut some of the ripe vegetables and brought them to the family altar. Cain was self-confident. He wanted to worship God in his own way.

world. This is why God promised to send a Saviour. He sent many good people to point the way back from sin. And one day, at a time fixed by God, he sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to remove all that was wrong in man's heart. He came 'to seek and to save the lost' (Luke 19:10). For God said, 'All have sinned...' (Romans 3:23). 'God was in Jesus, His Son. He was working through Jesus to bring back the whole world to Himself' (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The whole world was lost in sin and cut off from God. When Adam sinned, he passed his sinful nature on to his children. And they passed the same sinful nature on to their children. So the Bible says, 'There is not one person who is right with God. No, not even one' (Psalm 14:3). We are sinners.

Because we are sinners, like Adam, we hide from God. We try to cover up our sins. We blame others. Why is this? Because we have Adam's wrong nature inside. We have his sinful ways. We do not obey God and our hearts turn away from Him. We are not perfect.


Jesus Christ, God's Son, was perfect. He had no sin. Jesus Christ was the only one who was good enough to die for us. He took God's punishment in our place. Jesus Christ was the only one who could die for all the sinners in the world. Jesus, who never sinned, died to be the perfect sacrifice for sinful men and women.

'We were weak and could not help ourselves (Romans 5:6-8). Then Christ came at the right time and gave His life for all sinners.'

He gave His own life in place of your life and mine.

When we tell God that we are sorry for our sins, He will forgive us because Jesus



 <p>God's Truth in Genesis 3</p> <p>These are the important truths that Genesis 3 teaches us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first sin was to disobey God (v.6). • The sinful nature of Adam and Eve has been passed on to their children and to all people in the world (Romans 3:23). • Satan will be at war with all people (v.15). • Women will suffer pain in childbirth (v.16). • Women will submit to their husbands (v.16). • Men will have to work hard in order to live (v.17). • The ground will be cursed with weeds (v.18). • The ground will supply food to live 	<p>on if we work hard (v.18).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's bodies will die and not live for ever (v.19,22). • God allows animal skins to be used for clothing (v.21). <p>Today, people who do not want to believe God want to change or disagree with these things.</p> <p>Notice that there are types of punishment given or allowed by God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pain in childbirth (v.16). • weeds growing with food (v.18). • hard work to survive (v.17). <p>There is also a promise of God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A son of woman will 'crush the head of Satan' (v.15) – this is the first time God speaks about the coming Saviour (Jesus Christ).
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died in our place. He will take away our sin so that our friendship with Him will be made right again. Then we can talk with Him just as Adam and Eve did at first in the garden. God wants us to do this. He is waiting to be our friend. He wants to take us to heaven to live with Him when we die. If we believe that Jesus died for us then we must also believe that Jesus rose from death for us. His death saves us from punishment for sin. His resurrection gives us hope of a new life – in this world and in heaven. We can begin again. We can be born again (John 3:3,7,14–16). This is God's great salvation plan. His plan was that men and women should 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved' (Acts 16:31). 'By this good news you are saved' (1 Corinthians 15:2).

If you trust Jesus as your Saviour, you will go to heaven when you die. Saved sinners go to heaven because Jesus took their punishment. Now the gate to heaven is open to all men who believe in Jesus.

1. Let Jesus save you from your sins. Ask God to forgive you. Then continue to read more about God's plan for you in the Bible. You will find joy and peace when you are right with God. The Almighty God, Yahweh, who created the world, will help you and will be your friend.

'There's a way back to God from the dark paths of sin;

There's a door that stands open and you may go in.

At Calvary's cross is where you begin, when you come as a sinner to Jesus.'

H. Swinstead



said that this was God's plan from the beginning (Matthew 19:8). Divorce is man's idea.

Often people who are married do not have children. Remember that if there are no children in a marriage, the marriage is still complete. There is no mention of having children in Genesis 2. Therefore it is wrong to end a marriage because there are no children. And it is wrong for people to say that married couples must have children. Marriage is complete even without children. For a man and wife to seek pleasure together in sex without having children is good. Sex is a gift from God.

Adoption of children who have no parents can be a good thing.

So marriage between a man and woman is God's law. But divorce is man's law. God's law cannot be broken without someone getting hurt. That is true about divorce and it is true about having sex outside marriage.

Men should not force their wives to make love with them. They should love each other from the heart and make love as in the Bible (read Song of Songs, sometimes called Song of Solomon) thinking only of each other.

Disobeying God's laws on sex and marriage can lead to early death, not life, because of the HIV/AIDS virus. Jesus warned us not to allow sexual immorality to spoil the good works of God's grace (Revelation 2:22).



Talk about:

1. Why do we say that sinful people are separated from God?
2. Why do we say that people are sinners from birth?
3. How can a sinful man come back to God?
4. How can a holy God forgive a sinful man?
5. What is God's marriage law (Genesis 2:24)?



Genesis chapters 4 and 5

ADAM AND EVE HAVE CHILDREN

Adam and Eve were husband and wife. At that time God gave us a marriage law and it has never changed. God's marriage law says, 'A man will leave his father and mother, and will be joined to his wife. And the two of them will become one.' (2:24)

God made natural laws. He set the stars to follow a path. They do not wander all over the sky. They move in perfect order. The universe is full of God's order. The order in creation follows natural laws. When I fell out of a tree, I fell downwards and hurt myself – I didn't fall upwards! This is one of God's natural laws. We call it gravity. All God's laws are for our good – even if they can hurt us. And God's marriage law is most important. It is for our good.

Man is not complete without woman. Woman is not complete without man. They need each other. Marriage between man and woman is normal because it is necessary. That is God's plan. That is God's law. That is God's provision (2:24).

Some churches say that priests should not marry, but to forbid marriage is wrong (Genesis 2:18; 1 Timothy 4:3). However we can choose not to marry.



Sex and Marriage and Divorce

God made only one marriage law. 'A man will leave his father and mother to be joined to his wife. The two of them will become one' (Genesis 2:24). That is a wonderful law. If people keep God's marriage law it will fix many problems. God knew that man needs a wife. And He knew that children need a father and mother. His law blesses a man and woman and it protects the family.

So it is God's plan for a man and a woman to marry. It is God's plan for them to have children when they are married. He made it a pleasure to 'make love' (have sex) so that children could be born. If sex was not a pleasure there would be no children and God's creation would die.

But if we seek pleasure in sex without marriage then that is against God's plan. And if we have children without being married, this can cause problems and sadness for the children. If we have sex in other ways then this is not part of God's plan. If a man has more than one wife, that causes jealousy and sadness, too. If a man changes his wife for another one, there is anger and sadness. Jesus knew it was God's plan for a man to be faithful to one wife, to have no one else and to stay with that one wife if possible for life. In this way, children can be born and grow up in a loving home and not be saddened by parents who are not faithful to each other. Jesus

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