



LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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Lesson 2

GENESIS

- Genesis (Greek rendering of the Hebrew, bereshith = in the beginning): beginning, creation, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).
- Tradition and statements by Jesus and the Apostles attribute Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch to Moses (Luke 2:22, 24:44; John 1:17, 7:19; Acts 13:39; 1 Corinthians 9:9; Hebrews 10:28, etc.).
- Genesis is a divinely revealed account of the beginning of everything except God.
 - The beginning of the created world (Genesis 1:1–25).
 - The beginning of humanity (Genesis 1:26, 2).
 - The beginning of sin (Genesis 3:1–7).
 - The beginning of the promise of redemption (Genesis 3:8–24).
 - The beginning of family life (Genesis 4:1–15).
 - The beginning of civilization (Genesis 4:16–9:29).
 - The beginning of nations (Genesis 10–11).
 - The beginning of God’s chosen people (Genesis 12–50).
 - The beginning of other things, such as God’s judgment, the use of altars, physical death, etc., are also seen throughout the book.

OUTLINE

- The Beginning.
 - Creation (1–2).
 - This is not human theory, but divine testimony.
 - If we accept the premise, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1), everything else in Scripture begins to fall into place.
 - The time between vv. 1 & 2 is unknown, but leaves ample room for geologic eras, changes to the earth, even dinosaurs.
 - “*In the beginning God,*” does not represent the beginning of God (he is eternal, transcendent of time and space), or the beginning of the universe, or even the earth, which was formless and empty. It describes the beginning of the story, the events revealed to Moses.
 - The phrase, “*the earth was formless and empty,*” (v. 2) can accurately be translated, “the earth became formless and empty,” since *was* and *became* are both included in the Hebrew word, *haya* (Hebrew): *to be, to become, to exist, to occur*.
 - The darkness [that] was over the surface of the deep could describe the chaos and resulting darkness that existed in the universe before God declared, “*Let there be light*” (v. 3).
 - Because God is omnipotent, the six days of Creation (vv. 3–31) may be taken literally by those who choose to do so.

However, those who choose to take the six days as a description of the order of Creation, may do so, as well.

- The Fall (3–4).
 - The strategy Satan used on Adam and Eve is still his strategy today.
 - Questioning God’s Word – “*Did God really say...*” (v. 1).
 - Lying – “*You will not certainly die...*” (vv. 5-6).
*Compare with vv. 16-17.
 - Appealing to the senses – “*When the woman saw...*” (vv. 6).
 - Results of sin.
 - Selfishness – “*they realized they were naked... [and] made coverings for themselves*” (v. 7). *Note how Adam blamed Eve (and God). “*The woman you put here with me... gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it*” (v. 12).
 - Estrangement from God – they hid from him and lied to him (vv. 8-10).
 - God cursed the serpent, Eve, and then Adam before banishing them from the Garden of Eden (vv. 14-19).
 - The *protoevangelium* (Latin – the first hope of redemption): “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel*” (Genesis 3:25).
 - Adam and Eve’s children:
 - Cain (4:1).
 - Abel (4:2a) – killed by Cain (4:2b-16).
 - Seth (4:25-26).
- The flood (5–9).
 - Just nine generations after Adam (5:1-32), Noah was chosen with his family to survive God’s punishment through the coming flood because he, “*...found favor in the eyes of the LORD*” (6:8) because he was, “*...a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God*” (6:8-10).
 - God told Noah his plan and gave specific instructions for building an ark (6:13-22).
 - Note: It had never rained before! “*Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground*” (Genesis 2:5-6).
 - It rained 40 days while water also came up from the earth (7:11-12) and Noah and his family spent over a year on the ark (7:12, 14).
 - God created the rainbow to represent his promise never to

- flood the earth and destroy life again (9:12-17).
 - The Tower of Babel (10–11).
 - Note: This account is not in chronological order with chapter 10 and chapter 10 is not necessarily an exhaustive list of people. There is no way to know how much time passed from Noah to the Tower of Babel.
 - Human pride – *“Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth’ (11:4)*
*Remember, God told Noah and his family, *“Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth” (9:1)*.
 - *“But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, ‘If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.’ So, the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.” (11:5-8)*
- The Patriarchs.
 - Abram, aka Abraham (12–23).
 - The Covenant – The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (12:1-3).
 - Note, God’s seven promises in covenant with Abram’s obedience:
 - *“I will make you into a great nation...”*
 - *“...I will bless you...”*
 - *“...I will make your name great...”*
 - *“...you will be a blessing.”*
 - *“I will bless who bless you...”*
 - *“...whoever curses you I will curse...”*
 - *“...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*
 - This covenant was confirmed again to Abram/Abraham (13:14-17, 15:1-21, 17:1-27, 22:1-19), his son Isaac (26:1-6, 23-25), and his grandson, Jacob (28:10–15, 32:22-32).
 - Isaac (24–26).
 - Jacob, aka Israel (27–36):
 - +Reuben (29:32)
 - +Simeon (29:33)
 - +Levi (29:34)
 - +Judah (29:35)

- ~Dan (30:6)
- ~Naphtali (Genesis 30:8)
- -Gad (30:13)
- -Asher (30:13)
- +Issachar (30:18)
- +Zebulon (30:20)
- *Joseph (30:24)
- *Benjamin (35:18)
- Joseph (37–50).
 - Jacob/Israel's favorite son (37:3-4).
 - Sold into Egyptian slavery (37:12-36).
 - Ended up as Pharaoh's second in command (41:41-56) and saved his whole family (42:1-46:7).

Next Week: Read Exodus.

