

STUDIES IN THE BIBLE

Lesson 3

The Creation And Fall Of Man

The best place to start a story is at the beginning. That is where the Bible story begins. The meaning of “Genesis,” the name of the first book, is “The beginning.” The first verse of the Bible says, **“In the beginning, when God created the universe.”**

(Gen.1:1) You will note that the statement, **“In the beginning God...,”** assumes the existence of God rather than trying to prove it. Men have always naturally believed in a supreme being. The Bible

writers, supposing that any person with ordinary intelligence could see the handiwork of God on every side, did not waste space on that which should be evident to all. The Psalmist writes, **“How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what he has done!”** (Psalm 19:1).



The Day Of Creation

We are not told when “The beginning” was, and it is useless for us to speculate. We do know that after God created the earth it was “Without form and void.” How long it remained in this condition we have not been informed. Sometime later, however, God placed

the world in its present natural state. On the first day of creation, He made light and created day and night. Heaven (called the firmament) was created on the second day. On the following days He created the heavenly bodies and members of the vegetable and animal kingdoms, with each species of plant and animal bringing forth after its kind. Last of all on the sixth day, He made man in His own image. On the seventh day, God rested from His labour.

The Fall Of Man

God placed the first man, Adam, in a beautiful garden in Eden. Because it was not good for Adam to be alone, God caused a deep sleep to come upon him and from his

side, He took a rib, from which He made a woman who became Adam’s wife. Adam named her Eve because she was the mother of all living. God gave the first couple the responsibility of keeping the garden and placed on them only one prohibition (meaning banned) – they could not eat of the tree of the knowledge of the good and evil. **“You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.”**

God told them. (Gen. 2:17). One day, however, the serpent (which was able to talk) told Eve that

they would not die if they ate of that tree. This is the first lie recorded in the Bible. Eve believed him, ate some of the



fruit and gave some to Adam who also ate. Immediately they knew the difference between right and wrong and



hid themselves from God because they realized for the first time that they were naked. This was man's first sin. We are told that **"Sin is a breaking of the law."**

(1 John 3:4)

and Adam and Eve had transgressed (meaning sinned) God's law in disobeying His commandment.

Because they sinned, God punished them in several ways. They were cast out of the garden; woman was given pain of childbearing; man was forced to labour for his food among the thorns and thistles; worst of all, death was brought on mankind. From that day until this, all men, with exception of Enoch and Elijah, have died physically. Furthermore, spiritual death – eternal separation from God – entered the world on the day that Adam and Eve sinned.

From our parents we inherit the human weakness which in time leads us to sin. But we do not inherit the GUILT of Adam's sin or of our parents'. We are told. **"Every one of us, then, will have to give an account to God."** (Rom. 14:12).

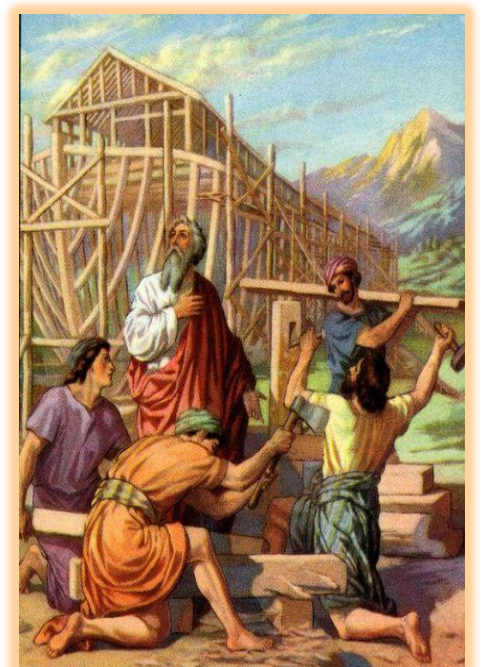
We must answer for the sins we have committed, not those of our forebears (meaning ancestors). Because of our sins, we all fall short of the glory of God (Rom.3:23) and have need of Christ to redeem us from that sin so that we might have an eternal home in heaven. This will be

discussed in detail in another lesson.

The first two children born to Adam and Eve were Cain and Abel. One day Cain became angry with his brother and killed him. This was the first murder. For his sin, Cain was banished from his people. Adam and Eve had many other children (Gen. 5:4) and undoubtedly they married among themselves to produce the first families. Little is told about the following years except that the number of men on earth greatly multiplied and people forsook (meaning to come away from) God for the ways of sin. In those days, men lived to be very old. The oldest man mention in the Bible is Methuselah who was 969 years old when he died. Even Adam lived to be 930.

The Flood

The wickedness of man so grieved God that He decided to destroy him. There was just one man named Noah, who preached righteousness, (2 Peter 2:5). The Lord resolved (meaning chose) to save him and his family. He commanded Noah to build an ark and gave him exact specifications. Noah built the large boat precisely as God had ordered. Just as it was important for Noah to follow the blueprint the Lord gave him, so we today must be sure to follow God's commands exactly as He has given them to us. When the ark was finished; God told Noah to take into it seven pairs of every clean animal and one pair of every unclean animal. Sometimes



people wonder if the ark was big enough to hold every species. Actually there was plenty of room since the ark was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and three stories high. (That would be at least 450 feet long and 75 feet wide.)

When all was in readiness Noah, his wife, his three sons (Shem, Ham and Japheth) and their wives entered the ark and waited there for seven days. It began to rain and continued for 40 days, covering the earth with a great flood. Only those in the ark were saved.

Peter, in showing that baptism is essential to salvation, takes Noah as an example when he says, “²⁰ These were the spirits of those who had not obeyed God when he waited patiently during the days that Noah was building his boat. The few people in the boat---eight in all---were saved by the water, ²¹ which was a symbol pointing to baptism, which now saves you...” (1 Peter 3:20, 21)

The water was on the earth for 150 days (Gen. 7:24) before the ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat. Finally, the eight emerged from the ark, a year and 17 days after they had entered, and offered a sacrifice to God. God promised that never again would He destroy the earth by water and as a seal placed the rainbow in the sky.

The flood ended the Antediluvian Period (before the flood). The time after the flood is known as the Postdiluvian Period.

After the flood, descendants of Noah were afraid that once again they might be scattered. They resolved to build at Babel a tower which would reach to heaven. This did not please God, so He confounded (meaning confused) their language that they might not understand one another. This made them scatter in different directions. The sons of Japheth went north. Most of the peoples of Europe and America are probably descendants of Japheth. Ham’s children settled in Canaan and Egypt and other countries in that region while Sham became the father of the Semitic peoples who include the Jews. Jesus Christ was a descendant of Shem.

To gain a better understanding of this period, read the first eleven chapters of Genesis.



2. Sin is defined as: (a) transgression of the law; (b) ignoring your conscience; (c) a curse inherited from parents. (1 John 3:4).

3 The ark was: (a) 1000 cubits long; (b) 100 cubits long; (c) 300 cubits.

Note: a cubit was about eighteen inches.

4. The number of pairs of clean animals taken into the ark was: (a) one; (b) two; (c) seven.

5. Noah was in the ark for: (a) 40 days; (b) 1 year, 17 days; (c) 150 days

Who –

- 1. Who committed the first murder?
- 2. Who told Eve to eat the forbidden fruit?
- 3. Who was the first man?
- 4. Who built the ark?
- 5. Who is the oldest man mentioned in the Bible?

Fill In The Blanks:

- 1. The first two sons of Adam were _____, and _____. (Gen. 4:1, 2)
- 2. The three sons of Noah were _____, _____, and _____. (Gen. 6:10)
- 3. After the flood the people built a tower at _____. (Gen.11:9)
- 4. Peter compares the salvation of Noah by water to _____. (1 Peter 3:20, 21)
- 5. “In the beginning God created the _____.” (Gen. 1:1)
- 6. Noah built the ark out of _____ wood. (Gen. 6:14)

You have now completed the quiz; continue onto the next page to view the answers.

THE ANSWERS

“Seek and You Shall Find”

- | | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| 1. Created light | 1st | day |
| 2. Made stars, sun and moon | 4th | day |
| 3. Made man | 6th | day |
| 4. Made birds | 5th | day |
| 5. God rested | 7th | day |
| 6. Made the firmament (heaven) | 2nd | day |
| 7. Separated the dry land from the sea | 3rd | day |
| 8. Made cattle | 6th | day |
| 9. Made fruit trees | 3rd | day |
| 10. Made whales | 5th | day |
| 11. Made creeping things | 6th | day |

Circle the letter representing the correct answer:

(1 - **C**) (2 - **A**) (3 - **C**) (4 - **C**) (5 - **B**)

Who –

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Who committed the first murder? | Cain |
| 2. Who told Eve to eat the forbidden fruit? | The serpent (snake) |
| 3. Who was the first man? | Adam |
| 4. Who built the ark? | Noah |
| 5. Who is the oldest man mentioned in the Bible? | Methuselah |

Fill In The Blanks:

1. The first two sons of Adam were; Cain , and Abel (Gen. 4:1, 2)
2. The three sons of Noah were Shem , Ham , and Japheth . (Gen. 6:10)
3. After the flood the people built a tower at Babel . (Gen.11:9)
4. Peter compares the salvation of Noah by water to Baptism . (1 Peter 3:20, 21)
5. “In the beginning God created the universe .” (Gen. 1:1)
6. Noah built the ark out of good timber wood. (Gen. 6:14)

Congratulations, you have now completed the lesson. If you have any questions about this lesson, please send us an email with your name and email address and we'll get back to you.