

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: read *Genesis*, chapters 1 thru 4; 6 thru 8; 11:1-9

BACKGROUND

Author and Date: written by Moses during his lifetime c. 1400 BC
happened from eternity past to 1800 BC, so we do not know how many years were involved

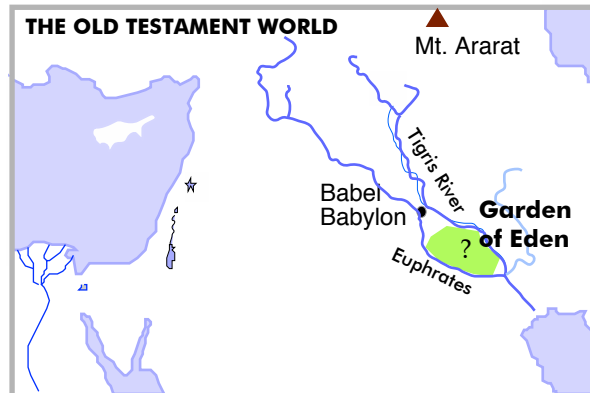
Theme: the beginning or first of things

Purpose: to give a theological and historical foundation to the rest of the Bible

Main People: Adam/Eve, Cain/Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

OUTLINE

- I. Beginning of the world and humanity 1-11
 - Creation 1 - 2
 - Fall and Promise 3 - 5
 - Flood and Promise 6 - 9
 - Tower of Babel 10 - 11
- II. Beginning of the Jewish race 11-50
 - Abraham 12 - 23
 - Isaac 24 - 26
 - Jacob 27 - 36
 - Joseph 37 - 50



DEFINITIONS and MEANINGS

First 5 books in Old Testament: called *Books of Moses*, *Books of the Law*, *Torah* (Jewish name), *Pentateuch* (Greek name)

Genesis means *beginnings, birth, the first of things*.

Death means *separation*. Physical death means life is separated from the body.
Spiritual death means a person is separated from God.

Labor, toil, sorrow, pain means *labor* Eve/women, with pain, will *labor* to bring forth children.
Adam/men, with pain, will *labor* to bring forth food from the ground.

Satan's offspring in chapter 3 are the evil angels who work for him.

Methuselah: his name means *when he dies, it will come* (the flood; God's judgment).

#40: in the Bible it is always connected with testing or judgment, depending on the context.

CRITICISMS OF THE SCHOLARS

Authorship of Moses: for 3000 years, Moses was accepted as the author of the first 5 books.

In the 1800's, liberal scholars said the books were written by 4 different groups long after the time of Moses.

The idea was called J E D P theory.

They said writing was not developed and laws were not that organized in the time of Moses.

In the last 100 years, archeology proved that writing and complex laws were used 1000 years before Moses.

These scholars still say there were 4 groups who put it together, but now admit Moses was the original author.

Ancient civilizations are not mentioned in Genesis, such as the great Chinese civilization.

Genesis is limited to salvation history, only giving the stories and facts that develop the salvation message.

Moses was **not** an **eyewitness** to the events of Genesis, so how can we trust his details?

He used what others wrote or said. Then the Holy Spirit who was present, validated what Moses should write.

He also gave Moses the information that only God would know.

KEY IDEAS

Days of Creation - were they 24-hour days or long periods of time?

The sun was placed in the heavens on the 4th day. Since our days are based on the earth's rotation in relation to the sun, during the first 3 days there was no way to count time; it was still part of eternity. God can create in one second or one eon. The Jews were not concerned in how *long* creation took. They were concerned that people knew it was **God** who did it. We would be wise to make that our emphasis as well.



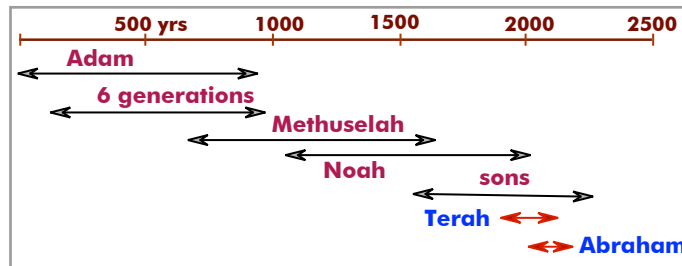
KEY IDEAS continued

How people knew they should repent

Enoch warned people that God would bring judgment against them Jude 1:14-15. He named his son, **Methuselah** - *when he dies, it, God's judgment, will come*. Methuselah's great grandson was **Noah**. He warned people for 120 years while he was building the ark 2 Peter 2:5

Longevity of people:

- Are they literal years? Yes, they are Jewish years of 360 days each.
- How was this possible? Their genes and bodies had not deteriorated that much.
They lived in a greenhouse climate that was conducive to long life.
- Why did it happen? The information passed thru only 2-3 eyewitnesses before it was written down.
Adam told Methuselah who told Noah who told the generation of Abraham's parents.
Noah & sons gave written accounts of creation and flood as people multiplied and moved.
Methuselah lived an extra long time so people had an extra long time to repent.



EXPLANATIONS

Chapters 1-2 Creation: the earth was without shape and empty.

- to give shape, **God separates:** light from darkness, water from water, waters from the dry land.
- to fill the emptiness, **God puts...**
 - ...vegetation on the **land**; the sun, moon and stars in the **heavens** - the inanimate
 - ...things that swim or fly in the **waters** or **heavens**; animals, man and woman on the **land** - the animate
- 2:17 *You will surely die; dying, you will die* At the moment of disobedience...
 - ...their bodies began to die, to degenerate - physical death.
 - ...their companionship with God was immediately gone - spiritual death.

Chapter 3:15 The First Gospel

- the literal picture
 - God will put hostility between the snake and Eve and between snakes and people. Later a man will appear. The snake will bite his heel, but the man will step on and crush the snake's head.
 - A bite on the bottom of the heel is never fatal; when a snake's head is crushed, it is fatal.
- what the picture language represents
 - The snake is a picture of Satan; Eve is Eve; Satan's offspring are the evil angels who follow Satan.
 - Eve's offspring is the human race; one of her offspring will be a man whose name is Jesus.
- the spiritual meaning of these pictures
 - Satan will continue to tempt Eve. She will always have a conflict between obedience and disobedience. Satan will create conflict for everyone in the human race, using his evil angels to tempt them. But God had a solution. Jesus would enter the human race. When Jesus was on the cross, it appeared that Satan had struck his blow and defeated Jesus. But it was only temporary. With the resurrection, Jesus was the One who dealt the fatal blow to Satan. Read 1 John 3:6 and Hebrews 2:14. Only Jesus could defeat Satan and make a relationship with God the Father possible once again.

APPLICATION: The tactics Satan used with Eve are the same he uses in our churches and with us today.

- He causes us to **doubt** God's Word: *surely God does not mean "that" for our day and age.*
- He **distorts** God's Word: *God wants you to be happy and fulfilled, so you have a right to do this or that.*
- He **denies** God's Word: *that is not what God means; God's rules have changed because times have changed.*
Disobedience always begins with distortion of the truth.

Reason to study: To recognize distortions and lies, we have to know what God **said**.
To understand what is right and what is wrong, we have to know what God **means**.

