

The Message of the Old Testament

A Book-by-Book Study

GENESIS

Background

1. GENESIS means _____.

2. The writer of Genesis is _____.

The first five books of the Bible are called the books of Moses.

Jesus himself attributed the writing to Moses. “For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.” John 5:46

3. The time of writing was most likely while the Israelites were waiting to enter the promised land (1500 - 1400 B.C.)

Historical Flow

1. Genesis 1-3: Creation, Adam and Eve, Fall

1:1

In the _____, God created the heavens and the earth.

1:26-27

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them. (1:26-27)

1:31

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very _____. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

3:1-13

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in

the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” (3:1-13)

2. Genesis 4-11: Adam to Abraham

_____ – “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. (6:5-8)

_____ – “The flood represents one of the four great judgments in the Bible, along with the fall of Adam, the cross of Christ, and the final judgment.” (Dever, 69)

_____ – Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that

they may not understand one another's speech.” 8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

3. Genesis 12-50: Abraham and His Family

12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And _____ make of you a great nation, and _____ bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a _____. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

15:13-14

Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall _____ with great possessions.”

17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; 1 walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” 3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 “Behold, my _____ is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

50:15-20

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: 17 ‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do

not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but _____ meant it for _____, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Lessons to Be Learned

1. God is _____.

1:1-3

In the beginning, _____ created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God _____, "Let there be light," and there was light.

John 1:1-3; 9-10

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not _____ thing made that was made.

9The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was _____ _____ _____, yet the world did not know him.

Who or what made God?

From where did God come?

Upon whom/what does God depend?

What does God need?

What did God use to create?

"The Bible does not spend a lot of time talking about God's self-existence except in this first famous chapter about Creation. The magnificence of God's Creation is not even the focus of Genesis. Still, his self-existence is the background for everything else. The rest of the biblical writers assume it." (Mark Dever, *The Message of the Old Testament: Promises Made*, 68)

2. God is _____.

The word holy means "set apart." By nature, God is set apart from His creation. It is created. He is uncreated. Moreover, God is set apart by His commitment to good and right. His commitment to good and right begins in the garden when He establishes a law of obedience. Holiness is the foundation of His rule.

Psalms 89:14 says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne."

So, the holiness of God is manifest in His self-existence. The term for this realm of holiness is _____.

The holiness of God is also manifest in His purity, which is the foundation of His role as cosmic ruler and final judge. It is in the interest of holiness that God commands the man not to eat of the particular tree in the midst of the garden.

3. God is _____.

He rules in two ways---by _____ and by _____.

By Command: 2:15-17

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

By Decree:

_____ : “Let there be light.” (1:3)
and

_____ : “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good” (Joseph; 50:20)

Fiat is the direct _____ of God.

Providence is the _____ action of God. In the exercise of providence, God uses secondary causes, even the sins of his creatures, to bring about His good purpose.

4. God is _____.

- Gen 3 --- The Curse --- _____
- Gen 4 --- The Fugitive --- _____
- Gen 6 --- The Flood --- Depravity on steroids
- Gen 11 --- The Dispersion --- Human Pride
- Gen 19 --- The Rain of Fire and Sulfur --- _____

In each case, judgment is the response of holy God to the sin of humans.

The judgment of God is the first of God’s works which was _____ outright. “But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’” (3:4)

The same denial leads people to unrestrained sin in our day.

Followers of Christ themselves are impacted by not taking _____ seriously.

“Is it any wonder that the first chapters of the bible have been under so much attack over the last two centuries? If we think we came into existence simply by an accidental process, then we may feel accountable to no one. Yet such freedom is lonely. It is purposeless. And it is false. It is the freedom that ignores evidence of design in the world, that rejects the idea that people are special to God, and that clones human beings only to grow spare parts with them and then discard them. This is what we call naturalism. Naturalism is the philosophy that says, since God did not make us, we are only as special as we want to think of ourselves as being. So we kill babies in the womb and older people in the nursing homes for our own convenience. Some say we do it for the betterment of society! May God deliver us in our day from such lies. And they are lies. Whether taught by a neighbor across the street or a professor at Princeton, they are lies. We need to call them such.” (Dever, 69-70)

5. God is _____.

1. In the midst of judgment, God shows mercy.

The Fall --- A _____ and Coverings of _____

3:15 – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

3:21 – “And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.”

The Flood --- A Provision of _____ and a _____

8:1 – “But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark.”

8:20-21 – “Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

The Fire --- A Party Sent to _____ Lot

19:15-17a – “As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.”
16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 And as they brought them out, one said, “Escape for your life.”

2. He makes _____ and keeps them.

Gen 9:8-11 – “Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 aI establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

15:18-21 -- On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

35:9-12 -- God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. 10 And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. 11 And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. 12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.”

“Interestingly, the early church presented Noah’s ark as a symbol of _____. Some of the earliest drawings of Christ are representations of an ark affixed to a cross, indicating that Christ is our ark. He is the vessel of mercy that we, once inside, can safely ride through the floods of God’s judgment. God has always been merciful, and never more so than by giving himself in Christ. Our only hope is God’s _____. As Christians, we have no ground for pride. We have sinned against God and are morally bankrupt. We have completely spent our small resources and now cannot provide for our most basic spiritual needs. We are entirely dependent upon Gods mercy and grace for salvation.

“This is why the cross of Christ must always be at the center of our worship, whether public or private. I don’t mean a _____ cross for us to stare at, but an understanding and a pronouncement of what God has done in the cross of Christ.”

(Dever, 71)

