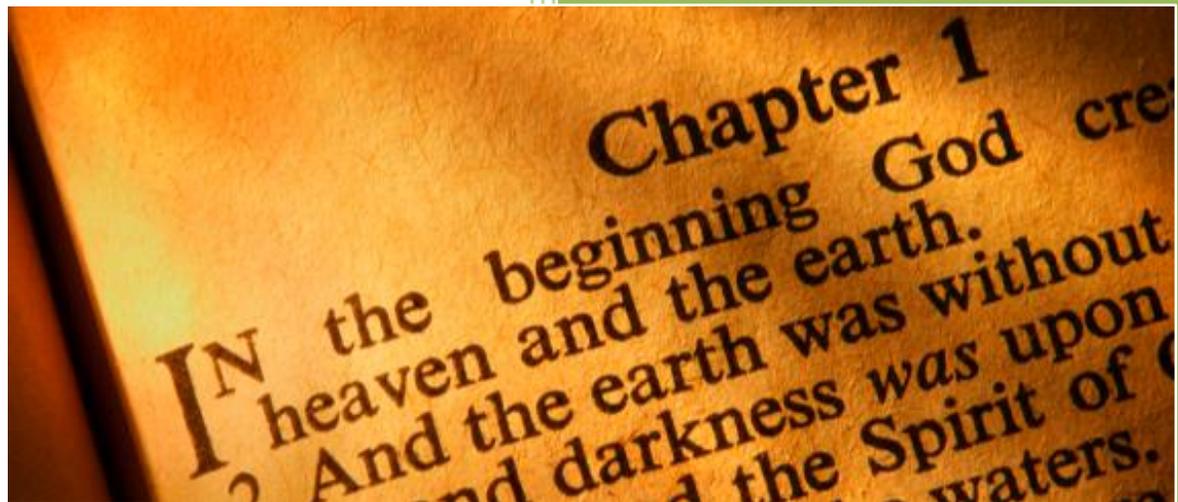


# In the Beginning – Genesis 1-11



A Bible Study  
Michael Mann

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Week 1	Six Days of Creation	2
Homework for Week 2		7
Week 2	Class reports on homework	
Week 3	Adam and Eve	8
Homework for Week 4		10
Week 4	Class reports on homework	
Week 5	Cain, Abel, and Seth	11
Homework for Week 6		13
Week 6	Class reports on homework	
Week 7	Angels and Giants	14
Homework for Week 8		17
Week 8	Class reports on homework	
Week 9	Noah	18
Homework for Week 10		20
Week 10	Class reports on homework	
Week 11	Shem, Ham, and Japheth	21
Homework for Week 12		24
Week 12	Class reports on homework	
Week 13	Nimod	25
Homework for Week 14		27
Week 14	Class reports on homework	

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## WEEK 1 – SIX DAYS OF CREATION

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### ***B'reshet (In the beginning)***

*1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was unformed and void, darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. So there was evening, and there was morning, one day.*

*Genesis 1 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)*

### **Day One**

If God lives in eternity as stated in Isaiah 57:15, verse 1 begs the question: “the beginning of what?” Eternity has neither beginning nor end, so God did not just organize what already existed; He made something new. The heavens and the earth had a beginning in Genesis 1, and they have an end in Revelation 21:1. The physical universe is finite. The fabric of space and time was stretched out by God (Is. 40:22), and at some point he will wrap it up (Is. 51:6), burn it up (2 Pe. 3:12), and make a new heaven and a new earth (Is. 65:17). Jesus said, *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away* (Mt. 24:35). God is Spirit (John 4:24). This was not the beginning for Him, but it was the beginning of space, time, light, gravity, substance, force—and life.

What does the word “heavens” mean? Jewish cosmology divides the creation into three realms: *shamayim*, *erets*, and *sheol*. The first, translated “heavens” means heights or elevations. The second means earth. The last is the underworld, or place beneath the earth where the dead await judgment. In this view, the cosmos is surrounded by water, with three heavens that make a protective dome above (or sphere around) the earth to prevent the waters from inundating it. The first heaven is what we call the sky or atmosphere where birds and clouds are found. The second heaven is what we call space where the sun, moon, planets, and stars are located. The third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2) is God’s dwelling place within creation, surrounded by ranks of angels who serve as governors, witnesses, guardians, and messengers in heavenly and earthly affairs. We will take a closer look at the angels in Week 7.

Jews recon their days from sunset to sunset because the passage says, “So there was evening, and there was morning, one day.” The Hebrew *ereb* or *erev* means evening or night, but may also have been used to mean something that is obscure or not yet evident. The Hebrew *boker* means morning

or daybreak, but may also have meant something that is now recognizable. During each day of creation God made what was not yet formed into things that are clearly apparent (Rom. 1:20, Heb. 11:3). The passage carefully mentions evening and morning for each of the six days while God created, but *erev* and *boker* are noticeably absent on the seventh day in which nothing was made.

## Day Two

<sup>6</sup> God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the water; let it divide the water from the water.”

<sup>7</sup> God made the dome and divided the water under the dome from the water above the dome; that is how it was, <sup>8</sup> and God called the dome Sky. So there was evening, and there was morning, a second day.

The Genesis account of the flood agrees with this passage. The dome of the sky divided the water above from the water below. Gen. 7:11 says, *on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened*. Water came up from cracks in the earth or ocean floor, and God opened floodgates in the sky to permit the waters above to pour down. From this some commentators believe that there was a water canopy above the atmosphere surrounding the earth that would have provided uniform temperatures like a greenhouse. There would not have been enough wind to produce rain. Genesis 2:5 tells us that God did not send rains upon the earth at the beginning, but watered the plants with a mist from the ground.

## Day Three

<sup>9</sup> God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let dry land appear,” and that is how it was. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, the gathering together of the water he called Seas, and God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> God said, “Let the earth put forth grass, seed-producing plants, and fruit trees, each yielding its own kind of seed-bearing fruit, on the earth”; and that is how it was. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth grass, plants each yielding its own kind of seed, and trees each producing its own kind of seed-bearing fruit; and God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> So there was evening, and there was morning, a third day.

We do not know what the earth looked like at that time, but it may have changed dramatically during the flood. Geologists believe that at one time the continents we see today were a single land mass and that they broke apart gradually over long periods of time. If it happened catastrophically, it might have occurred while Noah’s precious cargo was floating above the shifting and buckling plates of earth. Their survival was certainly a miracle of the first order, but even more remarkable given the likelihood of huge tidal waves with little to impede them. The seas were intended to stay within boundaries that God set (Job 38:10) so that man would have a place to live. The weight of the floodwaters upon the tectonic faults could have lowered sea floors in some places, while raising mountain ranges in others.

The Earth now had three realms: heaven, sea, and land. In the next three days God fills each with actors to move upon their designated stages. The apparent purpose of creation was to set a stage upon which the play of life would be acted out for a fixed amount of time.

## Day Four

<sup>14</sup> God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to divide the day from the night; let them be for signs, seasons, days and years; <sup>15</sup> and let them be for lights in the dome of the sky to give light to the earth”; and that is how it was. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights — the larger light to rule the day and

*the smaller light to rule the night — and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God put them in the dome of the sky to give light to the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> So there was evening, and there was morning, a fourth day.*

Bible believers who prefer an older earth hypothesis have to come to grips with Day Four. Natural conditions require sunlight to be present before plants can appear. How could plants emerge before the sun was made? Commentators do not agree on whether all life on earth was immortal before the fall of Adam, as Romans 8:20 implies. If immortal, the plants would have no need of the sun, nor any reason to produce seeds. The Bible account of creation is supernatural, so we can dispense with the need to insert long ages of natural processes. God could have created everything in six nanoseconds or six billion years. If He did it in six days, it was to provide a pattern for what was to follow.

The second issue is that God made the light first, and later the stars. This solves the problem of light having to travel long distances for millions of years before distant stars could become visible from Earth, for the light was already here. The Genesis account of creation is like an artist painting a picture, adding layers and figures to the canvas in any order desired. God had full liberty to paint lighted items in the foreground, and to put the source of light in afterward. He also left parts of his picture beyond the edges of the canvas. We see seas, earth, sky, and space, but *sheol* and the third heaven are beyond our view.

Isaiah 45:7 reads, “I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.” On the first day God made the realm of light and divided it from the realm of darkness, establishing the two spiritual dominions (Is. 60:2; Col. 1:13). On day four He made a greater light to rule the day, and a lesser one to rule the night. Names for the sun in the Bible point to Messiah, whose birth in the fourth thousand years parallels the appearance of the greater light on the fourth day. The ruler of darkness is like the moon in that he has no light within himself. He seems like a bright light if you are in darkness, but it is just an illusion.

Understanding this pattern shows that what happened in Eden was not a terrible mistake. The conflict of light and darkness was God’s design. He knew the man would fall, and provided a Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). He set the stage at the beginning for His great Play of Redemption. Shakespeare was correct—*All the world is a stage*—and the hero is a fresh-killed lamb.

### **Day Five**

*<sup>20</sup> God said, “Let the water swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> God created the great sea creatures and every living thing that creeps, so that the water swarmed with all kinds of them, and there was every kind of winged bird; and God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful, multiply and fill the water of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> So there was evening, and there was morning, a fifth day.*

### **Day Six**

*<sup>24</sup> God said, “Let the earth bring forth each kind of living creature — each kind of livestock, crawling animal and wild beast”; and that is how it was. <sup>25</sup> God made each kind of wild beast, each kind of livestock and every kind of animal that crawls along the ground; and God saw that it was good.*

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over all the earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the earth."*

*<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.*

- Why does God say "Let us make humankind"? Why the plural pronoun *us*?
- In what way are we an image of our Creator?

*<sup>28</sup> God blessed them: God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the earth." <sup>29</sup> Then God said, "Here! Throughout the whole earth I am giving you as food every seed-bearing plant and every tree with seed-bearing fruit. <sup>30</sup> And to every wild animal, bird in the air and creature crawling on the earth, in which there is a living soul, I am giving as food every kind of green plant." And that is how it was.*

*<sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good. So there was evening, and there was morning, a sixth day.*

## **Discussion**

What God makes is good. He blessed them because they were just what He wanted them to be. God commanded them to multiply and fill the earth with the pattern He put into them—His image.

- Read Matt. 28:16-20. How does the commandment of Jesus strike you after reading the above commandment to Adam and Eve? Are they parallel?
- Which day of creation is the hardest for you to accept as the Bible gives it? Why?
- How do believers reconcile this account with natural science?
- Do you think it is better to know and not believe, or to believe and not know? (Read 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 with this question in mind)

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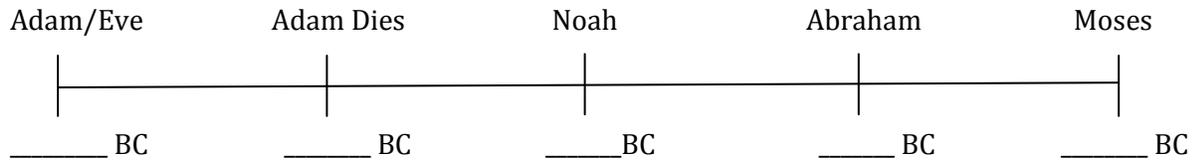
## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 2

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis chapters 1-2.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. Who wrote Genesis? Draw a time line showing when Adam and Eve lived according to the Bible, and when the writer lived. Use round numbers (nearest 500 years).



2. How did the writer know about events that occurred long before his time? Did he make it up, find it in books, or use common beliefs from his time? Read Numbers 7:89.
3. Creation is the foundational pattern on which other patterns rest.
  - a. Find a verse telling who is like the sun.
  - b. Find a verse telling who is like the moon.
  - c. Find a verse telling who are like stars.
  - d. Find a verse telling who has the power of the air.
  - e. Find a verse telling who rises from the sea.
  - f. Find a verse comparing men to fish.
  - g. Find a verse comparing demons to birds.
  - h. Find a verse comparing our hearts to earth or soil.
4. Why mention the four rivers? What does this tell us about the topography of Eden? If Eden was “eastward” as Genesis 2:8 says, where was the writer?
  - a. Where is Havilah?
  - b. Where is Cush?
  - c. Where is Asshur?
  - d. Where is the Euphrates?
5. Why did God say it was not good for the man to be alone? Why should we care?
6. Why was it up to Adam to give the animals their names? What does it mean when a person in authority gives you a new name? Who named Eve? Who will give believers a new name?
7. Adam’s creation was done in the same way as all the animals. Eve’s creation was not. What is Eve a type of, and why was her creation special?

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## WEEK 3 – ADAM AND EVE

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*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*

*<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”*

*<sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

*Genesis 3:1-5 NIV*

### **What did God really say?**

This is a good question, even if the one who asked it was a snake. Read Genesis 2:8-9 and verses 15-18.

- What did God really say, to whom, and when?
- Where did Eve get her information about this?
- What did the serpent say that was wrong?
- What did Eve say that was wrong?
- Re-read Genesis 1:27. Weren't they already like God?

### **What is the Knowledge of Good and Evil?**

The knowledge of good and evil is not innate—God gradually revealed it in the same way parents impart this knowledge to children. Knowing good and evil makes a person accountable to law. The Lord told Adam he would die the day he ate this fruit but Eve persuaded him, thus the original sin was unbelief. Breaking the one law they knew placed them under the power of the whole law. They saw death for the first time when God sacrificed animals to make coats of skins to cover them. Atonement means *covering*. God's law required that they die, but God's mercy sacrificed a substitute in their place.

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EVE WAS ADAM'S FLESH. ALMOST EVERYONE FALLS BY THE  
PERSUASION OF HIS OWN FLESH.

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## Three Judgments

*The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the wild beasts and all the living creatures of the field! On your belly you will crawl and dust you will eat all the days of your life. And I will put hostility between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; her offspring will attack your head, and you will attack her offspring's heel."*

*Genesis 3:14-15 New English Translation*

God judged the serpent first. The last sentence in this passage is difficult to translate because it is deliberately ambiguous. In the original there are no gender-specific pronouns to tell us whether the offspring (or seed) of the woman is male or female. The word *attack* is the same word for both parties, but it is sometimes translated *bruise, crush, strike, wound, tread upon, bite, watch out for, or lie in wait for*. The sense of the statement is that Satan will not know when this person is coming, but he will wound the offspring's heel even as the heel comes down on his head.

- Who is the offspring or seed of the serpent? Read John 8:31-47.
- Who is the offspring or seed of the woman? Read Romans 16:20.
- Who is the head of the Church? Where is the heel located?

*To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your pain and your groaning, and in pain you shall bring forth children. Your recourse shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you."*

*Genesis 3:16 Orthodox Study Bible (LXX)*

The words mean pain and groaning, but also mean pain and conception. Her ability to conceive would be *greatly* multiplied. In the apocryphal *Book of Jubilees* Eve was only fertile every seven years. She lived long enough to have over a hundred children at seven-year intervals. The word rendered *recourse* here can mean *desire, return, submission, or turning* to someone for help. Eve would turn to her husband but he would rule over her. She would not bear children without the help of her husband; neither can we bear fruit without desiring, submitting, and turning to Jesus.

*Then to Adam He said, "Because you heeded the voice of your wife, and ate from the one tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it,' cursed is the ground in your labors. In toil you shall eat from it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground from which you were taken. Earth you are, and to earth you shall return."*

*Genesis 3:17-19 Orthodox Study Bible (LXX)*

Adam wasn't cursed, but the ground and his labor in it was. Man's works could not please God. The aprons of fig leaves they made weren't good enough. God became their high priest and killed animals to make a covering—or atonement—for them. It was a free gift, by grace, by the shedding of innocent blood.

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THE GOSPEL IS FIRST PRESENTED FOR US IN GENESIS 3.

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## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 4

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis chapter 3 and Romans chapters 1-5.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. Does the serpent's suggestion that Eve would become like God seem farfetched? What groups say the same thing today?
2. Are children born knowing right from wrong? If yes, how do we know? If no, how do they obtain this knowledge? What do we call a person who knows right from wrong?
3. Who introduced death into the world? Was it good (righteous) or evil (wicked) in your view? If good, what made it so? If evil, what made it so?
4. Consider the pattern in creation, and apply it to the serpent's judgment in Eden:
  - a. Who divided the light from the darkness?
  - b. Who made a greater light to rule the day and a lesser light to rule the night?
  - c. Who divided the world into two seeds? What are they?
  - d. Who declared the war between them?
  - e. Was it good (righteous) or evil (wicked) to declare this war in your view? If good, why? If evil, why?
5. How were the judgments on Adam and Eve similar? Did one of them get off easy?
6. Compare the judgments of Adam and Eve with the judgment that fell upon Jesus. Adam would bring forth fruit by the sweat of his brow. Eve would bring forth children in pain.
  - a. What kind of sweating and pain did Jesus endure?
  - b. What was upon his brow?
  - c. Which person died the "same day" he was judged – as God said?

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## WEEK 5 - CAIN, ABEL, AND SETH

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Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup> The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.

<sup>11</sup> Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. <sup>16</sup> So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Genesis 4:2-16

### First and Last

Jesus stated a recurrent theme in the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20). He said, “I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous? So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Jesus asked a great question. Are we envious because God is generous? Do you envy the rich, the happy, the beautiful, the strong, or the talented? Do you envy the person with spiritual gifts? What’s our reaction to the unmerited favor God gives to others?

Cain worked hard to raise a crop, and was angry when God did not acknowledge it. He also became envious of his brother because God accepted his offering. There are several views on why God rejected Cain's offering:

- The pattern of animal sacrifice was previously shown to Adam and Eve.
- God cursed the ground and Adam's labor in it, but Cain insisted on bringing fruits that came from the ground by his labor.
- Cain's heart was proud and self-righteous. God knew what Cain was going to do—even warned him—but he would not listen.

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CAIN REFUSED TO SACRIFICE AN INNOCENT LAMB BUT ENDED UP  
KILLING HIS INNOCENT BROTHER.

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### **Driven from the Ground**

This curse had two parts. God stated that the earth would no longer produce any fruit for Cain. Cain replied that the Lord was driving him from the land, and verse 16 says he also left the Lord's presence to go live in Nod. This is the first mention of a land where the Lord was more "present" than in other lands. Tradition says that they came to the entrance of Eden where the flaming sword was and made offerings within speaking distance of the Lord. Cain's exile was repeated in the history of Israel when the Lord scattered them abroad from the land where He was visibly present in the bright cloud above the temple.

At the end of this chapter men began to "call" on the name of the Lord for the first time. This word means that they used a loud voice. Perhaps it wasn't necessary before this because He was right there. If He was, it says much for the grace he gave them after they sinned, and explains the need for them to keep sheep and bring sacrifices.

### **Another Takes his Place**

Cain would not produce the "seed" promised to Eve for he was cursed, and Abel was dead. The promise passed to Seth who was next in line. Seth means "appointed"—he was appointed in the place of his older brother. It happens many times in the Bible that the younger or outcast is elevated, as the firstborn falls to take last place.

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THE LORD IS NOT A RESPECTER OF POSITION; HE GIVES UNMERITED  
FAVOR TO THE ONE WHO TRUSTS AND FOLLOWS HIM.

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## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 6

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis 4 and Romans 10.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. God gave Adam and Eve any kind of plant for food. Why then would Abel keep a flock of sheep?
2. Cain was angry with God for favoring Abel. How many people from the Bible can you name that became angry because the Lord showed favor (grace) to someone?
3. Have you become envious of someone God favored? What was the result?
4. Cain asked the Lord, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Can you answer his question from the NT? Can you answer it from the OT?
5. How many times can you find in the Bible when the last and first traded places? What in your view is the meaning of this?
6. Has God ever taken away something that made you proud to make room in your heart to worship Him? What were you proud of that got in the way?
7. Have you ever been sent away from the presence of the Lord to consider your ways? If so, how did it affect your life afterward?
8. Why does the Lord do this to those He loves?
9. Why didn't the Lord kill Cain, nor allow men to kill him in vengeance? Who else can you think of from the Bible where God gave a fallen man additional opportunities to turn back?

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## WEEK 7 - ANGELS AND GIANTS

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*In time, when men began to multiply on earth, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were attractive; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. <sup>3</sup> ADONAI said, “My Spirit will not live in human beings forever, for they too are flesh; therefore their life span is to be 120 years.” <sup>4</sup> The N’filim were on the earth in those days, and also afterwards, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; these were the ancient heroes, men of renown.*

Genesis 6:1-4 Complete Jewish Bible

### War in Heaven

One of God’s names is the *Lord of hosts*, or Lord of great armies. He made the heavens to be the dwelling place for angels (Nehemiah 9:6) and earth to be the dwelling place for men. It appears that both angels and men were free to choose the light or the darkness. Although the Bible gives us glimpses into the angelic world, we do not know very much about them. There are good reasons for this—angels have a troubled history where humans are involved, and vice versa.

- Job 1:6-7 Satan appears before God from walking in the earth. He appears to move freely where he will.
- Isaiah 14:12 prophesied the fall of the king of Babel or Babylon, but suddenly the king becomes Lucifer falling from heaven to earth.
- Ezekiel 28:11-19 prophesied the fall of the king of Tyre, but suddenly the king becomes “the anointed cherub that covereth” that was in Eden. God casts him to the ground or earth.
- Revelation 12:7 describes a war in heaven in which Satan is cast out, never to return. His angels are cast out with him. After this the only angels seen flying are the holy ones.
- Revelation 12:12 says when they are cast out Satan knows he only has a short time left.
- Revelation 12:13 Satan persecutes a woman on earth who appears to be Israel, with no mention of the Church. I assume this “short time” is the tribulation period. If so, Satan’s casting-out is future and his angels are still free to roam the three heavens.

There is no room for belief in extra-terrestrial beings from the Genesis account. God made the heavens and the earth; He populated them with angels and men. If non-humans claim to be from the heavens they have to be angels. Their claims would be a deception to make us think they came to enlighten us. Angelic abductions of women have been going on since Genesis.

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WHEN FALLEN ANGELS ARE CAST FROM THE HEAVENS, THE ONLY  
PLACES LEFT FOR THEM ARE EARTH AND HADES.

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## Holy Angels

Holy angels in the Bible are primarily seen praising and worshipping God, but they also deliver messages, guide, warn, and protect humans, save or comfort the dying, dispense God's judgments, and contend with the forces of Satan. In most cases when a person saw an angel, the immediate reaction was to fall to the ground.

- Genesis 3:24 (first instance) cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the entrance to Eden.
- Genesis 18 and 19 Abraham and Lot bow to the ground before angelic visitors. They destroy the cities of the Jordan plain.
- Genesis 32:1-2 Jacob is met by a host of angels camped at the border of Canaan when he returns from Aram. He names the place *Mahanaim* or "two camps" because the army of Laban was pursuing him. The angel army prevents Laban from attacking him.
- Joshua 5:13-14 he falls on his face before the captain of the Lord's host.
- 1 Chron. 21:16 David meets the destroying angel and falls facedown.
- Daniel 8:15-18 he falls onto his face into a deep sleep.
- Revelation 19:10 John falls down to worship the angel, who tells him not to do that.

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12. Angels are curious about salvation because they do not understand forgiveness. We are curious about angels because we do not understand holiness.

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GOD CREATED THE ANGELS TO SHOWCASE HIS HOLINESS, POWER,  
AND JUSTICE. HE CREATED US TO SHOWCASE HIS KINDNESS, GRACE  
AND MERCY.

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## Nephilim

The Hebrew name for giants is *nephilim*, which means "fallen ones". They are also called *emim* (fearful ones), *rephaim* (dead ones), *Anakim* (sons of Anak), and *gibborim* (mightiest or heroes). In Greek *nephilim* becomes *gigantum* (earth-born), which translates "giant" in English. It does no harm to the meaning because they were very large.

The meaning of "sons of God" in Genesis 6:2 is ambiguous enough that scholars have different opinions about what happened. The children born of these unions were giants, human in appearance and demonic in activity. They mated with anything they wanted and taught men to glorify themselves in war. The warlike phallic gods of the ancients were probably not invented by men, but may have been faithful representations of these violent creatures.



- Deuteronomy 3:11 describes an iron bed taken from Og of Bashan that was fourteen feet long and six feet wide. He was small compared to the skeleton pictured here.

- Numbers 13-14 the Israelites rebel and do not enter the land because the spies saw giants there. God kills the ten spies who gave a discouraging report and sentences Israel to wander the desert until they are all dead except for Joshua and Caleb.
- Joshua 11:21 Israel had standing orders to destroy giants and any people that sheltered them. All the nations of Canaan had giants for their leaders.
- Giants in the Bible: Adoni-zedec, Agag, Ahiman, Amalek, Amraphel, Arba, Beelesath, Goliath, Hoham, Horam, Jabin, Jobab, Lahmi, Og, Ogias, Perizzites, Sheshai, Sihon, Sippai, Talmai.
- David slew Goliath, and Elhanan killed his brother Lahmi (1 Chron. 20:5). 2 Sam. 21:22 said the giant in Gath had four sons—all giants—and credits David or his men for killing them.

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ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH DAVID IS A TYPE OF MESSIAH IS THAT HE FULFILLED THE COMMANDMENT TO CONQUER THE WHOLE LAND OF CANAAN AND HE DESTROYED THE REMAINING GIANTS.

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### Why Mention Them?

The *Nephilim* may well be the “offspring” of the serpent mentioned by God. Jesus could not come from a cursed lineage, and it appears that the giants were intent on corrupting or killing all the families of the earth. These verses in Genesis 6 are the only explanation God gives for the flood. In Week 9 we will take a look at Noah and how his story illustrates God’s justice and mercy at the same time.

The world’s religions after the flood worshipped huge warlike and sexual gods that competed with one another for a greater share of men’s worship. Cities conquered other cities to show which of the gods was strongest. The Heroes of old—such as Hercules or Semiramis—were said to be demigods, the offspring of a god from the heavens that came down and mated with a human.

- Is it possible that these stories were not just make-believe?



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## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 8

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis 6 and Jude.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. Read Matthew 24:27 and Luke 17:26. What were those days like, and what does it say about the time when Jesus will return to earth?
2. Some Bible prophesy buffs think that modern reports of UFO's, alien abductions, mass animal mutilations, crop circles, and reports by women that they were impregnated by aliens is evidence that the nephilim have returned. Are you inclined to agree or disagree?
3. What did you find in the little book of Jude to help you understand this lesson?
4. What does popular culture believe about angels? Based on the Bible, do you agree or disagree with what they say?
5. Does the Bible teach that we have angels watching over us? Find a verse that makes this clear. If it is so, why can't we see them?
6. Does the Bible teach that humans will become angels in heaven? Find a verse that makes this clear.
7. What will be our relationship with angels after we are resurrected? Find a verse that makes this clear.
8. What does it mean that Noah was *perfect in his generation*? Look up what perfect means and what generation means.

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## WEEK 9 - NOAH

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*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, who was perfect in his generation and well-pleasing to God. So Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt before God and filled with unrighteousness. Thus the Lord God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh corrupted their way on the earth. Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with unrighteousness through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of square timber.... And*

*behold, I am bringing a flood of water on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life. Whatever is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.*

*Genesis 6:9-18, Orthodox Study Bible (LXX)*

### The Tenth Man

God begins this narrative by drawing our attention to the genealogy of Noah. Let's take a moment to examine it. Genesis 5 lists Noah as the tenth man from Adam. He became the first Redeemer in the Bible, redeeming the entire world from the flood. If we translate the names of his fathers into what they mean, we get the following surprising list:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Adam</b>	Man
<b>Seth</b>	Appointed
<b>Enosh</b>	Mortal
<b>Kenan</b>	Sorrow
<b>Mahalalel</b>	The Blessed God
<b>Jared</b>	Shall Come Down
<b>Enoch</b>	Teaching
<b>Methuselah</b>	His Death Will Bring
<b>Lamech</b>	Despairing
<b>Noah</b>	Comfort

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MAN IS APPOINTED MORTAL SORROW, BUT THE BLESSED GOD SHALL COME  
DOWN TEACHING HIS DEATH WILL BRING THE DESPAIRING COMFORT.

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Ten names after Noah we come to Abraham, who redeemed and separated Israel from the world. Ten names after him we come to Boaz who redeemed just one person, his Gentile bride. The entire Bible story is hidden in Noah's genealogy.

## Perfect and Well-Pleasing

The apocryphal Book of Enoch and Qumran scroll fragments recount the birth of Noah, which frightened Lamech so much he fled his house and ran to Methuselah for counsel. In these stories, Noah was so bright upon his birth that when he opened his eyes he lit up the entire house. Lamech feared that his wife had him by an angel and questioned her harshly, but she assured him with an oath that she had not been violated and reminded him of her pleasure on the night she conceived. He said, "I fear that in his days a wonder may be wrought on the earth".<sup>1</sup>

Noah was blameless, but not perfect in the way we use that word. In Hebrew, *tamim* means without defect, complete, intact, or whole. A perfect baby has no birth defects. Noah and his family were not corrupted by whatever was going on in that generation; they may have been almost the only ones. He was also well-pleasing to God, because he believed God and acted in faith.

The historical context of the flood was the havoc that fallen angels and giants brought upon the earth. With the long life-spans they enjoyed, a conservative estimate of world population at the time is at least seven billion, with an average calculation of ten billion.<sup>2</sup> Populations as great as this require significant advancements in technology to function. They were certainly less primitive than we imagine.

## The Ark as a Type of Christ

Read 1 Peter 3:17-22. In this passage Peter compares the believer who is in Christ to the eight passengers within the ark. Both pass through the judgment of God safely to inherit life while all others perish. Both are saved by a vehicle of wood; in Noah's case a ship, and in our case a cross. Both the flood and baptism represent death and resurrection (Romans 6:1-14).

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THE FLOOD BROUGHT THE DEATH OF THE WORLD WITH NOAH AS  
THE FIRST EXAMPLE OF SALVATION FOR THE BELIEVING REMNANT.

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How did so many animals come into the ark? First, give God some credit for a great miracle. Genesis 6:20 says, *Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive.* God decided which animals to save, how many of each, and brought them to the ark. Noah gathered food for them and brought them inside.

- Juvenile animals do not need much space, nor do they attack other animals, nor do they require a great deal of food. They would also live long enough to produce a viable population.
- It was not necessary to bring every species, only every *kind*. One pair of dogs could eventually produce all the breeds of dogs we know today.
- It was not all up to Noah. God was with him, and kept the ark and its passengers from harm through the entire ordeal.
- There were unicorns in the King James Version, but today we call them *rhinoceros* (see Job 39:9-12).

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<sup>1</sup> Two sources for this: 1 *Enoch* 106:1-6, and a fragment from Qumran labeled 1Q19 and 1Q19bis (1QNoah), called *1QBook of Noah*, Frag. 3. It is incomplete, but confirms that the story was known by the Qumran community.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ldolphin.org/pickett.html>

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## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 10

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis chapters 5-8, Hebrews 11, and 2 Peter 2.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. What do we learn about Enoch, the seventh from Adam, in Genesis 5 and Hebrews 11? If Noah is a type of the believing remnant that inherits the earth, what is Enoch typical of?
2. What do we know about Noah's grandfather Methuselah? When did Adam die? When was Methuselah born? Why is his name prophetic?
3. Read Genesis 6:3. The oldest man in pre-history was Methuselah at 969. What is the oldest verified age of a person in recent history? Divide this age by 969. What is the percentage of time we have compared to people before the flood?
4. Read Job 40:15-24. Job was after the flood. Do you think Noah brought dinosaurs onto the ark? If he did, what happened to them?
5. Popular notions about pre-history make the earth 4.54 billion years old, with the oceans being only about 180 million years old. This is like saying the earth is 100 years old and the ocean is just 3.9 years old by comparison. There is currently no generally-accepted scientific explanation for the large amount of water on earth or how it got here. What is the Biblical answer to these questions?
6. Hebrews 11 tells us how Noah "became" righteous. Was he already perfect, or did something else make him righteous?
7. Read Luke 17:26-30. What question is Jesus answering, and what do you think he means?
8. Consider 2 Peter 2. Do you identify more with Noah, or with Lot? Why?

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## WEEK 11 – SHEM, HAM, AND JAPHETH

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<sup>18</sup> The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) <sup>19</sup> These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.

<sup>20</sup> Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. <sup>21</sup> When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. <sup>22</sup> Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup> But Shem and

Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.

<sup>24</sup> When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, <sup>25</sup> he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. <sup>27</sup> May God extend Japheth's territory; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth."

*Genesis 9:18-27 NIV*

### **Curse upon Canaan**

This is a difficult passage that explains many things, but not all that that history has taken from it. I read through numerous versions and commentaries, but the problem is not in the translation or in our understanding of the words. We just don't want to believe what this says.

Noah did something foolish, but nowhere in the Bible calls it sin. In his drunken state he either passed out or fell asleep in his tent in a way that exposed his genitals. Ham did nothing wrong when he saw him naked, but he should have closed the tent up or covered Noah without exposing his indecency. He sinned when he left Noah exposed and told his brothers.

- Who made clothes for Adam and Eve, and what did he make them from?
- What did it cost to cover their nakedness?
- What did it represent?

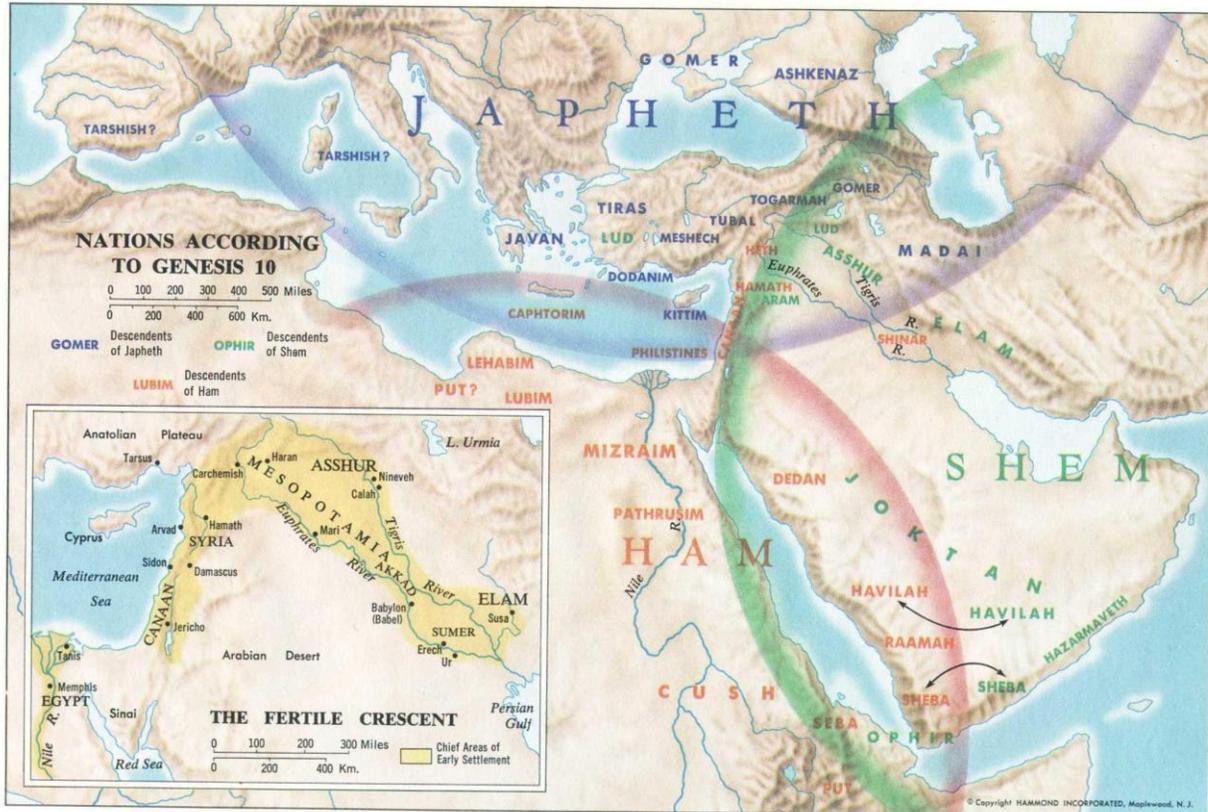
In an earlier chapter God cursed Cain for killing Abel—one bearing the image of God. Cain was angry because God did not accept his offering, as it did not follow the pattern God gave in Eden. In the case of Ham, God just finished flooding the world to "cover" the sin that corrupted it. Noah was Ham's creator, savior, and redeemer, but Ham treated his exposure like a joke.

- Why wasn't God laughing?
- Why wasn't Noah laughing?

- Why did Shem and Japheth take pains to cover Noah without looking? What did they understand that Ham did not?

### Three Words of Prophecy

Noah did not know that Canaan's children would make giants their kings, but God did. The Canaanites that Joshua and David did not destroy did become their slaves.



- Noah praised the God of Shem, foreshadowing the righteous remnant that would come from Abraham.
- Noah also blessed Japheth for standing with Shem so that his descendants would cover a vast territory, remain in the "tent" of his brother Shem, and Canaan would also become his slave. The "tent" European Christians enter to fulfill this word is our adoption as children of Abraham by faith in Abraham's God.

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EUROPEAN SLAVE-OWNERS USED THE JAPHETH PROPHECY TO  
JUSTIFY HOLDING AFRICAN SLAVES.

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- The curse came because of Ham's sin, but it was laid upon his youngest son Canaan because his offspring would return to the condition of men before the flood. Ham's older three sons settled in Africa. Noah's words provide no justification for extending Canaan's curse to Africans as a basis for unequal treatment by other races.

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GOD DOES NOT BLESS OR CURSE ANY RACE. HE BLESSES ANY THAT  
FOLLOW HIM, BUT CURSES WHOEVER MAKES FLESH HIS LORD.

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## Seventy Nations

Genesis 10 is also called the "Table of Nations" because God gave the names of the seventy descendents of Noah who became the nations of today. The location of these groups has been in constant motion, but today we have the advantage of DNA markers to sort out where different people groups came from.<sup>3</sup>

- Shem's people went into Persia, Assyria, Chaldea (Ur), Lebanon, Syria, Arabia, Jordan, and somewhat later into Canaan.
- Japheth's people went into Turkey, Greece, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Scandinavia, the British isles (Tarshish), Poland, Balkans, Ukraine, Russia, Siberia, Yugoslavia, the *-istan* countries, and India.
- Ham's people went into Africa except for Canaan.
- Canaan's people settled Canaan and Babylon, but also went into China, Mongolia, Tibet, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. The Hittites were Canaan's descendents also, from Cathay (Mongolia).

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<sup>3</sup> The Table of Nations and the Origin of Races, Tim Osterholm, updated 2/2014 [www.soundchristian.com/man/](http://www.soundchristian.com/man/)

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## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 12

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis chapters 9-10 and Exodus 34.

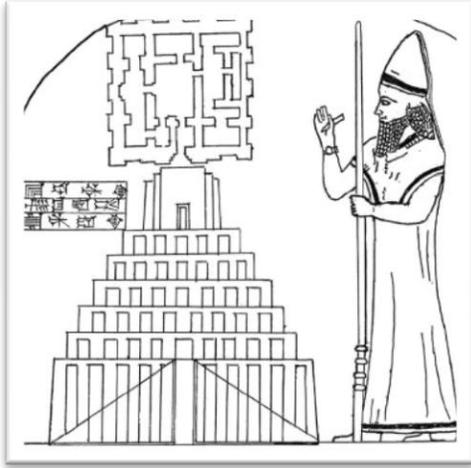
Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. Read Exodus 34:5-7. How does Canaan's curse illustrate what God said in these verses? How does it play out in your personal life?
2. This story is neither the first nor the last time God makes a clear decision about someone before he has done anything good or bad. Give two additional examples from Genesis where God foretold that one brother would be blessed but the other(s) would serve him? Find an example of this in the New Testament.
3. From a certain point of view, God appears to play favorites. How do you reconcile this with Paul's statement that God does not show favoritism (Romans 2:11)?
4. Take a careful look at the world map on page 22. Make a chart of the important names in Genesis 10 with the modern names next to each that you can identify.
  - For the most part, men stayed in the lands allotted to them—Japheth in the north, Ham in Africa, and Shem in the middle. Read Genesis 10:6-12. Which of Noah's sons did Nimrod come from, and what was he doing in the land of Shem?
  - What was the common bond between the Kings of Babylon and the Pharaohs of Egypt? How does this play out in future events and in prophesy?
  - Read Ezekiel 38:1-6. This is generally thought to be a future war in which the Lord will utterly destroy the nations gathered against Israel. Can you use your chart to name the modern countries that make up this alliance?
5. What thoughts do you have about the taking of African slaves on the basis of the curse upon Canaan?

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## WEEK 13 – NIMROD

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*The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. The Sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a giant on the earth. He was a giant, a hunter before the Lord God; therefore they would say, “As Nimrod the giant, the hunter before the Lord.” And the beginning of his kingdom was Babylon, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth, Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (the principal city).*

*Genesis 10:6-12 Orthodox Study Bible (LXX)*

### **The First World Ruler**

This passage from the Septuagint (LXX) says Cush had five ordinary sons, and then he had a giant. Cush settled in modern Sudan in Africa, but Nimrod left the land of Ham to found cities on the plain of Shinar and in Assyria (modern Iraq). The first thing we learn about him is he was a giant, and the second thing we learn is that he invaded the land of Shem to create a rival nation called Babylon.

The LXX was translated from much older Hebrew texts than most Bibles in use today, and is still read in Greek Orthodox Churches. *Nimrod* means “We rebel”. The *Midrash* or oral tradition of the Jewish sages assigned to Nimrod the surname Amraphel.<sup>4</sup> It means “He who causes men to fall.” If this is correct, then Abraham killed him in the slaughter of kings when he and 318 of his servants rescued his nephew Lot (Genesis 14). Nimrod would have been 350 years old at the time. Some of his contemporaries lived to be 450, so the tradition is not in conflict with scripture.

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CONSIDER THE PATTERN THIS SUGGESTS, AS THE REDEEMER OF ISRAEL DEFEATS THE RULER OF THE WORLD AND HIS ALLIES.

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### **A City, Tower, and Name**

*Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them with fire.” They had brick for stone and asphalt for mortar. They also said, “Come let us build ourselves a city and a tower, whose top will reach to heaven; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth”.*

*Genesis 11:3-4 OSB (LXX)*

Many versions of this story have been told over the ages since. In one *Midrash*, the tower was built to allow Nimrod to bring his armies into heaven to overthrow God. Using fired brick would protect the tower from destruction by fire. Using asphalt or pitch for mortar would make it impervious to

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<sup>4</sup> Tanchuma Lekh Lekhah 6

water. If God did send another flood, the people could enter it for protection until the waters subsided. Nimrod was in open rebellion against God, and gathered nearly all the people there to follow him.

- One Midrash says that Nimrod commanded every man to make and bring bricks for the tower, but twelve refused: Shem, Japheth, Abraham, Lot, and 8 others. Ham supplied the bricks for the twelve to appease Nimrod's anger, but in so doing he fell from God.
- Note the recurrence of the theme of baking bricks for Pharaoh in Exodus 5.
- There is an echo of this when the future world ruler will command everyone to receive his mark or be unable to buy or sell (Rev. 13:16). The passage makes it clear that whoever takes the mark will fall from God. In Ham's day the "mark" was making bricks for the tower.
- Note the commandment of God to Noah and his sons in Genesis 9: *Increase and multiply, and fill the earth, and have dominion over it.* Nimrod gathered all men to one place and made them give dominion of the earth to him. They did not spread out until God separated them forcibly.

Genesis does not say how God overthrew the tower, but Hebrew and Greek historical sources say it was taken down by a wind. One tradition says the wind kept blowing so that it was impossible for anyone to stay there. When God overthrows Babylon the next time, it will be by fire (Rev. 18:8).

### **The Great Whore**

God made a covenant not to destroy all life again by flood; Babel was proof that destroying life could not solve the problem of rebellion. In just three generations a giant was ruler of the world and men were trying to overthrow God by building a city, tower, and name for themselves.

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*BABYLON MEANS "GATEWAY TO GOD"*

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Babylon is called "the mother of harlots" (Revelation 17:1-5). Although the remotest history of this city was lost in its destruction, it has been rebuilt many times and rose again to world prominence under Nebuchadnezzar. The Bible compares it to a prostitute because paganism, reincarnation, magic, and mysticism all have their roots in it. Going after a false god or religion is a violation of relationship with our Creator, who considers it spiritual adultery.

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## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 14 - FINAL

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Your assignment for next time is to read Isaiah 47, Revelation 17-18, and Hebrews 11.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. Read Genesis 2:16-17. What similarities can you find between the Tree of Knowledge and the Tower of Babel? What Bible story ties them together?
2. Read Hebrews 11:1-16. The Bible gives world history as a tale of two cities. What are these cities and what do they represent?
3. For prophesy to be fulfilled, what will have to happen to the old city of Babylon in the future? What is taking place there today?
4. Nimrod was the first of many who followed after him. Name several others who have walked in his likeness through world history.
5. What have you learned about the ancient world that has changed the way you think about the modern world and your relationship to it, and about the Lord and your relationship with Him?
6. In light of this study and in your view, what is the main purpose of your life in the world? Give a scriptural reference that supports it.

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 1

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- Why does God say “Let us make humankind”? Why the plural pronoun *us*?  
Ever talk to yourself? So does God. He is one God in three co-equal “persons” that we call the Trinity. For an example of this, read Psalm 2. All three persons are part of the conversation. God’s will (the Father) is speaking to his body (the Son). Read John 1:1-3 and verse 14. Jesus is the Word of God. Nothing was made in the beginning without him. The Father spoke to Jesus, and by the wisdom and power of God (the Spirit), Jesus made it so.

“He made the forest whence there sprung the tree on which His body hung;  
He died upon a cross of wood, yet made the hill on which it stood.”

—F. W. Pitt, *Maker of the Universe*

- In what way are we an image of our Creator?  
The Hebrew word for image is *tselem* or *tzelem* which means shadow or representation. My shadow conforms to my image, and it should move as I move. God intended for the man and the woman to act like He would act in a body upon the earth. Although Adam and Eve failed to fulfill this mission, Jesus did fulfill it by saying and doing what the Father would say and do (John 5:18-10). The Jews wanted to kill him for saying this.

If God is a Trinity, then so are we. My will is invisible, but my body does nothing unless my will directs it, thus what my body does reveals my will. My body cannot do what my will commands without the power of life. My Spirit is what makes my bones and flesh able to breathe, think, speak, and move. Everything I say or do represents all three persons within me.

Read 1 Cor. 15:49. Speaking about the resurrection he said, *just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

### Discussion

What God makes is good. He blessed them because they were just what He wanted them to be. God commanded them to multiply and fill the earth with the pattern He put into them—His image.

- Read Matt. 28:16-20. How does the commandment of Jesus strike you after reading the above commandment to Adam and Eve? Are they parallel? **They are parallel. Jesus taught his disciples to enter into the will of God (the Father) by following Jesus (the Son). They were to go into the whole world and “fill” it with children of God through Jesus.**
- Which day of creation is the hardest for you to accept as the Bible gives it? Why? **I had the hardest time with Day Four, because it forced me to confront my notions about creation as a natural process.**
- How do believers reconcile this account with natural science? **We examine the observable facts of nature without forcing them into a pagan or atheist world view. We can remain open to any theory that rests on facts and does not deny what God said. Read Matt. 5:18.**

Either you believe Jesus is God's Word or you don't. He said not one letter of Torah (Genesis to Deuteronomy) would pass away without being proved true.

- Do you think it is better to know and not believe, or to believe and not know?  
(Read 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 with this question in mind)

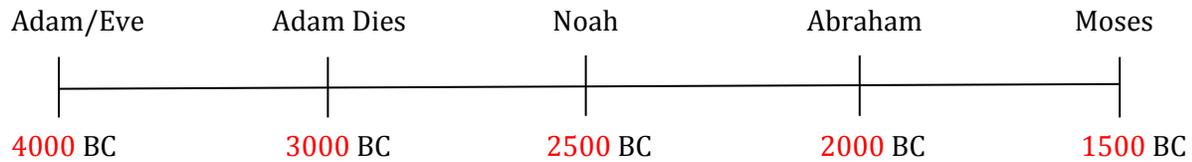
There were two trees in the midst of the Garden. One granted the knowledge of good and evil, which for a Jew means subjection to Law. The other granted eternal life, which we recognize as the tree on which Jesus was crucified. Take your pick, but I prefer to trust in God's love than to rely on my ability to keep the Law.

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 2

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1. Who wrote Genesis? **Moses**. Draw a time line showing when Adam and Eve lived according to the Bible, and when the writer lived. Use round numbers (nearest 500 years).



2. How did the writer know about events that occurred long before his time? Did he make it up, find it in books, or use common beliefs from his time? Read Numbers 7:89.  
*And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.*
3. Creation is the foundational pattern on which other patterns rest.
- Find a verse telling who is like the sun.  
**Ps 19:1-7, Is 9:2, 60:1-2, Mt 17:2, Jn 8:12, 9:5, 2 Pe 1:19, Rev 1:16, 22:16**
  - Find a verse telling who is like the moon. **Gen 1:16, Rev. 12:1**
  - Find a verse telling who are like stars. **Job 38:7**
  - Find a verse telling who has the power of the air. **Eph 2:2**
  - Find a verse telling who rises from the sea. **Rev 13:1**
  - Find a verse comparing men to fish. **Mt 13:47-50, 14:9**
  - Find a verse comparing demons to birds.  
**Gen 15:11, Mt 13:4, 19; Mk 4:4, 15; Lk 8:5, 12; Rev 18:2**
  - Find a verse comparing our hearts to earth or soil. **Mt 13:18-23**
4. Why mention the four rivers? What does this tell us about the topography of Eden? If Eden was “eastward” as Genesis 2:8 says, where was the writer? **Eden had to be at a higher elevation than the surrounding areas for four rivers to flow from it. If Eden was “eastward” then the writer was west of it. This places Eden somewhere east of Jordan (where Moses wrote and died) at a relatively high elevation. There is no location today that meets the geographic requirements. Much may have changed in the flood. 2 Pe 3:6 says that world perished.**
- Where is Havilah? **Disputed. The name means circular. The stones of the high priest’s breastplate were supposedly mined there.**
  - Where is Cush? **Sudan on the West coast of the Red Sea**
  - Where is Asshur? **Northern Iraq**
  - Where is the Euphrates? **Syria and Central Iraq – Babylon area**
5. Why did God say it was not good for the man to be alone? Why should we care?  
**Because it establishes marriage as the will of God for man and woman. Eve is a type of the Church and Bride of Christ. It is not good for Christ to be without his Bride.**

6. Why was it up to Adam to give the animals their names? What does it mean when a person in authority gives you a new name? Who named Eve? Who will give believers a new name? **A king has every right to re-name his subjects. A parent also chooses a name for children. Only a person with authority over you can give you a new name. Adam names Eve, showing his authority over her, even before the fall. Christ will give believers a new name. Is 62:2 and Rev 2:17.**
  
7. Adam's creation was done in the same way as all the animals. Eve's creation was not. What is Eve a type of, and why was her creation special? **Adam was made from the dust of the ground, like all the animals. Eve was taken out of his side, leaving a wound that God closed up with flesh. She was his own flesh and bone, his very body. If Eve is a type of the church, then we are Christ's body, his flesh and bone. He also bears a wound in his left side, which was part of the cost of purchasing us as his wife.**

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 4

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis chapter 3 and Romans chapters 1-5.

1. Does the serpent's suggestion that Eve would become like God seem farfetched? What groups say the same thing today?

Not farfetched. Mormons believe they will become like God in the afterlife, creating and populating worlds. The New Age teaches that the creation is God, and we are all "cells" in God's body, or little gods. Antichrist will declare himself to be God and sit upon a throne in the temple of God.

2. Are children born knowing right from wrong? If yes, how do we know? If no, how do they obtain this knowledge? What do we call a person who knows right from wrong?

I think children do not know right or wrong when they are born, but parents and their community teach them how to live little by little. After they reach a certain age, some that were raised well rebel and some that were raised without morals adopt them. The Bible calls a person who understands well enough to judge between right and wrong a "man". A Jew enters manhood or womanhood by becoming a "son or daughter of the law" at age 13. This is frequently the age at which children accept or rebel against their upbringing.

3. Who introduced death into the world? Was it good (righteous) or evil (wicked) in your view? If good, what made it so? If evil, what made it so?

The first thing that died was killed by God. It is tempting to blame Satan, or the serpent, or Eve, or Adam, or sin, but death was the result, not a cause. The cause was evil, but it was the righteousness of God that judged sin with death. In his mercy he sacrificed animals that day to cover them, pointing forward to a day when God would become flesh and die to cover sin.

4. Consider the pattern in creation, and apply it to the serpent's judgment in Eden:
  - a. Who divided the light from the darkness? **God**
  - b. Who made a greater light to rule the day and a lesser light to rule the night? **God**
  - c. Who divided the world into two seeds? What are they? **God. The seed of the woman or the serpent.**
  - d. Who declared the war between them? **God did.**
  - e. Was it good (righteous) or evil (wicked) to declare this war in your view? If good, why? If evil, why?

Many people think waging war is evil because the causes of war are evil, but like death, war is the result of rebellion, not a cause. By declaring this war, God

5. How were the judgments on Adam and Eve similar? Did one of them get off easy? **Both of them would have to labor to produce "fruit". Adam's labor was in the field, and Eve's labor was for her children, but in each case this labor would last all their life.**

6. Compare the judgments of Adam and Eve with the judgment that fell upon Jesus. Adam would bring forth fruit by the sweat of his brow. Eve would bring forth children in pain.
  - a. What kind of sweating and pain did Jesus endure? **He sweat blood from every pore. He endured the pain of rejection, betrayal, injustice, humiliation, scourging, and crucifixion.**
  - b. What was upon his brow? **A crown of thorns.**
  - c. Which person died the “same day” he was judged – as God said? **Jesus fulfilled the penalty laid upon Adam and Eve. He was executed the same day Pilot judged him.**

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 6

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis 4 and Romans 10.

1. God gave Adam and Eve any kind of plant for food. Why then would Abel keep a flock of sheep? **Although it is reasonable to think that they kept sheep for making clothing, their original clothing was made from skins, not wool. The more obvious issue from this chapter was the necessity of having animals to sacrifice so that they could go before the Lord and approach him with their worship and petitions. The role of the Shepherd in Israel is a theme we see amplified throughout the Bible acted out by prophets, priests, and kings in anticipation of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.**
2. Cain was angry with God for favoring Abel. How many people from the Bible can you name that became angry because the Lord showed favor (grace) to someone? **This could be a nearly universal problem, but we see it played out dramatically in the lives of Sarah and Hagar, Esau and Jacob, Rachel and Leah, Joseph and his 11 brothers, Moses and various challengers to his authority (including Miriam), Saul and David, Elijah and Jezebel, etc.**
3. Have you become envious of someone God favored? What was the result?
4. Cain asked the Lord, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Can you answer his question from the NT? Can you answer it from the OT?

We are to "receive one another" - **Ro 15:7**

We are to "edify another" - **Ro 14:19**

We are to "serve one another" - **Ga 5:13**

We are to "bear one another's burdens" - **Ga 6:1-2**

We are to be "forgiving one another" - **Ep 4:32**

We are to be "submitting to one another" - **Ep 5:21**

We are to "exhort one another" - **He 3:12-13**

We are to "consider one another" - **He 10:24-25**

We are to be "hospitable to one another" - **1Pe 4:8-10**

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: *I am the LORD* - **Lev. 19:18**

5. How many times can you find in the Bible when the last and first traded places? What in your view is the meaning of this? **Seth replaced Cain, Jacob replaced Esau, Judah replaced Reuben, Tamar replaced Bathshua, the Levites replaced all the firstborn of Israel after they made the golden calf, Samuel replaced Eli as High Priest, David replaced Saul, Solomon replaced Absalom, Matthias or Paul replaced Judas. The man or woman of the flesh comes first but must make room for the man or woman of the Spirit, which comes last.**

6. Has God ever taken away something that made you proud to make room in your heart to worship Him? What were you proud of that got in the way? **I was proud of my intelligence, so God gave me mental illness for 7 years.**
7. Have you ever been sent away from the presence of the Lord to consider your ways? If so, how did it affect your life afterward? **I have not ever felt like the Lord sent me away, but there have been times I felt like I left him, and he has certainly allowed me to reap some of the things I sowed.**
8. Why does the Lord do this to those He loves? **The book of Hosea tells the story of an unfaithful wife (Gomer), but in the end he went to the slave market and bought her with all that he had. His desire is for wayward children to turn and come home.**
9. Why didn't the Lord kill Cain, nor allow men to kill him in vengeance? Who else can you think of from the Bible where God gave a fallen man additional opportunities to turn back? **I think the Lord wanted to make sure Cain had plenty of time to repent and come back, but he never did. Samuel gave Saul three chances to repent, and David spared his life three times. Jesus gave Judas three chances to repent for his betrayal. Many criminals repent and come to the Lord while they are in prison. If we kill someone, they have no chance to mend their ways. This story shows God's heart and mercy toward the fallen, no matter how far they fall.**

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 8

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis 6 and Jude.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. Read Matthew 24:37 and Luke 17:26-31. What were those days like, and what does it say about the time when Jesus will return to earth? **In the days of Noah the whole earth had corrupted their way before God and nephilim walked upon the earth, filling it with violence. In Lot's day Sodom forgot common hospitality and brutalized visitors for sport, preferring to men over women for rape. Jesus said he would return to judge the earth in like times.**
2. Some Bible prophesy buffs think that modern reports of UFO's, alien abductions, mass animal mutilations, crop circles, and reports by women that they were impregnated by aliens is evidence that the nephilim have returned. Are you inclined to agree or disagree? **I am inclined to agree, although this kind of activity is still not done openly enough to prove it. One UFO researcher interviewed over 100 individuals who claimed they were abducted by aliens and found that none of them claimed to have experienced a transforming religious experience in their lifetimes. If Aliens are a superior race, they would have no reason to avoid taking Christians. If they are demonic they would not be able to take any persons that are filled with the Holy Spirit.**
3. What did you find in the little book of Jude to help you understand this lesson? **In verse 6 Jude mentions the angels who fell in Genesis 6. They did not remain in their proper abode (heaven) but left their lofty positions to mate with the daughters of men. They are now held in chains in the Abyss (see 2 Peter 2:4). Our "proper abode" as believers is not to live as the corrupted world does—from which we were delivered—but to dwell in righteousness in the lofty position of the Bride of Christ. Our "proper abode" is the Church.**
4. What does popular culture believe about angels? Based on the Bible, do you agree or disagree with what they say? **Popular culture portrays angels as being like the god Cupid, or as pretty females with wings and flowing robes, or sometimes like Clarence in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. Angels in worldly literature mingle with humans openly, but angels do not. Only on rare occasions did angels visit humans in the Bible, and they did not appear openly. Aliens also do not appear openly, but only to certain individuals--just like angels.**
5. Does the Bible teach that we have angels watching over us? Find a verse that makes this clear. If it is so, why can't we see them? **Matt. 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." From this it is clear that children have guardians, but there is no statement that this applies to adults so we just don't know. Angels have appeared openly, and men have worshipped them. Example -Rev 22:8-9 And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. See also Col. 2:18. They do their work in behalf of God and prefer to do it invisibly so that God will be glorified. If we saw them, we would glorify them instead.**

6. Does the Bible teach that humans will become angels in heaven? Find a verse that makes this clear. **Luke 20:35-36** "But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection." The word "like" means to be the same in a specific way, although not the same thing. Angels are celibate because they have no need to procreate, being eternal. God gave wives to men because they are mortal, so they could populate the earth. We will become "like" angels in the resurrection because we will no longer have need to procreate.
7. What will be our relationship with angels after we are resurrected? Find a verse that makes this clear. **We will remain separate from the angels because we will also judge them. "Do you not know that we will judge angels? (1 Corinthians 6:3).** There would be no reason to judge holy angels, but someone will judge the fallen ones. Apparently the Bride of Christ will be seated with him as he judges the angels, and will also judge them.
8. What does it mean that Noah was *perfect in his generation*? Look up what perfect means and what generation means. *Tamim means "blameless" or without defect. A normal baby has no defects, this has the same sense. If a man walks in relationship with his Creator and repents of his sins, then he is blameless. The word for "generation" (dor) means the period of time between a man's birth and death, or the time between his birth and the birth of his son. It has the same meaning in Genesis 7:1 - "Enter the ark, you and all your household; for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time."*

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 10

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Your assignment for next time is to read Genesis chapters 5-8, Hebrews 11, and 2 Peter 2.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. What do we learn about Enoch, the seventh from Adam, in Genesis 5 and Hebrews 11? If Noah is a type of the believing remnant that inherits the earth, what is Enoch typical of? **Enoch walked with God and was translated at the age of 365. Hebrews says that he did not see death, and that he pleased God by his faith. He is typical of the Church that walks with God by faith. This passage supports the view that the Church will be taken as Enoch was in the rapture.**
2. What do we know about Noah's grandfather Methuselah? When did Adam die? When was Methuselah born? Why is his name prophetic? **Adam was 687 when he was born. He was 243 when Adam died at 930. He lived to be 969, longer than anyone else in Genesis. His name means "his death shall bring" and he died in the year of the flood (1656). The prediction that his death would bring judgment is only half the story. That he lived longer than any other person also showed God's longsuffering.**
3. Read Genesis 6:3. The oldest man in pre-history was Methuselah at 969. What is the oldest verified age of a person in recent history? Divide this age by 969. What is the percentage of time we have compared to people before the flood? **The world's oldest verified persons in our time have been about 120-123 years old.  $969/123 = 8$ . Methuselah lived 8 times longer than the oldest person in modern times.**
4. Read Job 40:15-24. Job was after the flood. Do you think Noah brought dinosaurs onto the ark? If he did, what happened to them? **Yes. Reptiles are cold-blooded and are the only animals that keep growing as long as they live. Dinosaurs were reptiles that had plenty of food and lived a long time to become as large as some of them were. Before the flood there were "waters above" that God divided from the "waters below" making a water canopy above the atmosphere that would have made the earth like a greenhouse. After the flood the water canopy was gone, and temperatures fell over much of the world. It is likely that the combination of cold temperatures and increased solar radiation shortened life spans of animals as well as humans so that giant reptiles were no more except in rare instances. Many cultures record the existence of "dragons" on the land and "sea monsters" in the ocean that could have been large like the ones God called Behemoth and Leviathan in Job.**
5. Popular notions about pre-history make the earth 4.54 billion years old, with the oceans being only about 180 million years old. This is like saying the earth is 100 years old and the ocean is just 3.9 years old by comparison. There is currently no generally-accepted scientific explanation for the large amount of water on earth or how it got here. What is the Biblical answer to these questions? **See above, question 4.**
6. Hebrews 11 tells us how Noah "became" righteous. Was he already perfect, or did something else make him righteous? **He became an "heir of righteousness" by his faith. The heir does not earn his inheritance, but waits to receive it as a gift in due season.**

7. Read Luke 17:26-30. What question is Jesus answering, and what do you think he means? Verse 20 said he was asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come. He gave them a partial answer, but went on to say more to his disciples afterward. He says a day will come when the disciples will look for Jesus to come and they (the Pharisees) will say Look here or Look there. Jesus said not to follow them, because when he comes everyone will see it. It will be like it was in Noah's day, because when the flood came it was already too late to repent and be saved. Some people say it will also be like Noah's day because the nephilim will return as they did in the days of Babel and Canaan.
8. Consider 2 Peter 2. Do you identify more with Noah, or with Lot? Why? I identify with Lot, because he was removed (raptured) from Sodom before judgment fell. Noah passed through the judgment in the relative safety of the ark, but he was not removed from it. I think the Church will be removed before the great tribulation, but that Israel (like Noah) will pass through it. There is great confusion in the Church today on this question, because we are not always careful to identify whether a prophesy is speaking about Israel or about the Church.

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 11 – SHEM, HAM, AND JAPHETH

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Who made clothes for Adam and Eve, and what did he make them from? **The Lord made clothes for Adam and Eve from skins (Gen 3:21).**

What did it cost to cover their nakedness? **It cost the sacrifice of innocent animals – the first deaths in the world.**

What did it represent? **Whether they knew it or not, it represented the sacrifice of the Lamb of God for the sins of the world.**

Why wasn't God laughing? **It cost the death of His only son to cover the sins of mankind. It is an offense to God when we "remove" the covering He provided and make light of it.**

Why wasn't Noah laughing? **Ham undermined his ability to speak for God to the post-flood world. What happened to President Nixon and to President Clinton when someone exposed them?**

Why did Shem and Japheth take pains to cover Noah without looking? What did they understand that Ham did not? **They knew that they were only saved from death and allowed to repopulate the earth because of the mercy of God toward their father Noah. Allowing him to experience open disgrace was unthinkable. After what they had seen, they feared God's wrath.**

TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 12

Your assignment is to read Genesis chapters 9-10 and Exodus 34.

1. Read Exodus 34:5-7. How does Canaan’s curse illustrate what God said in these verses? How does it play out in your personal life? **God shows his kindness and mercy to those who believe and repent, and his judgment to those who refuse to listen to him. He gives people time to repent, but he judges sin in the third and fourth generation when the people continue to go on in their sinful ways. Ham was not mentioned but his grandchildren rejected God, and a curse fell upon the descendants of Canaan because they returned to living like people did before the flood.**
2. This story is neither the first nor the last time God makes a clear decision about someone before he has done anything good or bad. Give two additional examples from Genesis where God foretold that one brother would be blessed but the other(s) would serve him? Find an example of this in the New Testament.

**Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:23 and Romans 9:12), Joseph and his brothers (Gen 37:10), Paul says it of Hagar and Sarah (Gal 4:21-31).**

3. From a certain point of view, God appears to play favorites. How do you reconcile this with Paul’s statement that God does not show favoritism (Romans 2:11)?

**It does seem like God plays favorites, but we live in time and do not know the end at the beginning. God lives outside of time and knows both the heart and the end of a person before they do anything worthy of judgment. Thus, He can judge Canaan prophetically even though he has not yet rebelled.**

4. Take a careful look at the world map on page 22. Make a chart of the important names in Genesis 10 with the modern names next to each that you can identify.

JAPHETH	HAM	SHEM
Gomer – Irish, Scots, Germans, French, English, Swiss, Belgians, Dutch	Cush- Nubians, Ethiopians, Ghanaians, Bushmen, Pygmies, New Guineans, Aboriginies	Elam- Persians (Iranians)
Magog- Slavs, Poles, Fins, Turks	Mizraim – Egyptians	Asshur- Assyrians (North Iraq)
Madai – Kurds, Indians, all the “istan” peoples	Put- Libyans, Tunisians, Somalians, Sudanese	Arphaxad- Chaldeans (South Iraq), Hebrews, Arabs
Javan – Greeks, Italians (Romans), Spaniards, Portuguese, Sicilians, Cyprians, Cretans	Canaan – Canaanites, Mongols, Tibetans, Chinese, Japanese, SE Asians, Malaysians, Eskimos, N/S American Indians, Indonesians, Pacific Islanders	Lud- Lydians: Turkey, North Africa, Spain
Tubal – Cossacks, Siberians		Aram- Syrians, Lebanese
Meschech – Russians, Romanians, Latvians		
Tiras – Swedes, Norwegians, Danes		

- For the most part, men stayed in the lands allotted to them—Japheth in the north, Ham in Africa, and Shem in the Middle East. Read Genesis 10:6-12. Which of Noah's sons did Nimrod come from, and what was he doing in the land of Shem?

Ham begot Cush, who begot Nimrod. He rebelled from his people in the area of Sudan and invaded Shem's land to found a rival nation (Babylon and Nineveh) in Iraq.

- What was the common bond between the Kings of Babylon and the Pharaohs of Egypt? How does this play out in future events and in prophesy?

The kings of Babylon and the Pharaohs of Egypt were rival sons of Ham. Israel was midway between them and often became a battleground for their wars. Egypt and Babylon both claimed Canaan as Ham's territory. In times when Israel was weak her kings made alliances with other nations, a thing God expressly hated and condemned by his Prophets.

- Read Ezekiel 38:1-6. This is generally thought to be a future war in which the Lord will utterly destroy the nations gathered against Israel. Can you use your chart to name the modern countries that make up this alliance?

Gog, Magog, Meshech, and Tubal are mentioned first: Gog is the title of a person who comes from the land of Slavs, and with him are Russia and Turkey with their surrounding countries. God will put hooks in their jaws to force them into an alliance they do not want with Persia, Cush, Put, and Gomer against Israel; so the main agitators are, in order, Iran, the Islamic parts of Africa, (Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, and Somalia), and strangely, Europe. Sheba, Dedan, and Tarshish (Ethiopia, Arabia and Tarshish-probably Spain or England) will protest against this alliance. God will stop the invasion with a great earthquake, plague, and bloodshed; with torrents of rain, hailstones, and burning sulfur stones as when he destroyed Sodom.

5. What thoughts do you have about the taking of African slaves on the basis of the curse upon Canaan?

Not justified. Canaan was not ancestor to any of the African peoples. Canaan's descendents were Canaanites, and David and Solomon spared their lives because of the treaty Joshua made with them, so took them as slaves. They helped in the heavy labor of building the temple. Europeans (Japheth) also subjugated the descendants of Canaan in North and South America and the Pacific Islands until this very day.

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## TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 14 - FINAL

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Your assignment for next time is to read Isaiah 47, Revelation 17-18, and Hebrews 11.

Next week, you (the class) will give the lesson. These are the questions I will ask you to comment on:

1. Read Genesis 2:16-17. What similarities can you find between the Tree of Knowledge and the Tower of Babel? What Bible story ties them together?

Both represented man's rebellion against God in favor of his own understanding of good and evil. In each case the beauty and mystery of the wrong choice was nearly irresistible. Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4 depicts the flesh King of the World as a great and fruitful tree with beasts under it and "birds of the air" living in its branches. Jesus calls the birds "the evil one" in Matthew 13:19. A holy one cuts it down and binds the stump in iron. The parable of the mustard seed becoming a great tree also reflects this, and has "birds of the air" lodging in its branches.

2. Read Hebrews 11:1-16. The Bible gives world history as a tale of two cities. What are these cities and what do they represent?

Abraham came from Ur of Chaldea, a city of Babylon. He left his birth country seeking another city whose foundations were made by God. The city with twelve foundations is the New Jerusalem, the foundations being the lives of the saints. Thus the book of Revelation gives world history as a tale of two cities, one a great empire of violent greed, the other a holy city for the redeemed who have come out from it.

3. For prophesy to be fulfilled, what will have to happen to the old city of Babylon in the future? What is taking place there today?

It will become the center of world power again. Today the old city is being rebuilt with a complex of government buildings that rival any capital in the world, and more importantly, the Iraqi Dinar (currency) is expected to explode in value, making the holders of them very rich.

4. Nimrod was the first of many who followed after him. Name several others who have walked in his likeness through world history.

Ramses II of Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Xerxes of Persia, Alexander of Greece, Antiochus III of Syria, Julius Caesar of Rome, Charlemagne of France, Genghis of Mongolia, Elizabeth of England, Hitler of Germany, and many others.

5. What have you learned about the ancient world that has changed the way you think about the modern world and your relationship to it, and about the Lord and your relationship with Him?

Since Eden, nothing has changed. Every person since Adam is a sinner in need of a Savior.

6. In light of this study and in your view, what is the main purpose of your life in the world? Give a scriptural reference that supports it.

That depends. Before I was saved my purpose was to succeed, to go as high and as far as possible in making the world and what it offers my own. Having died in Christ and being risen with Christ, I have died to that life and purpose. I remain here at the will of God as a witness of his life and goodness in me. As his child and ambassador, I may be the closest thing to God that people in the world can see and know. I make it my purpose to be a good neighbor and to present a faithful witness.

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your<sup>[a]</sup> life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

*<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*-Colossians 3:1-14 NIV*