

Old Testament Survey

Genesis, chapters 1-11

Genesis

- "Beginnings" or "Origins"
 - 1st book of both Hebrew & Christian Bibles
 - speaks of the beginnings of
 - the universe and the earth
 - mankind
 - God's people, in particular the nation of Israel

Genesis

- "Beginnings" or "Origins"
 - spans Creation (>4000 B.C.) through the life and death of Joseph (~1800 B.C.)
 - introduces many themes and concepts that will run through the rest of the Scriptures

Genesis

- Authorship

- traditionally ascribed to Moses, together with the rest of the Pentateuch (~1400s B.C.)

- a range of modern theories beginning in the 1700s A.D. reject Mosaic authorship and claim later authorship (~1000-400 B.C.) from a variety of sources

Genesis

- Structure of the book

1. Genealogical - '*Toledoth*' formula

- starts with a 'prologue' describing Creation (1:1-2:3), followed by 10 sections focusing on God's dealings with humanity
- each section starts with Hebrew phrase '*elleh tole dot*' - "These are the generations of..."

Genesis

1. Genealogical - '*Toledoth*' formula

– each section starts with Hebrew phrase '*elleh tole dot*' - "These are the generations of..."

- 2:4-4:26 - "...of the heavens and the earth"
- 5:1-6:8 - "...of Adam"
- 6:9-9:29 - "...of Noah"
- 10:1-11:9 - "...of the Sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth"
- 11:10-26 - "...of Shem"
- 11:27-25:11 - "...of Terah"
- 25:12-18 - "...of Ishmael"
- 25:19-35:29 - "...of Isaac, Abraham's son"
- 36:1&9-37:1 - "...of Esau"
- 37:2-50:26 - "...of Jacob"

Genesis

- Structure of the book

2. Historical

- Genesis 1-11 - 'ancient' history - pre-patriarchal
 - from Creation to Abraham (>4000 B.C. to ~2100 B.C.)
- Genesis 12-50 - patriarchs (~2100-1800 B.C.)
 - Abraham (Gen. 12-25)
 - Isaac (Gen. 24-26)
 - Jacob (Israel) & Esau (Gen. 25-36)
 - Joseph and the sons of Israel (Gen. 37-50)

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **1:1-2:3 Introduction - Creation**

- 1:1 - "In the beginning, God created..."

- God created everything in 6 days
- 2 parallel sets of 3 days, involving "dividing/separating" and "filling" (see next slide)
- everything created perfectly good - emphasized by 7-fold pronouncement of God that "it was good" (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **1:1-2:3 Introduction – Creation**

- 2 parallel sets of 3 days, involving "dividing/separating" and "filling"

Dividing	Filling
Day 1 - Light from Dark (Day from Night)	Day 4 - Sun, moon, and stars
Day 2 - Waters above (sky/heavens) from waters below (seas)	Day 5 - birds (sky) and fish (seas)
Day 3 - Land from the seas, with plants to cover the land	Day 6 - land animals and Man

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **1:1-2:3 Introduction - Creation**

- Man created as the pinnacle of Creation

- created in the image of God (1:26-27) - sharing in some of the attributes of God, and reflecting His glory

- created to fill the earth and to rule over it, but under the rule of God (1:26-30)

- God rested from His work of creating on the 7th day (2:1-3) - blessed the 7th day and made it holy

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **2:4-25 - "the generations of the heavens and the earth"**
 - parallel account of Creation, focusing the creation of man and woman
 - speaks of the 'offspring' of the heavens & earth, with a focus on the creation of man & woman

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **2:4-25 - "the generations of the heavens and the earth"**
 - God 'planted' a garden in Eden, and places man in it
 - an abundance of trees in the garden, including tree of life and tree of the knowledge of good & evil
 - Man may eat of any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good & evil - eating of that tree would result in death
 - God creates woman out of the side of man and unites them as one
 - the institution of marriage

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **3:1-24 - The Fall**

- The serpent tempts and deceives the woman to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil
- She eats, and gives some to Adam, who also eats
- God calls them to account and pronounces judgment

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **3:1-24 - The Fall**

- yet, in the midst of judgment, God shows mercy and promises redemption

- Promises a seed (offspring) of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent (pointing to Jesus Christ)

- God drives the man & woman out of the Garden of Eden, to the east

- Mankind prevented them from returning to the Garden

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **4:1-24 -Cain & Abel - emergence of two lineages**
 - Adam & Eve have 2 sons, Cain & Abel
 - Abel offers a offering that is pleasing to God, but Cain's offering is rejected
 - Cain is angry, and murders Abel

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **4:1-24 -Cain & Abel - emergence of two lineages**
 - God pronounces judgment on Cain, but in mercy spares his life
 - Story of Cain culminates with a genealogy of his descendants, ending with Lamech
 - Lamech not only kills a man, but boasts about it to his 2 wives
 - As the 7th generation from Adam, shows the ‘perfection’ of sinfulness of mankind as descended through Cain

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **4:25-5:32 - The descendants of Seth - emergence of a Godly line**
 - after Abel dies, Adam & Eve have another son, Seth, whose offspring "call on the name of the Lord" (4:26)
 - Genesis 5 – descendants of Adam, from Seth to Noah
 - Amazing longevity of members of this line
 - Constant repetition of "And he died."
 - A stark reminder of the effects of sin on humanity

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **4:25-5:32 - The descendants of Seth - emergence of a Godly line**
 - Enoch, 7th from Adam in Seth's line, stands in stark contrast to Lamech (7th from Adam in Cain's line)
 - walks with God, until God took him away - the 'perfection' of those who walk with God
 - speaks of the hope of eternal life, even in the face of the grim reality of death

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **6:1-9:29 - Noah and the Flood**
 - Judgment/Destruction and Re-Creation - and Re-Fall
 - the line of Seth (sons of God) intermarries with the line of Cain (daughters of men)
 - results in proliferation of evil and violence over the earth
 - God regrets creating mankind and purposes to wipe them out with a flood
 - but Noah finds favor in the eyes of God

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **6:1-9:29 - Noah and the Flood**
 - God instructs Noah to build a large boat in which he and his family will be saved
 - Noah obeys God and builds the ark
 - enters the ark with his wife, 3 sons and their wives, and a pair of every animal (7 pairs of clean animals)
 - God destroys the world with a great flood
 - Covers the whole earth with water
 - a "de-creation" of sorts - returning the earth back to its original state 'without form and void' (1:2)

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **6:1-9:29 - Noah and the Flood**
 - After the Flood, Noah emerges and makes a sacrifice to God
 - God blesses Noah and his sons, and makes a covenant never again to destroy the earth by a flood
 - commissions Noah and his family to multiply and fill the earth (9:1)
 - a 're-creation', echoing God's commission to the first man and woman at the Creation (1:28)

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **6:1-9:29 - Noah and the Flood**

- after the flood, Noah plants a vineyard and gets drunk --> lies naked in his tent

- a second 'Fall'

- mocked by his son Ham, but his other 2 sons, Shem & Japheth, cover over his nakedness

- Noah curses Ham's son Canaan, but blesses Shem and Japheth and their offspring

- foreshadows the destruction of the Canaanites by the Israelites later in the OT

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **10:1-11:9 - Descendants of Noah – The Descent & Rebellion of Man**
 - The descendants of Noah multiply and spread out over the earth
 - mankind once again rebels against God
 - culminates in building the Tower of Babel
 - a tower to reach to heaven (to put themselves in the place of God)
 - In judgment, God confuses their languages and scatters them over the face of the earth

Genesis 1-11 - Overview

- **11:10-32 - Descendants of Shem - A Continued Hope**
 - genealogy of Noah's descendants from Shem to Abram
 - to be continued in Genesis 12-50!

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- God - who He is and His attributes, for example,
 - His eternality - "In the beginning, God..." (1:1)
 - God as Creator
 - the power, wisdom, goodness, omniscience, perfection, loving kindness of God
 - the holiness of God - his wrath & judgment on sin
 - the justice and the mercy of God

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Sin and its effects
 - impact on mankind
 - God's hatred of sin and judgment of it
- Salvation/Redemption
 - begins with God's promise of the Seed (offspring) of the woman who would crush the serpent's head (3:15)
 - the rest of the Bible develops this theme of the Seed (Jesus Christ) and the redemption that comes through Him

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- God's people
 - God calls a people for Himself, out of a humanity that has turned away from Him (2 lineages)
 - God's people outnumbered by the ungodly around them
 - constant danger of turning away from God and becoming like the world around them
 - despite this, God saves and preserves a remnant of people for Himself, who serve and follow Him

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Covenants
 - more on this in future classes
- Sabbath rest
 - patterned after Creation, seventh day of the week is holy, set apart for rest and for God
 - developed in the 4th commandment, and further in Sabbath years & Year of Jubilee
 - points forward to the rest we have in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4)

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - concepts that recur in various forms throughout Scripture (e.g. in the account of Noah)
 - recurring cycles, looking forward to Christ's redemption
 - Points ultimately to the day when the heavens and the earth will be re-created completely new (Rev. 21-22)

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - for example, God's design for mankind
 - Creation
 - mankind created in God's image, to reflect His glory and to have communion with God
 - created to fill the earth and have dominion over it (i.e. rule over it)
 - placed in the garden of Eden, where they had unbroken fellowship with God and with one another

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - for example, God's design for mankind
 - Fall
 - Adam & Eve fell into sin by eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil
 - sin results in judgment by God - Adam & Eve banished from the Garden of Eden and barred from access to eternal life (tree of life)
 - as a result, mankind alienated from God and from one another
 - Mankind slides farther and farther into sin and away from God, as the image of God in Man is distorted by sin
 - » many additional 'falls' to come

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - for example, God's design for mankind
 - Redemption
 - God promises redemption after Adam & Eve's fall, through on offspring (seed) of the woman
 - redemption from sin and its consequences figure prominently through the rest of the OT
 - » emergence of various 'saviors' who deliver God's people and restore them to right relationship with God
 - » necessity of blood sacrifices to make atonement for sin
 - redemption has implications for how the redeemed should live – i.e. in holiness and fear of God

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - for example, God's design for mankind
 - Re-creation
 - re-establishing environment in which the redeemed can live according to God's Creation mandate to fellowship and rule with Him
 - examples of 're-creation' events through the OT include emergence of Noah from the ark; entry into the promised land
 - redemption and 're-creation' often portrayed in shades of a return to the Garden of Eden
 - points forward to the New Creation in Christ, and to final consummation, with new heavens and a new earth

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - concepts that form the foundations of the Christian worldview
 - Creation
 - what was God's original intent/design in Creation, for example,
 - » for the Creation?
 - » for the way mankind relates to the Creation?
 - » for the way mankind relates to God?
 - » for the way people relate to one another?
 - » for the way men and women relate to each other?

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - concepts that form the foundations of the Christian worldview
 - Fall
 - how has sin and its effects transmitted in the Fall of Adam impacted on and distorted God's original design
 - what implications does this have on the world in which we now live?
 - Redemption
 - how does God's promise to crush the Serpent's head play out
 - how does this impact on how God's people should live?

Genesis 1-11 – Themes/Concepts

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-Creation
 - concepts that form the foundations of the Christian worldview
 - Re-Creation/Consummation
 - how should we live in light of God's redemption, and in light of the hope that God will one day make all things new?
 - what things can we expect “now” and what things are “not yet” (i.e. are meant for the final consummation, when everything will be made new)?

Next class

- Genesis 12-50

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