

OT SURVEY: PENTATEUCH

WEEK 1: GENESIS 1-11

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

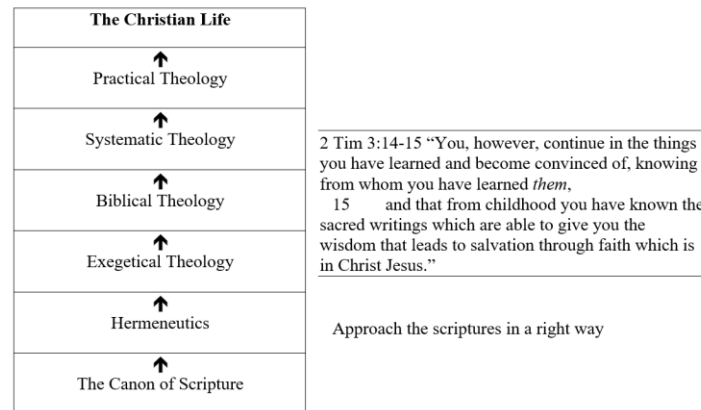
- In this Series we will be going through the Old Testament books of the Pentateuch.
- We need to know our Bibles from front to back.
 - What implications does this have for my life?
 - What are the major themes in each book of the Bible?
 - How does each book fit within the overall framework of the Bible?
 - When I read each section of Scripture, what are commonly misread passages?
- Each year we will highlight each part of Scripture, both its importance and profitability (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- Specifically, the first five books of the Bible, called the Pentateuch (pent = 5), give us the foundation for how God has ruled and reigned over his creation through the first 2500 years of the history of the world.
- God has self-revealed the account of His creation, the establishment of His covenant with Israel, and the laws that govern His people.
- If your neighbor asked you what the difference is between each book of the Pentateuch, could you help?
- **Class Schedule:**
 - **October 26:** **Genesis 1-11**
 - *November 2:* *Missionary Update: The Streets*
 - November 9: Genesis 12-50
 - November 16: Exodus 1-18
 - November 23: Exodus 19-40
 - November 30: Leviticus
 - December 7: Numbers
 - December 14: Deuteronomy

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

- Before diving into surveys of these first 5 books of the bible, it is important to understand *how* we should survey these books.
- **Biblical Theology:** “that branch of theology whose concern it is to study each corpus of the Scripture in its own right, especially with respect to its place in the history of God’s unfolding revelation. The emphasis is on history and on the individual corpus” -D.A. Carson, *Scripture and Truth*, 69-70.

- Systematic Theology: “the branch of theology that seeks to **elaborate the whole and the parts of Scripture**, demonstrating their logical (rather than their merely historical) connections and taking full cognizance of the history of doctrine and the contemporary intellectual climate and categories and queries while finding its sole ultimate authority in the Scriptures themselves, rightly interpreted.”

B. The Building Blocks of Theology



- Biblical theology “is organized around the chronological and cultural development of a **given biblical writer’s own terms, categories, and through forms in his historical and cultural context**” (Demarest and Lewis, *Integrative Theology*, 1:23).
- So each book will receive its **own special study**, each author given his own special attention so that we come away with the intended message. Biblical Theology is important!
 - Biblical Theology studies God’s word *within* the historical context, paying attention to the time and situation in which each part of Scripture was written. Systematic Theology relies on this premise.
 - Biblical Theology emphasizes each author’s development of doctrine. We might ask, “Why does David write the Psalm this way compared to Moses’ song?”
 - Biblical Theology takes into consideration the background, interest, styles, and context of the author.

OLD TESTAMENT

- While the New Testament was written within a period of about 50 years, the Old Testament was written over the course of about 1000 years!
- The theme of the Old Testament is largely “God’s kingdom” which is introduced with God’s rule and reign over all things, then specifically his chosen people Israel, then the consequences of kingdoms which disregard God’s rule.
- “Old Testament theology should see the unfolding of God’s revelation; it should be based on a study of the Old Testament text; and it should draw the study together around the developing focus of the theocratic “kingdom”

THE KINGDOM: UNIFYING THEME OF OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY (Some Important Highlights)	
MEDIATOR	MEDIATORIAL RULE
ADAM	Mediated the theocratic kingdom rule over creation. Man was to obey God and subdue nature and animal life.
NOAH	Mediated the theocratic kingdom through the administration of justice. Noah instituted capital punishment as a recognition of the sanctity of life.
ABRAHAM	1. Father of a nation through whom God would one day administer His rule over the world. 2. Received the Abrahamic covenant which promised: (a) land, (b) posterity, (c) blessing.
MOSES AND ISRAEL	1. God's will was revealed through the Mosaic law. God was king; Israel the subjects; the Mosaic law the constitution of the theocratic kingdom. 2. Israel mediates God's truth to the nations through the Mosaic law.
DAVID	1. David mediated God's rule on earth in the Davidic era (c. 1010–970 B.C.). 2. Received the Davidic Covenant which, in anticipating Messiah's kingdom, promised: (a) a dynasty, (b) a kingdom, (c) a throne, (d) an everlasting rule.
PROPHETS	1. When the kings apostatized, God raised up prophets as mediators of His theocratic kingdom. 2. The prophets had a twofold message: (a) They exhorted the people to obey the Mosaic law in the theocratic kingdom; (b) they prophesied concerning the final form of the kingdom: Messiah's millennial rule. 3. Isaiah saw a suffering Messiah as foundational to the future kingdom reign of Messiah. 4. Jeremiah announced the new covenant—it is the basis whereby God will bless Israel in the future. The new covenant anticipates Israel as a regenerated people in the future kingdom. 5. Ezekiel envisioned a restored worship in the future kingdom. 6. Daniel saw Messiah destroying all earthly kingdoms and establishing the millennial kingdom.

- Covenant Framework of Old Testament Theology

- Abrahamic Covenant (GEN 12:1-3)
 - Palestinian Covenant (DEUT 30:1-10)
 - Davidic Covenant (2 SAM 7:12-16)
 - New Covenant (JER 31:31-34)

“Land”,

Seed”,

“Blessing”

“Land”

Seed”

“Blessing”

¹ This page from Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, 38-39.

GENESIS 1-11 OVERVIEW

- God established his existence, creation, and relationship to creation.
- The details of every historic event in these 2000 years are not as important as establishing God's relationship with his crown jewel in creation, humanity.
- God is omnipotent, sovereign, holy, gracious, and purposeful.

Author

- **Moses** wrote the book of Genesis, as well as Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, and Psalm 90.
- Those against Moses as author deny Moses, Jesus (Mk 12:26), Peter (Acts 3:22), and Paul (Rom 10:5).
 - The JEDP theory attempts to ascribe authorship to 4 authors over several hundreds of years.

Key Places of Genesis 1-11

- Eden,
- Throughout the earth people populated the world
- Middle East
 - East of Eden, Nod
 - Ur, Mesopotamia
- Africa, Middle East, into Europe (Noah's prodigy)
- Modern day Iraq: plain of Shinar, which is the Hebrew name for Babylonia (BABEL)
- Generally, the fertile crescent is the geographic center of God's involvements in Genesis.

Key People of Genesis 1-11

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| • Adam & Eve | The original human beings | 1:26-3:5 |
| • Cain & Abel | The first children | 4:1-26 |
| • Enoch | A devoted God-worshipper | 5:18-24 |
| • Noah & Sons | The faithful builder of the ark | 6:5-9:29 |
| • Dispersed People of Babel | The nations of the earth | 11:1-9 |

Key Events of Genesis 1-11

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Creation of all things | Gen 1 |
| • Creation of Humans | Gen 2 |
| • Marriage | Gen 2 |
| • Fall | Gen 3 |
| • First Murder | Gen 4 |
| • Spread of Sin | Gen 6 |
| • Noah's redemption and covenant | Gen 7-9 |
| • Descendants of Noah | Gen 10 |
| • Babel | Gen 11 |

Key Verses from Genesis 1-11

1:1; 1:26-27; 2:7, 24; 3:15; 6:3; 9:1

Outline:

Categories of Major Events of Change and Key Themes:

Chapter 1-2	Creation	The beginning of all things and the identity of Creator God
Chapter 3-5	Fall	The explanation of man, sin, and God's judgement and grace
Chapter 6-9	Flood	The consequences of unfettered wickedness
Chapter 10-11	Nations	The providence of God and the preparation of Israel

How Moses seems to divide the book, by Categories of Lineage:²

1:1-2:3	Pre-Generational	(Creation)	"In the beginning God created..."
2:4-4:26	The generations of	Heavens/Earth	"This is the account of the heavens and the earth"
5:1-6:8	The generations of	Adam	"This is the book of the generations of Adam"
6:9-9:29	The generations of	Noah	"These are <i>the records of</i> the generations of Noah"
10:1-11:9	The generations of	the sons of Noah	"Now these are <i>the records of</i> the gen. of S, H, J"
11:10-26	The generations of	Shem	"These are <i>the records of</i> the generations of Shem"
11:27-25:11	The generations of	Terah	"Now these are <i>the records of</i> the gen. of Terah"
25:12-18	The generations of	Ishmael	"Now these are <i>the records of</i> the gen. of Ishmael"
25:19-35:29	The generations of	Isaac	"Now these are <i>the records of</i> the gen. of Isaac"
36:1-37:1	The generations of	Esau	"Now these are <i>the records of</i> the gen. of Esau"
37:2-50:26	The generations of	Jacob	"These are <i>the records of</i> the generations of Jacob"

- Genesis has an introduction and then 10 sections moving from **the source to the stream**.
 - God creates man (Man begets man)
 - Cause yields result
 - Action produces consequence
- The pattern of the whole book is moving from **Adam** to **Abraham** to a **people** in Egypt.
- And out of the line of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah.... Jesus Christ will emerge!

Timeline

- Genesis 5-11 show that Abraham lived about 2000 years after creation.
- Chronologies in the Bible give us indication that Abraham lived about 2000 years before Christ.
- The flood started 1656 years after creation, so there were about 400 years between Noah and Abraham.
- Noah could have met Abraham's parents.

² Victor Hamilton, *Handbook on the Pentateuch*, 17-18.

GENESIS 1-2

- God creates all things
- God provides all things needed
- God gives limitation to man regarding trees
- God's established very good order
 - All things in place
 - Mankind's purpose
 - All things complementary roles
 - Man-and-Woman Marriage (2:24-25)

Eden

- Located somewhere West of Nod. We never hear of an attempt or ability to go back.
- Planned and planted by God himself
- Brief home of humanity
- Beautiful place with trees pleasing to the eye, lush, complete, not lacking, and full of animals.
- 2 significant trees (Tree of Life and Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil)
- Free from sin and the effects of guilt, shame, or fear, humanity remained unclothed (Gen 2:25)
- The Creator met with humanity here in a way that was off limits after the fall (Gen 3:8, 22-24)
- Work was given as good and fulfilling (Gen 1:29; 2:15)
- A place of testing, capable of sinning, but not yet falling, they were without sin, yet did sin.
 - Not sinning though able (opposed to sinless)
 - God overcame Adam's deficiency by providing a Savior who would do what Adam could not.

Man

- Created by God (divine fiat) Genesis 1:26, 27, 2:7
- **Intentional, purposeful, and complete**, not random or by chance.
- **Supernaturally and instantly** created from the dust of the ground, by the breath of God, and **complementary** male and female, equally of **value** and purpose in God's holy economy of making them in His likeness and with purpose.
- Creation was **personal**, creating them "in our image, in our likeness"
 - "The image of God in man is man's personal, spiritual and moral resemblance to God, including, but not limited to God's communicable attributes" (Rolland McCune, *A Systematic Theology*, 2:25).
 - Humanity still in image of God **after the fall**, though distorted/tainted by sin (Gen 5:1; Eph 2:1-3)
 - Humanity still in image of God **after the flood**, with the same mandate to be fruitful (9:6-7)
 - As image bearers,
- Creation was apexed by the completion of humanity, the final act of Day 6, (Gen 1:31)
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What is the Difference Between Genesis 1 and 2?

	View:	Focus:	Theme:
Chapter 1:	MACRO	Summary of all events	God created everything
Chapter 2:	MICRO	Focus in on Day 6 and the creation of man.	God created man

Arguing for God.

- Scripture never intended to be proved by scientific data and facts, but always confirms them.
- Scripture never argues toward God but starts with God as the self-sufficient being that created all things.
- Scripture begins with “In the beginning God created,”
 - and all of Scripture, science, experience, and history has confirmed every Word of God to be true
 - Thus establishing that doubt lies with the creation, not the Creator.
- While philosophical arguments may attempt to “argue toward God”, God self-revealed: **He is and acts!**

GENESIS 3-5

Fall

“The fall refers to that moment in time when human beings first disobeyed God. Chapter 3 tells the painful episode. What Eve set into motion, Adam confirmed and completed by joining her. They sinned together. The willful decision of Adam and Eve created a state of rebellion between the creation and her Creator... The Bible makes it clear that the fall brought sin into every subsequent person’s life (Rom 5:12). Our capacity for sin is inborn. We are sinners before we have the opportunity to sin. Not only are we sinners because we sin: we first sin because we are sinners. Why? Because we have all inherited the effects of Adam's fall.”³

- Historical event.
- A real animal was used by Satan to tempt Adam and Eve (Gen 3:1,14; Rev 12:9; 20:2; Rom 16:20)
- Adam and Eve were real people in a state of unconfirmed and untested holiness
- They disobeyed a specific, direct command from God
- Satan attacked and manipulated the command
- All parties were affected by the consequences of this act (Gen 3:7-24)

- A Quick Review of Deviance from God’s Design
 - The Denial of God’s Authority (3:1)- God’s Authority
 - The Doubting of God’s Word (3:1)- God’s Truthfulness
 - The Disregarding of God’s Word (3:2-5)- God’s Sufficient Word
 - The Disobedience to God’s Word (3:6)- God’s Justice
 - Adam and Eve volitionally choose to disregard and disobey God’s word. They choose to sin.

Judgement⁴

A. The Implications of Genesis 3 for Hamartiology

1. It explains why there is **sin** in the world.
2. It explains why there is **death** in the world.
3. It explains why there is **difficulty** in life (disease, difficulty, conflict, etc.)
4. It explains why there is **relational conflict** in life.
5. It explains why man is in eternal trouble—“separated” from God.
6. It explains why man **needs a Savior**.
7. It explains why God did what He did and is doing what He is doing.

³ John MacArthur, *MacArthur’s Quick Reference Guide to the Bible*, 5.

⁴ Justin McKitterick, “TES Class notes Theology 2”

GENESIS 6-9

Noah

- 10th generation from Adam.
 - Adam was alive when Lamech was 56.
 - Noah may have known generations 3-6, 8-9 (Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jered, Methuselah, Lamech)
 - Noah also was alive for ~50 years while Abram was alive, but died before Isaac.
- Noah: the first name mentioned in the genealogies with an explanation (5:28-29), bringing **relief to people**.
- Contrasted with God's utter destruction of creation, **God favored Noah** (6:7,8)
- Judgment was given to all people, yet **grace given** to Noah and his family

Genesis 6:8-9 ~ "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. **9** These are *the records of the generations of Noah*. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God."

- **Obedient** and **trusting** in God in his faithful building of the Ark according to God's promised salvation

Genesis 6:22 ~ "Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did."

Flood

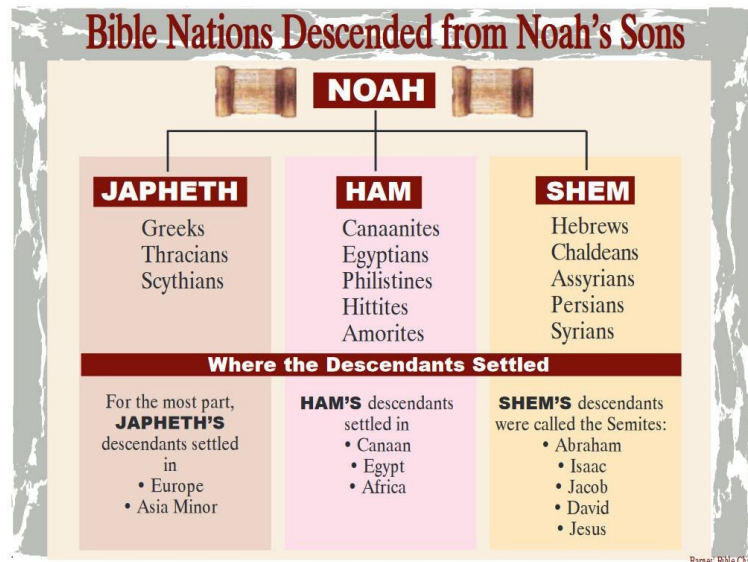
- Jesus confirmed this event to be a literal global flood (Matthew 24:39).
- None survived except Noah, his wife, and his 3 sons and their wives (8:18)
- Significance:
 1. God **retains ultimate control** of world events
 2. God **can and will judge sin**
 3. God **can and does exercise grace even in judgment**
 4. An even more universal and **final judgment will be carried out** on the world based on God's timetable

Post-Flood

Genesis 9: Noah's post-flood life and moves the narrative forward through his sons

- The world was populated by Shem, Ham, and Japheth (v. 19)
- Noah's drunken episode resulted in him "uncovering his nakedness" (v. 21)
- Ham sinned by seeing his father's nakedness and telling his brothers about it (v. 22)
- The circumstances suggest that he told his brothers about it "with delight," wanting them to see their father at his worst
- Ham's actions "expressed a long-hidden resentment of his father's authority and moral rectitude..."
- Noah cursed Canaan (v. 25), the youngest son of Ham (possibly because Noah discerned that the evil that had appeared in Ham had developed to a greater degree in Canaan)
- Here God gave Israel the permission for the conquest of Canaan much later under Joshua
- Noah not only cursed Canaan, he blessed Shem (v. 26) as the line through whom God would choose Israel
- Japheth would be also blessed also in that he would have many descendants and the Canaanites would serve him as well (v. 27)

GENESIS 10-11



Genesis 10: The nations of the earth

- Nations: This sets the scene for the coming nation, Israel, and her role to the nations...it lists the nations as they descended from Noah (a horizontal genealogy), nations who were the progenitors of the various people groups and nations around the world
- Notice how many times the following words occur in this chapter: “**nations**” (vv. 5, 20, 31, 32) ...“**land/lands/territory**” (vv. 5, 11, 19, 20, 31)...“**kingdom**” (v. 10)...“**language**” (vv. 5, 20, 31)...“**families**” (vv. 5, 18, 20, 31, 32)
- Nations are those entities that involve **families, languages, and land**...these elements of nation, land, family, and language are echoed in the Abrahamic Covenant (next week) and are an important part of God’s kingdom purposes

Genesis 11: Dispersion of mankind and the line of Shem

- How the nations came to exist and mankind's continual defiance to God and his commands
- Mankind disobeyed the command to "be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth" (Gen 1:28)
- Their pride is evident in a number of ways: 1) they wanted to build a tower to reach the heavens; 2) they wanted to make a name for themselves; 3) they did not want to be scattered over the face of the earth (Gen 11:4)
- By confusing their language at the Tower of Babel, God forced mankind to spread out over the face of the earth

Babel

- Shinar: north of Ur, "Land of Kings"
- Established civilizations and efficient society (not savage beasts or tent dwellers).
- Large City-state that was controlling the other areas around it.
- Approximately 100 years after the flood, (Noah still alive, all of Noah's sons still alive).

GOD'S CHARACTER

1. God is **One and Three**, being truly independent in Himself essentially, and yet in person the plural is used in relationship within the Godhead (1:26; 11:7).
2. **God the Father** has authority in creation (1;1-31), **God the Son** is the agent of creation (1;1; 3:15; John 1:1-3; Col 1:15-17), **God the Spirit** is the presence of God in creation (1:2; 6:3; M 1:18; John 3:5-7).
3. God is **sovereign** and **majestic** over all his creation, creating and sustaining without resistance.
4. God is **transcendent** and **imminent**, being distinct and high above all his creation in being and purity, and yet actively involves himself within his creation (1:1; 11:7)
5. God has **revealed Himself** to His creation and has a unique relationship with mankind (1:28).
 - a. General Revelation (1:1-2:25)
 - b. Special Revelation (2:15-17; 3:8-19)
6. God is **moral** and **holy**, giving right laws and benevolent and sufficient means to follow them (2:16-17).
7. God **knows** all things and demonstrates his perfect knowledge of all things (Gen 3:5)
8. God is **just** and righteously responds to sin (Gen 3, 6, 7, 11)
9. God **establishes relationships** with people and **keeps his promises** (2:16; 3:14-19; 4:15; 6:13; 9:1)
10. God's **Faithfulness** to preserve a line, a seed, leading from Adam (3:15) and Noah (6:8-9) to Abraham (11:26), and then out of Abraham, to his ultimate Seed of Redemption.