

I. The Beginnings

Four Key Events of Genesis 1-11

Introduction

I. The Creation (Genesis 1-2)

A. The Creation of the Universe (Gen. 1:1-2:3)

1. The Days of Creation:

- a. Day #1: Light from Darkness
- b. Day #2: Waters above from waters below
- c. Day #3: waters from dry land
earth sprout vegetation
plants yielding seed after their kind
fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind
- d. Day #4: lights in the expanse of heaven
separate day from night
for signs/seasons/days/years
give light on earth
two great lights (Sun& Moon)
stars
- e. Day #5: living creatures in the waters
after their kind
birds in the heavens
after their kind
“God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply’”

- f. Day #6: earth bring forth creatures (cattle, creeping things, beasts)
after their kind

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so. 31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- g. Day #7: The Creation is complete

Gen. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

B. The Creation of Man highlighted again (Gen. 2:4-25)

1. **How** man was created:

2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

2. The **provision** for man:

- a. a home: a garden to live in

2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

NB: The word “paradise: is used to describe both heaven and the Garden. In fact paradise comes from a Greek word for Garden. Additionally, the Hebrew word for “placed in” comes from a word meaning, “rest.”

- b. a job: his work was to cultivate and till the garden

NB: the words for “cultivate (*shamar*) and “till” (*abad*) are used in the Pentateuch for spiritual service and worship. This is the high view God has for physical work.

- c. a command: guidance to govern his liberty

Gen. 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

NB: The Hebrew for "eat freely" carries the idea of "you may eat to your hearts content." Also, the Hebrew for "surely die" carries the idea of the "certainty of death." God appears to be ensuring that man's obedience would be voluntary and not simply the result of a lack of alternatives or challenges to Adam's and Eve's faithfulness to God.

- d. a companion: Eve

Gen. 2:18 "Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

- e. a relationship: marriage (leave and cleave/one flesh/intimate)

Gen2:23 "And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

II. The Fall (Genesis 3-5)

A. The Temptation and the Fall of Mankind

1. The Temptation

Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'" 4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

2. The Fall

a. The Deed

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

b. The Guilt and the Cover-up

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. Gen. 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

c. God Pursues

9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 And the man said, “The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

d. The Curse

14 And the LORD God said to the **serpent**, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, And dust shall you eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

16 To the **woman** He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”

17 Then to **Adam** He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.” 20 Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. 21 And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Gen. 3:22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” — 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.

NB: REFLECTIONS

1. Here is the beginning of the curse and the curse is removed in Revelation (Rev. 22:3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him;)
2. Christ became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the

Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” —)

3. The Curse on the Creation (Rom 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.)

B. Cain and Abel

1. Must approach God on His terms in the manner He prescribes

a. The Sin of Cain

Gen. 4:1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD.” 2 And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. 4 And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

NB: Why was Abel’s sacrifice accepted?

Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

b. The Pursuit by God

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 “If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

c. The Response of Cain

8 And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

NB: What prompted Cain to go after Abel?

1John 3:12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous.

d. The Pursuit by God

4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” 10 And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.

e. The Judgment by God

11 “And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12 “When you cultivate the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you; you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.” 13 And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is too great to bear! 14 “Behold, Thou hast driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden, and I shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will come about that whoever finds me will kill me.” 15 So the LORD said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, lest anyone finding him should slay him.

Gen. 4:16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. 17 And Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son. 18 Now to Enoch was born Irad; and Irad became the father of Mehujael; and Mehujael became the father of Methushael; and Methushael became the father of Lamech. 19 And Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. 20 And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 And his brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. 22 As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. 23 And Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, You wives of Lamech, Give heed to my speech, For I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me; 24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

C. The Generation of Adam (Gen. 4:25-5:32)

1. The Godly line of Seth is highlighted

III. The Flood (Genesis 6-9)

A. The Preparation for the Flood (Gen. 6)

1. The corruption of Mankind

Gen. 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 And the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

2. The Command to build the Ark

SIZE: 450ft X 75ft X 45ft (1.4 Million cubic feet)
522 standard railroad cars/ 125,000 sheep

B. The Flood (Gen. 7-9)

Rain for 40 days and 40 nights

Water from below the earth (Gen. 7:11)

IV. The Nations (Genesis 10-11)

A. The Descendants of Noah (Gen. 10)

1. Japheth (Gen. 10:1-5)

2. Ham (Gen. 10:6-20)

3. Shem (Gen. 10:21-32)

B. The Tower of Babel (from a word that means “to confuse”) (Gen. 11:1-9)

1. The whole earth shared a common language (Gen. 11:1)

2. The descendants of Noah and his 3 sons refused to fill the earth (Gen. 11:2)

3. They built a Tower to reach to the heavens

A sin of pride to have fame and steal God’s glory

A monument to their own abilities

4. God intervened and confused their languages so that they would spread out over the whole earth

NB: God determined that it was better for man to be divided in confusion than to be united in rebellion

Also, note the return of Babel in Revelation when the world is again united under Antichrist (Rev. 17-18)

C. The Detailed Genealogy of Shem (Gen. 11:10-32)

1. The Purpose is to show the link to Abraham (Gen. 12:1)