

JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Lesson 1 – Intro to the Old Testament

I. Introduction to the Old Testament

A. The Old Testament covers many events over a span of thousands of years. We will divide this time into four periods as a way to understand some of the major events better.

1. Innocence – extends from the creation of man to his sin in the Garden of Eden. The length of this time is unknown.
2. Conscience – spans the time from the Fall of Man (original sin) to Abraham.
3. The Patriarchs – the time of the Patriarchs reaches from Abraham to Moses.
4. The Law and the Prophets – this time extends from Moses to Jesus Christ.

II. Books of the Old Testament

A. The Bible is inspired of God

1. II Peter 1:21 reads: *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*
2. Clearly all scripture is inspired by God. According to II Timothy 3:16: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,*

for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”

3. Love the Message version: *“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed...”*
4. Men did not merely decide to write about God...the Bible is not man’s book about God, but God’s Book to humanity! It really is a Love Story!

B. Man cannot stand as the judge of Scripture; Scripture stands as the judge of man. As believers, we must come with an open and receptive heart to receive and believe what God says. The mindset of a believer every time he opens the Bible must be the conviction that whatever the Bible says is true.

1. We cannot trust our reason to determine what is true or false, right or wrong. By faith we believe in the inspiration of the Bible, and therefore we affirm its authority, infallibility, sufficiency, and effectiveness from cover to cover.
2. By authority, we mean that it is the absolute standard of truth (matters of faith) and the absolute rule for living (matters of practice).
3. By infallibility, we mean that the Bible is free from error. Truth is absolute, and all truth has its ultimate source in God, who is Truth and the revealer of truth. Infallibility extends to every statement of Scripture, including matters of history and science as well as matters of theology. The Bible, therefore, is the standard by

which all matters of theology, history, and science are to be judged.

4. By sufficiency, we mean that the Bible is all we need to direct us in how to know God and please Him. It is all that we need to direct us safely and surely through this life and to the life to come. The Psalmist declared that “the law of the Lord is perfect” (Psalm 19: 7). The word law refers here to the whole body of God’s revealed instruction, the whole of special revelation. The word perfect refers especially to its completeness or wholeness. In simple terms, God’s Word is complete. According to His infinite wisdom and good purpose, God has revealed all that we need for the welfare of our souls. Therefore, the Psalmist concludes that this complete Word converts the soul. There is no need for humanly defined philosophy, psychology, opinion, or experience to supplement the Bible. It may sound trite, but it is true: if God said it, that settles it.
5. By effectiveness, we mean that there is an inherent power in God’s Word to accomplish what it says. The Lord Himself declared, “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55: 11). The Word of God is the hammer that in judgment breaks rocks in pieces (Jeremiah 23: 29); it is the means of Grace whereby God communicates the

message of the Gospel that saves all who believe (Romans 10: 17).

- C. The bottom line is that every time we open the Scripture, we must do so with awe and reverence generated by the certain knowledge that the Bible is not an ordinary book but the very word of the eternal God, whose veracity is beyond question or doubt. The Bible is not what men define it to be; it is what God declares it to be. Men can believe that or deny that, but they cannot alter that.
- D. The Bible is the Word of God.
1. We should approach these studies with great reverence! Because this is literally the Word of God, not the word of man. Every word is important!
 2. God warned Moses: *“You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.”* Deuteronomy 4:2 ESV
 3. And just before the close of the written scripture, God inspired John to include these words in Revelation: *“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”* Rev. 22:19 KJV

E. God's Word is to be Preserved.

1. God did not just give His Word to humanity; He promised to preserve it forever, so that everyone would have access to God's revelation!
2. *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
 ⁷Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*
Psalms 12: 6,7

F. The breakdown of the Old Testament books

1. Easy method to remember the books in the Old Testament. The word "Old" has three letters; the word "Testament" has nine letters. If we put three and nine together we have 39, the number of the books of the in the Old Testament.
2. The Old Testament was penned by about thirty-two men as the Holy Spirit moved on them. It spans a period of at least 3,600 years of human history, and it required about 1,500 years to complete.
3. We can divide it into four sections:
 - a) Law- first five books
 - b) History – twelve books
 - c) Poetry – five books
 - d) Prophecy – seventeen books including the Major prophets
(first 5 books and the last 12 usually being called the Minor prophets)

III. Creation Week (Genesis 1:1 thru Genesis 2:3) (Lets look in our Bibles as well)

A. In the Beginning God...

1. The First Day: *“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”* Genesis 1:3. Then God divided the light from the darkness. He called the light, Day and the darkness, Night (Genesis 1:3-5)
 - a) At this point, the earth was still *“without form and void”* (Genesis 1:2). There existed a mass of waters.
2. The Second Day: *“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”* Genesis 1:6
 - a) God called the firmament heaven; today we call it the sky.
3. The Third Day: And God said: *“Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.”* Genesis 1:9
 - a) *And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. ¹¹And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

b) So on the third day, we see the appearance of land and formation of the seas. Also the creation of grass, herbs and trees on land.

4. The Fourth Day: *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: ¹⁵And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.*

a) Also on this day God made the sun, moon, and stars to divide the light from darkness and to mark days, seasons, and years with their signs. (Genesis 1:14-19)

5. The Fifth Day: *And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. ²¹And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1: 20, 21)*

6. The Sixth Day: God creates all the animals and mankind.
(Genesis 1:24-31)

7. The Seventh Day: The last day of the creation week, God rested.

a) Genesis 2:1-3 “*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. ³And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*”

IV. Power of Choice

A. Adam and Eve – Innocence

1. The 2nd chapter of Genesis restates the creation of man and woman and gives better details. This chapter reveals that God planted the garden eastward of Eden, where He placed man, Adam. The garden was a beautiful place, growing every tree that was pleasant to the sight and good for food. Adam is placed here by God with instructions for him to take care of the garden.
2. Forbidden Tree – God does forbid Adam to do one thing: *And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."* (Genesis 2:16-17)

3. Another unusual tree was the tree of life (Genesis 2:9). It was permissible for man to eat of that tree, but not the one that would give them knowledge of good and evil.
- a) Man was in a state of innocence; eating from this tree would awaken his conscience.
4. Eve Enters the Picture – God notes that it is not good for this man to be alone! So God says, “*I will make him an help meet for him*” (Genesis 12:18)
- a) The words “*help meet*” are translated from one Hebrew word that means ‘*aid*’. The Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and He took one of Adams ribs, from which He made woman.
 - b) The man said, “*This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman, for she was taken out of man.*” (Genesis 2:23)
 - c) In their innocence, both Adam and Eve were unashamed, even though they were naked.
5. Man Given a Free Will
- a) Wouldn’t it have been better if God had never given Adam and Eve the opportunity to do wrong?
 - b) But this question overlooks God’s reason for even creating us... God did not create us to be puppets or robots. He created us a being with a choice or with a free will.

- c) Would it be possible for God to have a joyful relationship with a being who had no choice in the matter? or who was forced into the relationship?
- d) We have the power to consciously choose to do right or wrong.

B. The Fall of Man (Genesis 3: 1-24) This chapter outlines the Original Sin and its tragic consequences not only for Adam and Even but also for humanity.

1. Evidently the first mistake Eve makes is even being in the vicinity of the forbidden tree, knowing it was forbidden she probably should have kept her distance.

- a) Before we judge, we have all done the same thing...knowing something is not right for us and relationship with God, we still get too close to the forbidden...
- b) Romans 12:14 command: "*Make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*"
- c) Ephesians 4:27 "*Neither give place to the devil.*"
- d) Many painful situations could be avoided of people simply away from sinful environments and compromising situations.
- e) Eve's simple mistake was to knowingly and willingly make provision for temptation.

2. Satan Pays a Visit as well

- a) Satan, who is very subtle, was waiting for the right opportunity to inject his deceitful

influence into the tranquil setting of the garden.

- b) He knew his only course of action and it involved the tree that was off limits, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- c) Notice Satan's mode of attack was to always question God's Word. *"He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"* (Gen 3:1)

3. Satan's Wrong Interpretation

- a) Let's look at the way Satan twists God's words...
- b) God said *"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not of it."* Genesis 2:16-17
- c) Satan asked if God said: *"Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden."* Genesis 3:1
- d) The change may seem like just a matter of semantics or a play on words. But when we are talking about the Word of God, every word is crucial, the phrasing is critical and the perspective is important. The truth cannot be overemphasized!
- e) God was speaking from a positive viewpoint. He told Adam that the truth of the matter is this, "you have an entire garden to partake of...except for one little tree..."
- f) Satan was twisting from the negative. He focused on the fact that they could not eat of

every tree! He wanted Eve to think about the one thing she should not have instead of the abundance she could have! The enemy of our soul is still using the same tactics on us today!

4. Eve's Lack of Knowledge of God's Word and why it's so important!

- a) The next tragic mistake is that Eve really did not know what God had really said.
- b) Her statement sound close to God's but she added to what God had said. *"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. (Genesis 3: 2,3)*
- c) Here is what God actually said in Genesis 2:16-17 *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*
- d) God DID NOT say *"neither shall ye touch it"*. Again it may not seem that this addition is not important. But we are dealing with the Word of God!
- e) If we add our own conditions, we go beyond the Word of God!

- f) By misquoting what God had said, Eve reveals to the enemy a major flaw in her ability to resist temptation.
- g) The only way to resist the temptation of the enemy is to respond to his efforts with the Word of God, the pure Word of God. In Matthew 4, Satan tried to tempt Jesus (Word in Flesh!) with a misapplication of a verse from Psalm 91. *“And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”* Matthew 4:6-7
- h) But Jesus knew the Word, because He was the Word! (John 1:1)
- i) If Jesus was not too great to be tempted, neither are we!

5. Satan Attacks God’s Motives

- a) The next step in the temptation of Eve was an attack on God’s motives.
- b) Seeing that Eve did not really know what God said, Satan now directly contradicts God’s Word: *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”* Genesis 3: 4,5

- c) In short, Satan caused Eve to think that God prohibited her and Adam from eating the tree because he wanted to keep something good from them!

6. Adam's Disobedience

- a) Eve then begins to follow her physical desire instead of the Word of God.
- b) She saw that the tree was good for food (sight and taste) and that it was a tree to be desired to make one wise (an appeal to her pride).
- c) She ate the fruit, and she gave some to Adam, and he ate also.
- d) What makes this even more tragic, while Eve was deceived, Adam was not. He knew exactly what he was doing. *“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression”* 1 Timothy 2:14
- e) We also see through the Word of God other facts about the fall of man:

(1) *“By one man (Adam) Sin entered the world.”*

Romans 5:12

(2) *“Death reigned from Adam to Moses”* Romans 5:14

(3) *“For as by one man's (Adam) disobedience many were made sinners.”* Romans 5:19

C. God Comes for a Visit in the Garden

1. God looks for Adam and Eve

- a) Then Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and in their shame and remorse they hid from His presence among the trees of the garden.
- b) Sin had broken their free relationship with God.
- c) *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"* Genesis 3: 8-10
- d) God knew where they were...He wanted to realize where they were not...close to Him without shame!

2. Blaming someone else

- a) At this juncture, another development occurs that is typical of all humanity from that time till today, the Blame Game.
- b) The man said, *"The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."* Genesis 3:12

- c) Fallen human nature does not want to take responsibility for sin. *"Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:13*

V. The First Judgement

A. The immediate result of man's choice to disobey rather than obey God was the first judgement of sin, in the form of 4 curses and the removal of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.

1. The Curse on Satan

- a) *So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. Genesis 3: 14*

2. The Curse on the Woman

- a) *"To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.""*
Genesis 3:16

- b) As a result of Eve's sinful choice, she brought upon the female population of the human race increased sorrow. Even the most joyous childbirth, comes by pain and travail.

3. The Curse on the Land

- a) *To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.*

Genesis 3:17, 18

- b) Every time you weed the garden and spray weed killer on your lawn, it is a reminder of humanity's choice to sin and our need of a Gracious God!

4. The Curse on Man

- a) *By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Genesis 3:19*
- b) From this point forward, man would find life a struggle and he finally go back to the dust from which he was created.

B. The Promise of the Redeemer

1. In the midst of these curses, God interjects a promise: *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15*
2. This is prediction of the ultimate triumph of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, over the enemy, Satan.

3. From the very beginning the fate of our enemy has been sealed! From the beginning he has been a defeated enemy.
4. This state of innocence ends with God giving them and us a promise!
5. God also provided a covering of skin for their nakedness, showing that by the shedding of blood He would make a provision to reverse the consequences of their sin.

C. Man Driven from the Garden

1. As a direct result of their sinful choice, God had to put Adam and Even out of the Garden. “*So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.*”²⁴ *After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side [e] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”* Genesis 3: 23-24
2. When they sinned, they became spiritually dead—separated from the presence of God.
3. They now faced physical death and after that eternal death, which they could only avoid by the saving Grace of God.
4. Since that time, every human being had born into a sinful state, spiritually dead and facing eternal death.
5. But through Jesus Christ, we can have salvation and eternal life!