

Course: Old Testament History

Genesis (1-11)
From Adam to Nimrod
and the
Tower of Babel

Text: ‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:’ (2 Timothy 3:16)

These notes are given to help develop Bible study groups and to encourage group participation through discussion.

It is intended to be a road through the Old Testament and not a detailed study.

Introduction to the book of Genesis

Part One (Genesis 1-11)

1. The Book of Genesis begins with **creation**.
2. It explains how **mankind fell** and sin entered into the world.
3. It shows the **godless line of Cain and the godly line of Seth**.
4. The influence of the godless line even corrupts the godly line of Seth until **just one family is godly, Noah and his family**.
5. How **the world was destroyed by a flood** and
6. How **the nations developed from the Sons of Noah**.
7. Rise of Babylon and **the beginning of an organised idolatrous system**.
8. **Abrams departure from Ur of the Chaldees to Haran**

GENESIS (Chapters 1-11)

Lesson Outline

1. Creation and the Fall of Man
Elohim and Jehovah
2. Noah
The Flood
Spread of Nations
3. Nimrod
Empire building - idolatry
Tower of Babel
4. Abram
Ur of the Chaldees - Haran

GENESIS (Part 1a)

Genesis chapters 1-10

- 1) Creation and the Fall of Man**
- 2) The Names of God - Elohim and Jehovah**
- 3) Noah and the Flood**
- 4) The Sons of Noah – The Spread of the Nations.**

1) **Creation and the Fall of Man**

In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth... Genesis 1:1



Creation - Light and the sun

Day 1	Light and Darkness	–	Day 4	Sun, Moon and Stars
Day 2	Sea and Sky	–	Day 5	Birds and fishes
Day 3	Dry Land, Trees	–	Day 6	Animals and Man

There could not be light on Day 1 without the sun.

Genesis 1:16

Day 4 – The sun was not created (bara) on Day 4 it was made (asah)

The difference in the Hebrew word is that the Sun began to operate (was made to function) from Day 4 so that life on earth could benefit from it.

Creation of Man – Male and Female.

Adam was created (bara) with the ability to reproduce (1:27).

Male and female were created from the beginning (1:27-28 and 5:2).

God formed (yatsar – as a potter) Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. (2:7)

God took from the rib (tsela) of Adam (2:21-23)

Rib (tsela) means side chamber. (2:21-22)

Took ‘one of his side chambers’.

Eve was built (banar) from the side of Adam (2:22).

The two were one flesh in the beginning. (2:24)

The two come together in marriage.

The Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:4 –3:24) – The four rivers of Eden

Eden means delight

Location:

River flowed from Eden –
watered the garden- divided
into Four Rivers

(2:11-12) River Pison –
encompasses land of Havilah,
where there is gold, bdellium
and onyx.

(2:13) River Gihon,
encompasses land of Ethiopia

(2:14a) River Hiddekel
(Gesenius: rapid Tigris): goes
towards the east of Assyria.

(2:14b) River Euphrates.



Pison and Gihon no longer exist but they
were probably located near the north end of
the Persian Gulf.

Protoevangelium – First promise of salvation

Genesis 3:15

‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.’

The Seed of the woman – bruised heel

The devil – bruised (crushed) head

Enmity between the devil and the woman – the woman will be reconciled with God.

The Seed of the woman – Christ

The seed of the devil – the children of the devil.

Jesus spoke to the religious leaders and said ‘You are of your father the devil’. (John 8:44)

2) The Names of God - Elohim and Jehovah

Elohim אלהים

The Creator (Genesis 1:1)

Elohim - created mankind in His own image for fellowship with Himself.

Elohim – rules, judges – over His works

Judges – called Elohim

Angels – called Elohim

Jehovah יהוה

The nature and character of God (Genesis 2:4)

The One who is.

The existing God.

He is who He is

The Line of Cain and the Line of Seth

Jehovah יהוה

Name used in Genesis 4

Cain and his descendants

Jehovah – holy, righteous God

Elohim אלהים

Name used in Genesis 5

Seth and his descendants

Relationship

Descendants of Cain (Genesis 4:17-24)

Cain – Enoch - Irad – Mehujael – Methushael – Lamech

Enoch – Cain named city after his son Enoch

Lamech

Polygamy – 2 wives (Adah and Zillah)

Jabal (son of Adah) – father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock

Jubal (son of Adah) – father of those who play harp and flute.

Tubal-Cain (son of Zillah) – instructor of craftsmen in bronze and iron.

Sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

Lamech murders a young man

Lamech has no fear of God. Proud of his sin. (4:23-24)

Genealogy

Adam – Noah.

Line of Seth

	Date BC			
Adam	4004		Adam	
Seth born	3874	130		130 Genesis 5:3
Adam died	3074	930		800 Genesis 5:4-5
			Seth	
Enosh born	3769	235		105 Genesis 5:6
Seth died	2962	1042		807 Genesis 5:7-8
			Enosh	
Cainan born	3679	325		90 Genesis 5:9
Enosh died	2864	1140		815 Genesis 5:10-11
			Cainan	
Mahalaleel born	3609	395		70 Genesis 5:12
Cainan died	2769	1235		840 Genesis 5:13-14
			Mahalaleel	
Jared born	3544	460		65 Genesis 5:15
Mahalaleel died	2714	1290		830 Genesis 5:16-17
			Jared	
Enoch born	3382	622		162 Genesis 5:18
Jared died	2582	1422		800 Genesis 5:19-20
			Enoch	
Methuselah born	3317	687		65 Genesis 5:21
Enoch departs	3017	987		300 Genesis 5:22-23
			Methuselah	
Lamech born	3130	874		187 Genesis 5:25
Methuselah died	2348	1656		782 Genesis 5:26-27
			Lamech	
Noah born	2948	1056		182 Genesis 5:28
Lamech died	2353	1651		595 Genesis 5:30-31
			Noah	
Ham Shem Japheth	2448	1556		500 Genesis 5:32
Date of the Flood	2348	1656		600 Genesis 7:11

3) Noah and the Flood

Date of the flood according to Ussher c.2348-9 BC



Gen 6:14

Gopherwood

Compartments

Cover with pitch

Gen 6:15

300 cubits length

50 cubits wide

30 cubits high

wikipedia.org - public domain

Gen 6:16

Window cubit from top. Door on side. Lower, second and third floors.

Noah's Ark rested on Mount Ararat (Genesis 8:4).



Mount Ararat – Picture by NASA (public domain)

Searching for Noah's Ark.

Noah's drunkenness (Genesis 9:20-24)

First mention of strong drink

Noah planted a vineyard.

Drank of the wine and became drunk.

Noah's drunkenness appears almost accidental.

Unaware of the dangers.

What did Ham do?

Ham looked upon his father's nakedness – but it was more than just looking.

His father knew what his younger son had done to him (Gen 9:24).

Shem and Japheth walked backwards and placed a blanket on their father.

Covered his nakedness without looking.

4) The Sons of Noah – the Spread of the Nations (Genesis 10)

Ham (burning heat) – the races of Africa. Canaanites.

Shem (splendour or glory) - Semite nations. Israelites

Japheth (enlargement) – European nations

Cursed be Canaan – servitude

Blessed be the God of Shem (praise)

God will enlarge Japheth (promise)

Japheth will dwell in the tents of Shem.

The tents of Shem bring blessing to Japheth who will be enlarged and Canaan who will serve.

