



We will review Adam and Eve and then take a look at Noah, Israel (through Abraham and Moses), Jesus, the Church, and the 144,000 in the End Times. Afterwards, we'll draw some general conclusions about the methods God uses to accomplish His mission. We'll also consider an approach to interpreting the Bible related to His mission.

## **THE FIRST MISSION**

Genesis 1:28 depicts the mission God gave to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..." We often overlook the beginning of verse 28, "And God blessed them." This small phrase is an important part of them being able to carry out the mission. Through what God gave to them, *blessing*, they could move forward into His mission.

Interestingly, as we read through Genesis 2, we see the reference to God change to "LORD." In the original Hebrew, the word "LORD" is actually the personal name for God, transliterated into English as "YHWH." The change in Genesis 2 to the personal name for God is an indication of the relational nature of God. It is in this chapter of Genesis that we get the details of God's relationality to man. Adam was formed from the dust of the ground and breathed into by YHWH to give the man the breath of life.

As we continue reading through Genesis 2, we notice the dependency that Adam had on God for all his needs. God is the one who planted the garden for Adam and then instructed Adam to work the garden and keep it. God brought all the animals to Adam so that Adam could name them as God instructed.

It was God who declared it was not good for man to be alone and, so, created Eve, a helper suitable for the man. And then, God is the one who brought her to Adam. Adam received her as a provision from God to carry out the Larger Missional Story that God gave to them both.

YHWH is the one who gave Adam the command not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, giving Adam (who then remembered the command and relayed it to Eve) an opportunity to trust God and to depend on Him to provide all that was needed to carry out the mission of populating the earth with His image bearers who love Him and love others. This was a genuine partnership. God would provide the needs, humanity would love and trust God and use His provisions to carry out His plan.

Even after the Fall, we see God pursuing Adam and Eve and making provisions for them to continue to carry out His plan of filling the earth. God also made a promise that He would one day rectify the sin problem that now placed a huge burden on humanity in their ability to move forward into God's mission.

## NOAH

*Genesis 6-9*

When arriving in Scripture at the account of Noah, we see the devastating effects that sin had on people. All of humanity had turned away from a relationship with God, except Noah and his immediate family. Noah was describe as a righteous man, blameless in his generation who walked with God. In other words, although Noah was not sinless, he had an intimate relationship with God and trusted Him to provide what Noah needed.

In His plan to destroy the earth, God made a provision for Noah and his family to escape God's wrath. God communicated to Noah, in advance, his plans to destroy the earth. God also communicated details of how Noah could escape. It was God who laid out the plans for the Ark (the size, the composition, and floor plans). It was God who communicated to bring the animals. It was God who said to bring food for his family and the animals.

Noah then spent 120 years building the Ark and gathering the food and the animals as God had instructed. On the day the flood waters were to come, God instructed Noah to enter the Ark. Noah, his family, and the animals entered the Ark and God shut them in using the door that Noah made in the side of the Ark.

The removing of all humans who rejected God and the saving of Noah and His family was necessary for God to stay on the mission of filling the earth with His image bearers. We know this was still at God's heart because He reiterates the mission that He gave to Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28) to Noah in Genesis 9:1.

We see a genuine partnership between God and Noah with God instructing and providing what Noah needed and Noah listening, believing, and moving in the direction God instructed. Noah was definitely walking in the Larger Story of God along with God in order to participate in the mission of God.

## ISRAEL

*Genesis 11-22 (Abraham); Exodus 1-Deuteronomy 34 (Moses)*

### CONTEXT

In all that happened from the time of Noah's Ark to Abraham, God was still about accomplishing his mission of filling the earth with his image bearers. We get a clear picture of this at the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. The people of the earth, all with one language and culture, rejected God's mandate to spread out across the earth and, instead, built a tower unto themselves to demonstrate their capabilities. So, God confused their languages and dispersed them over the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:9)

### ABRAHAM

Interestingly, once the earth was filled with broken image bearers, God now began a plan to bring about redemption and restoration to the people groups of the earth. God initiated this plan by choosing one man from which He would form a nation to