

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY I

Session One

CREATION TO BABEL (GEN. 1-11)



PART I – GENESIS 1-2
CREATION AND CALL

Existence and Purpose

“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.”

WHERE ARE WE?

Form (Divide)		Fill (Multiply)	
Day 1	Darkness – “Night” ...and there will be no night there. – Rev. 21:25	Day 4 – Lights – signs & seasons, days & years	Moon & Stars
	Light – “Day”		Sun And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb – Rev. 21:23
Day 2	Waters Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more – Rev. 21:1	Day 5	Water creatures
	Firmament – “Heavens”		Aerial creatures
Day 3	Waters – “Seas”	Day 6	livestock & crawlers and beasts
	Land – “Earth”		
	Vegetation – plants & trees		

WHO ARE WE?



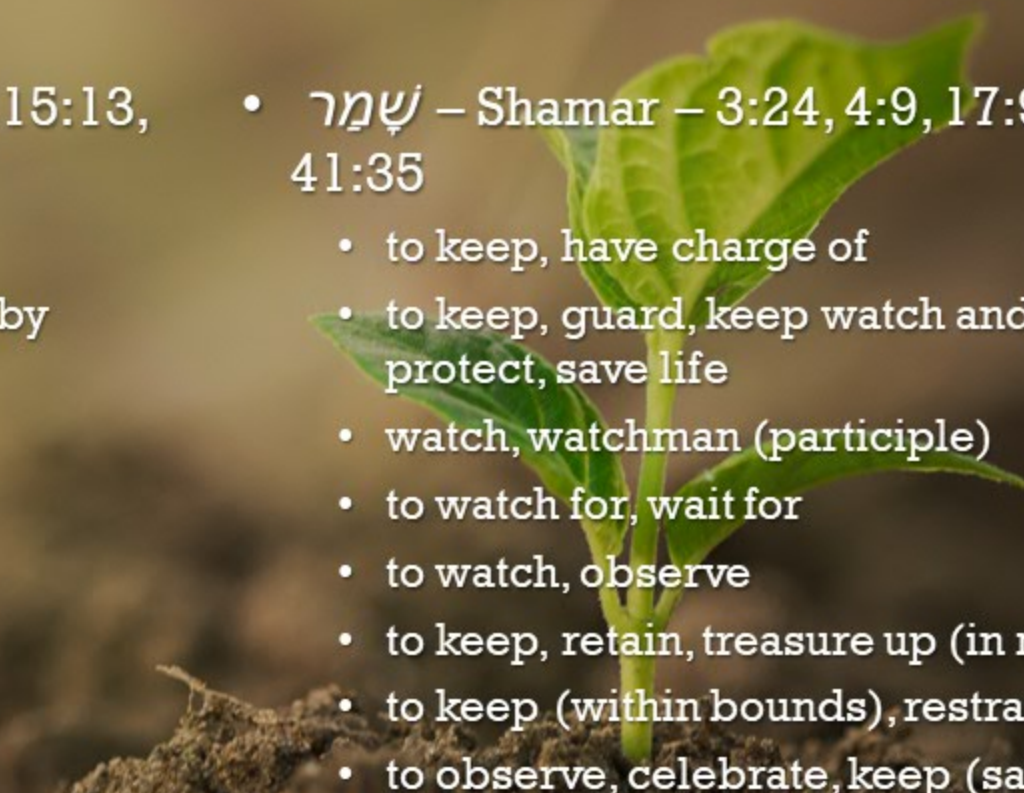
WHY ARE WE HERE?

• עָבַד – 'Abad 2:15, 3:23, 4:2, 4:12, 15:13, 29:18; Ex. 1:13

- to labour, work, do work
- to work for another, serve another by labour
- to serve as subjects
- to serve (God)
- to serve (with Levitical service)

• שָׁמַר – Shamar – 3:24, 4:9, 17:9, 28:15, 41:35

- to keep, have charge of
- to keep, guard, keep watch and ward, protect, save life
- watch, watchman (participle)
- to watch for, wait for
- to watch, observe
- to keep, retain, treasure up (in memory)
- to keep (within bounds), restrain
- to observe, celebrate, keep (sabbath or covenant or commands), perform (vow)
- to keep, preserve, protect
- to keep, reserve



WHERE ARE WE GOING?





PART II – GENESIS 3
FALL AND AFTERMATH

ἁμαρτία

“...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin...”

ἁμαρτία

Sin in the Orthodox Christian understanding is “missing the mark” (the literal meaning of the Greek word for sin, *hamartia*), falling short of the glorious purpose for which God created mankind. It is also understood as separation from God, since intimate communion with God is the normal state of mankind from which people have fallen. Sin is imperfection, anything which fails to live up to the fullness of life in Christ for which man was created.

The Bible sometimes uses legal metaphors to refer to sin, likening it to crime, that is, crime against God's law. For Orthodox Christianity, while making use of legal imagery, the more dominant imagery used for sin is also drawn from Scripture, and that is that sin is a kind of disease, an affliction for which salvation is the cure.

– <https://orthodoxwiki.org/Sin>

A photograph of a forest path that forks into two directions. The path is covered in fallen yellow and brown leaves, suggesting autumn. The trees are lush green, and the overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative. The text is overlaid on the path, centered between the two forks.

PART III – GENESIS 4-5
LINE OF CAIN, LINE OF SETH

The Human Condition

“I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.”

AGE OF THE EARTH: BALANCE OF EVIDENCE

Old
Earth?

Young
Earth?

[Some] Historic
Church Teaching

Plain Reading

Fossil Record
(Science)

Genealogies /
Myths (History)

Radiometric
Dating, Starlight

Helium Leaks,
Moon Dust



II PETER 3

³ ...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The background is a dark, atmospheric painting of a stormy sea. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, and a single white bird is seen in flight on the right side. The water is depicted with vibrant, swirling colors of teal and turquoise, contrasting sharply with the dark sky. The overall mood is one of intense, turbulent energy.

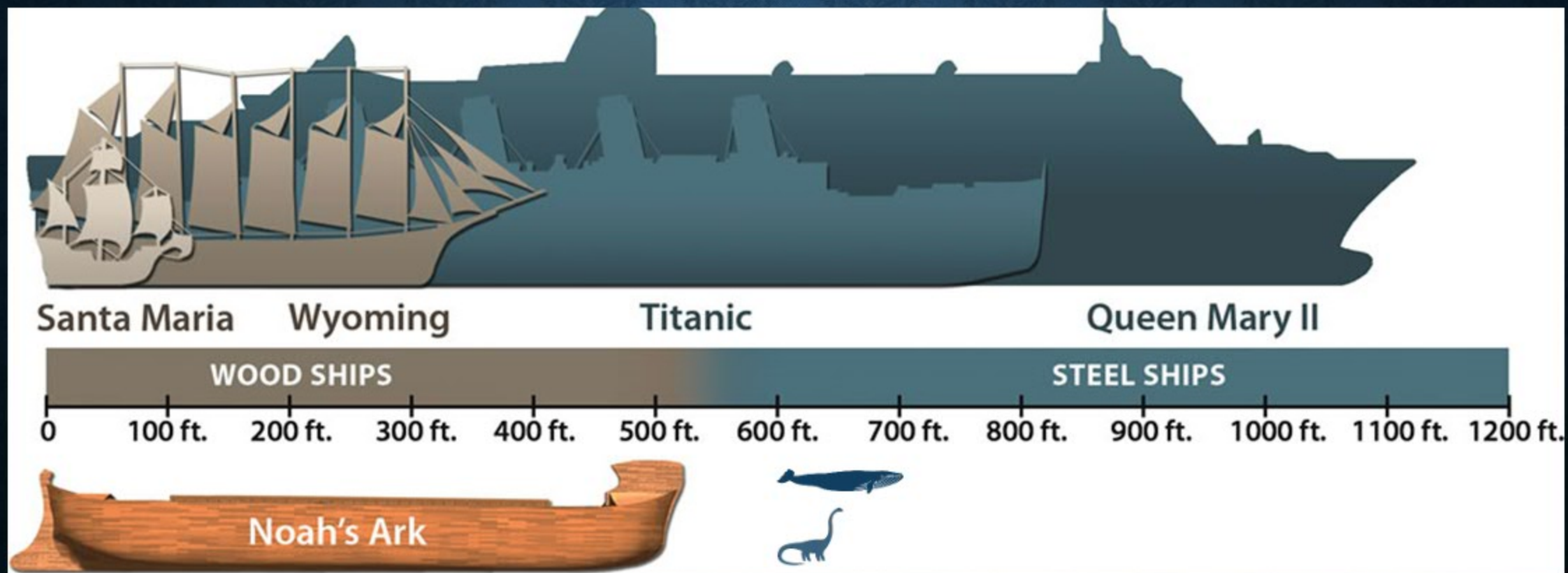
PART IV – GENESIS 6-9
THE FLOOD

Violent Grace

“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

SIZE OF THE ARK

Per the old Egyptian/Babylonian cubit (20.6") – 515' x 86' x 51'



A wide-angle photograph of the Dubai skyline under a clear blue sky. The Burj Khalifa is the central focus, extending vertically through the frame. Other skyscrapers of varying heights and architectural styles are visible on either side. In the foreground, there's a sandy area with some construction equipment and a blue barrier.

PART V – GENESIS 10-11
THE NATIONS & THE TOWER

Hubris and Technocracy

“What city was like the great city?”



The Descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth



PART VI
APPLICATION

“And this is eternal life—”

RESOURCES/ACTIONS

- Creation
 - Watch *Is Genesis History?*
 - Get one creation book or DVD from the FBC library (or kids' library!)
- Theistic Evolution
 - www.biologos.org – Read one article of interest; evaluate biblically; return with thoughts

