

Exploring God's Word

Lesson 1 – 8/9/2023

I. Books of the Old Testament

1. The Bible is Inspired of God

- **2 Peter 1:21** – 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.
- According to **2 Timothy 3:16**, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God.
- In the Greek language, the word *inspired* means “God-breathed.”
- A key word in **2 Peter 1:21** is *moved*.
 - In the original Greek language, it means “to be carried along.”

2. The Bible is the Word of God

- Because the Bible is written by God, and not by men, each word is important, and we should approach our study of the Bible with great Reverence.
 - Each word is important.
- **Deuteronomy 4:2** — Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
- A similar command is found in **Proverbs 30:6** — Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.
- And just before the close of the Bible, God inspired John to include these words in the Book of Revelation:
 - **Revelation 22:19** — 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.

God is serious when it comes to His Word. His Word is perfect.

3. God's Word Is to Be Preserved

- **Psalms 12:6-7** — The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.
- **Luke 16:17** — And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.
 - A tittle is a very small mark in the Hebrew language, in which the Old Testament was written.
- The Old Testament is made up of thirty-nine books.
 - An easy way to remember this is there are 3 letters in “Old” and 9 letters in “Testament”.
 - And if you put those numbers together, you get 39.
- It is believed that thirty-two men penned the Old Testament.
 - It spans a period of at least 3,600 years of human history.
 - It required 1,500 years to complete.
 - The thirty-nine books of Old Testament can be divided into four major sections:
 1. **Law** – Five Books
 2. **History** – Twelve Books
 3. **Poetry** – Five Books
 4. **Prophecy** – Seventeen Books
 - a. The first five are known as the Major Prophets.
 - b. And the remaining twelve are known as the Minor Prophets.

II. Introduction to the Old Testament (Time Periods)

- The Old Testament is divided into four periods as a way to better understand some of the major events.
 1. **Innocence** — This period extends from the creation of man to his sin in the Garden of Eden. The length of time is unknown.
 2. **Conscience** — Conscience spans the time from the Fall of Man (the original sin) to Abraham.
 3. **The Patriarchs** — The time of the Patriarchs reaches from Abraham to Moses.
 4. **The Law and Prophets** — The time of the Law and Prophets extends from Moses to Christ.

III. Creation Week

The Creation account reveals that God made all things in six days, and on the seventh day, He rested.

- **Genesis 1:1** — In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- **Genesis 1:2** — And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

1. The First Day – Creation of light and separation of light from darkness

- **Genesis 1:3** — And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- **Genesis 1:4** — And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- **Genesis 1:5** — And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And evening and the morning were the first day.

2. The Second Day — Creation of firmament (sky, or heavens)

- **Genesis 1:6** — And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
- **Genesis 1:7** — And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so.
- **Genesis 1:8** — And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

3. The Third Day — Creation of land, grass, herbs, and trees

- **Genesis 1:9** — 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 1:10** — And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called the Seas: and God saw that *it was* good.
- **Genesis 1:11** — And 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.
- **Genesis 1:12** — And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, upon the earth: and God saw that *it was* good.
- **Genesis 1:13** — And the evening and the morning were the third day.

4. The Fourth Day — Creation of sun, moon, stars—days, seasons, years

- **Genesis 1:14** — 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:
- **Genesis 1:15** — And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.
- **Genesis 1:16** — And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.
- **Genesis 1:17** — And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
- **Genesis 1:18** — And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was* good.
- **Genesis 1:19** — And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

5. The Fifth Day — Creation of fish and birds

- **Genesis 1:20** — 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.
- **Genesis 1:21** — And 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 1:22** — And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.
- **Genesis 1:23** — And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

6. The Sixth Day — Creation of animals and humankind

- **Genesis 1:24** — And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.
- **Genesis 1:25** — And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.
- **Genesis 1:26** — And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- **Genesis 1:27** — So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- **Genesis 1:28** — And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

- **Genesis 1:29** — And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.
- **Genesis 1:30** — And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so.
- **Genesis 1:31** — And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

7. The Seventh Day — Day of rest

- **Genesis 2:1** — Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
- **Genesis 2:2** — And 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.
- **Genesis 2:3** — And 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

1. Eve Given to Adam

- **Genesis 2:18** — And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
 - The words *help meet* are translated from one Hebrew word that means “aid”.
- **Genesis 2:23** — And Adam 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.
 - In their innocence, both Adam and Eve were unashamed, though naked.

2. Humankind Given Free Will

- God did not create a puppet or a robot.
- He created a being with the power of choice, or with a free will.
- One of the major differences between humankind and the animal kingdom is this power of choice: to do good or evil.

3. The Fall

- Chapter three of Genesis outlines the terrible mistake that Adam and Eve made and its tragic consequences.
 - a. **Eve Visits the Forbidden Tree**
 - One of the first mistakes that Eve made was to visit the site of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

- **Romans 13:14** — But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.
- **Ephesians 4:27** — Neither give place to the devil.”

b. Satan Pays a Visit Also

- **Genesis 3:1** — Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
 - Satan tempted humankind to question the Word of God.

c. Satan’s Wrong Interpretation

- **Genesis 2:16** — ...Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat;
- **Genesis 2:17** — But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it...

d. Eve’s Lack of Knowledge of God’s Word

- **Genesis 3:2** — And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- **Genesis 3:3** — But 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.
 - By misquoting what the Lord had said, Eve revealed to the serpent a major flaw in her ability to resist temptation.

e. Satan Attacks God’s Motives

- **Genesis 3:4** — And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- **Genesis 3:5** — For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes will be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
 - 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.

f. Adam’s Disobedience

- **1 Timothy 2:14** — And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.
- **Romans 5:12** — Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- **Romans 5:14** — Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
- **Romans 5:17** — For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.
- **Romans 5:18** — Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.
- **Romans 5:19** — For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

4. God Comes Walking in the Garden

a. God looks for Adam and Eve

- **Genesis 3:9** — And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?
- **Genesis 3:10** — And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.
- **Genesis 3:11** — And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Has thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

b. Adam and Eve Blame Someone Else

- **Genesis 3:12** — And the man said, The woman thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.
- **Genesis 3:13** — And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

V. The First Judgment

The immediate result of man's choice to disobey rather than obey God was the first judgment on sin in the form of four curses and the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.

1. The Curse on the Devil

- **Genesis 3:14** — And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and the dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.

2. The Effect of the Curse on the Woman

- **Genesis 3:16** — Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

3. The Curse on the Land

- **Genesis 3:17** — And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;
- **Genesis 3:18** — Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

4. The Effect of the Curse on the Man

- **Genesis 3:19** — In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art* and unto dust shalt thou return.

5. The First Promise of the Redeemer

- **Genesis 3:15** — And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
- **Genesis 3:21** — Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

6. Adam and Eve Driven from the Garden

- When they sinned Adam and Eve were spiritually dead — separated from the presence of God.
- They also faced physical death and after that eternal death, which they could avoid only by the saving grace of God.

