

Genesis 1-11

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- In this lesson, we are going to start at the beginning and begin looking at the content of the Bible
 - Before we start – let's remember 2 things
 - 1 – the entire point of the Bible is Christ
 - A message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and how God has redeemed lost man even though we don't deserve it
 - As a result of this, when we look at OT stories as we are about to begin doing, think about this
 - Think about how each and every story reflects into NT principles
 - You will gain a much better understanding of the NT if you do so
 - 2 – **1 John 4:7-11**
 - God is love
 - That is the reason that #1 is true
 - That is the reason that God decided it was worth His time to redeem mankind – when even the best of us are unworthy of Him
 - That is the reason that God developed this plan, Christ executed, and the Spirit has made it known to us
 - And therefore, everything that God done is done out of love
 - There are times especially in the OT when it may not seem like this is the case, but it is – and we'll talk about why in each of these cases
 - **Jeremiah 25:15-30**
 - This God is the God of love?
 - Matthew 26:39 – let this **cup** pass from Me
 - This is the cup of wrath that Jesus is likely referring to
 - The same cup of wrath we read of in Isaiah 51, Obadiah 16, Psalm 60, Psalm 73, etc.
 - God is telling numerous nations here “You either drink this cup of wrath willingly or I will force you to drink it”
 - Egypt, Uz, Philistines, Edom, Moab, Tyre, Sidon, Arabia, **Jerusalem**
 - But yes, this is the God of love – we'll talk about these stories/situations as we get to them
 - I encourage you to keep this on your mind as well
- Introductory
 - Think of Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38
 - **Who was Matthew's primary audience?** The Jews of the NT – Matthew was trying to convince them that Christ is the promised Messiah, He is here – listen to Him as He is the Messiah King
 - And as a result, Matthew only goes back to Abraham whereas Luke goes back to God
 - **What's the significance of this?**

- To the Jews of the NT, genealogies were a big deal – even gave people bragging rights as crazy as that sounds (I can trace my lineage back to Abraham in X generations and you can only do it in X + 1 generations, etc.)
- Their physical genealogy meant a lot more to them than it does to us today – it was a part of their religious and cultural identities
- Now this obviously matters not when it comes to spiritual matters – you are not going to be responsible in God’s sight for sins that were committed by your great-great grandfather
- In reality, the Jews focus on this simply caused division
- For this reason, this type of thinking is spoken against in **1 Timothy 1:3-4 & Titus 3:9**
 - Quite simply – don’t fool with this type of stuff
 - Your social status does not matter in God’s sight – He is no respecter of persons
 - On the day of judgment, I will be judged by the same standards as anyone you can think of
 - He doesn’t care of our social status – as Christians, we need to not look at people that way either
 - If we do, we are no different than the Jews who put emphasis on their lineage
 - Everyone has a past worth forgetting and a future worth finding in Christ
 - NT Jews – stop this
- But it was a big deal – most were able to trace their lineage back to Abraham who they considered their father
- **Genesis 12:1-3, 26:4**
 - No doubt, Abraham was going to father a nation
 - And we have the blessing of seeing all of this play out throughout the OT
 - Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his 11 brothers (who would eventually become the 12 tribes of Israel that would inherit the promised land)
- **John 8:58**
 - Despite all this, before Abraham was, Christ says I AM
 - **What does that mean?**
 - Matthew 3:9 – *“and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.”*
 - John the Baptist says “why would you concern yourselves so much tracing your lineage back to Abraham when we have the promised Messiah who is about to make Himself known?”
 - Christ created Abraham – how could these folks miss Him, but be so concerned with Abraham? Abraham would not approve
 - The book of Hebrews teaches us that in any way you can think of – **Christ is better**
 - That includes Abraham
 - **Luke 10:24, Matthew 13:17, 1 Peter 1:10-12**
 - The Jews of the NT missed it

- The prophets of the OT longed to see what they were witnessing first hand and what you and I have such a wonderful account of in our Bibles
 - And they missed Him – spent their time focusing on Abraham, and they missed the Messiah
 - Not only this, but they missed the point that even the least in the kingdom of heaven (the church) is greater than John the Baptist and Abraham – we can be members of the strongest nation to ever exist today (Matthew 11:11)
 - What a blessing that is
 - The Jews of the NT missed these points
- Christ was first (even before Abraham) – and as a result, we need to put Christ first in our lives over whatever earthly stumbling blocks we may have (Colossians 3:4)
- So let's keep Christ in mind and His love for us as we begin studying Genesis 1-11
- Genesis 1-11
 - Creation (Genesis 1)
 - Adam and Eve (Genesis 2-3)
 - Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)
 - Noah and the flood (Genesis 6-9)
 - Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
 - Genesis 10 discusses how the nations of the earth at that time came to be
- I hesitate to even give you a proposed date for the start of these events, but I'll give you ~4000BC as a rough estimate
- These stories are truth and they are for our learning (Romans 15:4)
- The Jews of the NT knew these stories extremely well – they were taught these stories from the time they were born
- Unfortunately, they just missed the point
- Not only are these stories historical facts, but they represent something much larger
- Jesus knew these stories to be true – He refers to them
 - **Matthew 19:4-6** – He refers to the creation and Adam & Eve
 - **Matthew 23:35** – He refers to Cain & Abel
 - **Matthew 24:37-39** – He refers to the flood
 - Christ does not directly reference the Tower of Babel anywhere to my knowledge, but He does address the principles taught by this story numerous times as we will discuss shortly
- **CREATION**
 - God is and always has been alive
 - We read from John 8:58 a minute ago and explained it's meaning
 - From the beginning of time, God says "I AM"
 - For God, there is no beginning nor end, He just is, always has been, and always will be
 - As further proof, let's read **Exodus 3:13-14**
 - What a powerful statement – I AM WHO I AM
 - I AM has sent me to you
 - Moses is implying that the Israelites had forgotten who God was
 - But God hadn't forgotten them even though they had been lost in their bondage to Egypt
 - **What's the significance of this?**

- Egyptian bondage is used in the OT to represent being lost in sin
 - These Israelites were lost in their bondage to Egypt and God delivered them
 - Mankind is lost in our sin today and God has delivered us
 - We must not miss the opportunity to take Him up on this delivery
 - That would have been the equivalent of the Israelites having the chance to leave slavery in Egypt, and they refuse – they choose to remain in their bondage
 - Christ and God's plan are seen throughout the Bible – He is the great I AM
- As we go throughout Genesis 1 & 2, we can read the specifics of the order of creation
 - Day 1 – light (1:1-5)
 - He spoke it into existence (vs 3)
 - The light, He called day and the dark, He called night
 - Notice that He did this without the use of the Sun nor the Moon as we'll learn shortly
 - Day 2 – God created a firmament to divide the waters below from the waters above (1:6-8)
 - Space contains a lot of water – just like there is a lot of water on the earth itself (oceans, rivers, etc.)
 - Water is everywhere – planets, moons, comets, asteroids, etc.
 - It can come in the form of liquid, ice, or vapor throughout space as is true for earth as well (solid, liquid, gas – basic forms of matter)
 - God called this firmament that separates the waters below from the waters above, Heaven (vs 8)
 - If you go back to Genesis 1:1, God created the **heavens** and the earth
 - The Heaven in vs 8 is not a reference to the heaven where God dwells, nor is it a reference to space itself
 - This is a reference to what we know as the sky today (earth's atmosphere)
 - The physical space that separates the waters that you and I can walk around and see vs the water above in space
 - Earth's atmosphere is critical to human life because in it is the air we breathe, temperature regulation – it does not allow the earth to overheat from the sun's radiation
 - These are things we don't often think about, but God realized this was necessary
 - In vs 8, we see that there was evening and morning – so therefore, we know that this was a literal 24 hour day as we have today
 - 24 hours contains day and night as was created on Day 1
 - You can see that Day 1 set the stage for Day 2, and now Day 2 is going to set the stage for Day 3
 - God planned this out beautifully
 - No man could have done this and this certainly was not done by happen stance via what we know as the big bang theory today

- Day 3 – God created dry land and the seas and separated them. He also created grass, vegetation, trees, etc. (1:9-13)
 - Notice specifically with the vegetation created here – it's seed is according to it's kind
 - This certainly disproves the theory of evolution
 - We have the evening and morning statement in vs 13 indicating that another 24 hours had passed
- Day 4 – lights in the firmament of the heavens (1:14-19)
 - Sun, moon, stars in space
 - Notice that light was created on day 1, but these lights were to divide the day from night on earth
 - They were meant for signs and seasons, days and years
 - Temperature and time control as we know these do for us today based on our knowledge of HS science
 - But these also were created to give light to the earth
- Day 5 – creatures of the seas and creatures of the air (1:20-23)
 - Fish and birds
 - We've noted that each day builds onto what God does in the next days
 - God created the seas and the dry land on day 4, which sets up God to create living creatures on day 5
 - Notice again, that they were designed to reproduce after their own kind and nothing more
- Day 6 – living creatures of the ground and man (1:24-31)
 - Mankind was made in the image of God
 - Notice vs 26 – “...Let Us make man in Our image...”
 - More than 1 member of the godhead was present at the creation as we'll talk more about momentarily
 - Mankind was given dominion over the animals
 - There's something different about us than animals – we have a soul
 - We know right from wrong
 - At the end of the other days of creation, God notes that His creation was good
 - Not so at the conclusion of the 6th day – He notes that His creation is very good
 - So there's something special about mankind here as evident even from the beginning
- Day 7 – God rested (2:1-3)
 - Setting up some major principles that will later be revealed to us
- I want to notice a few key things about the creation
- **#1 – what's the significance of God creating light on the first day?**
 - Can we survive without light?
 - Think of the state of this world without light – physically speaking, there is no way we would be able to survive without light – it gets rid of the darkness
 - Darkness hates light

- Food chain
 - Without light, how would we see to hunt
 - How would we see to plant anything? Or if somehow we could plant something, how would it grow?
 - The water cycle breaks down without light, so what would we drink?
- Mental health
 - Think of the total chaos this world would be in without light
 - Assuming we could survive long enough to think about anything other than food and water, think of the effects that light has on the mental health of humans
- Physically speaking, this world would cease to exist without light
- **Now think spiritually – how does this tie into Jesus? John 1:1-9**
 - The first thing I want you to notice is that Scripture states physical life would cease to exist without light (vs 4)
 - Spiritually speaking, the Light brought life to all men
 - It shuns the darkness
 - He was in the beginning because through Him, all things were created
 - He provides the only way to the Father
 - Without the Light, we could not live spiritually either
 - Without light, nothing else matters
 - Even as early as Day 1 – we have a beautiful portrayal of the necessity of Christ
 - **John 3:19-21**
 - Again, darkness hates the light – this time, this is true from a spiritual perspective though
 - We must shine our light, so that others may see our good deeds and praise God (Matthew 5:13-16)
 - Both Matthew 5 and John 3 speak to the fact that light is required to see good deeds
 - To see truth
 - So you can see that it is necessary that God created light on Day 1
 - **1 John 1:5-7**
 - It is necessary that we walk in the light if we want to be Christians – Christ like
 - God is light – in Him is no darkness
 - As Christ walked in the light, we must do the same
- **#2 – what were the roles of the godhead in the creation?**
 - Genesis 1:1 – “*In the beginning God...*”
 - In the Hebrew language, ‘God’ here is translated from *Elohim*
 - Meaning a plurality of God
 - This is further confirmed, perhaps more obviously, in Genesis 1:26 – “*Let Us make man in Our image...*”
 - So there was more than 1 member of the godhead present

- Genesis 1:2 – the Spirit of God was present, He was hovering over the waters
- We know that the Word was there (John 1:1-9) – Christ of course
- The Word was with God and He was God
- He was with God implies that there is another individual present, not the Spirit since He is mentioned later in a separate thought
- So, therefore the Father was present as well
- So they were all 3 present
- And God the Father spoke the word – “*Then God said...*” (vs 3, 6, 9, etc.)
- John 1:3 – “*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*”
- So the word that God spoke into existence was executed by the Word, who is Christ (**Colossians 1:16**)
- And we have the Spirit hovering over the waters, taking all of this in, and making sure that in 2025, you and I know what happened (**2 Peter 1:20-21**)
- **Who is writing the book of Genesis? Moses – was he around when this happened?** So the only way he knew what to write was through the Holy Spirit’s inspiration
- God the Father – the master director, God the Son – the master executioner, and Spirit of God – the master inspirer
- **What does this remind you of? The plan of salvation**
- God the Father designed it, God the Son executed it, and the Spirit made it known to us
- The creation models God’s plan of redemption for lost man
- Even as early as the creation, we can see God’s plan of redemption
- **#3 – God rested from His work, and we can as well (**Genesis 2:1-3**)**
 - **Hebrews 3:16-19**
 - God compares rest to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years and then entering Canaan
 - Why did they not enter that rest according to vs 18? Did not obey
 - Why did they not enter that rest according to vs 19? Unbelief
 - If you want to rest as God did, your belief requires obedience
 - You cannot separate belief and obedience (James 2)
 - And if you try to – you need to watch your tongue (James 3)
 - **Hebrews 4:4-11**
 - (3) rests are described for us here
 - 1 – God’s rest in creation (vs 4)
 - 2 – The rest that Joshua provided Israel (vs 8) (consider the Eastern tribes)
 - Those who settled, established and placed their families East of the Jordan River
 - But the men had to help the fight West of the Jordan
 - It wasn’t until the conquest of Canaan was complete that they got to return home
 - And then they get their rest East of the Jordan
 - 3 – Rest promised to God’s people
 - **How are these connected?**
 - The theme of the book of Hebrews is that Christ is better

- You want to rest as God did?
 - No man or specifically the old law will not give that to you
 - The rest that Joshua gave Israel in all its glory and with all due respect – that is nothing compared to the rest we have in Christ
- 3 points of creation
 - 1 – God’s creation of light on Day 1 shows us the necessity of Christ
 - 2 – God’s creation approach models His redemption approach – LIFE both physically and spiritually
 - 3 – If you realize the necessity of Christ and submit yourself to His plan of redemption, then you will rest at the conclusion of your work as He did
- **ADAM AND EVE**
 - Genesis 2:15 – *“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”*
 - **Point 1: God put man in the garden – so let’s start by looking at the description of the garden**
 - 2:9 – the tree of life was there as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 - 2:10 – a river exited the garden and parted into 4 riverheads
 - **Significance of the tree of life and the river?** **Revelation 22:1-2**
 - The Bible ends where it begins
 - This is an illustration of the heaven where God dwells (we know God was in the garden of Eden, and God is in this place in Revelation 22:3)
 - Man could have lived forever in this garden – but there was a problem
 - **Significance of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?** God gave man a choice
 - Listen to me, or choose not to
 - **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**
 - We have a choice today as well – serve Him or disobey Him
 - To serve Him is life, to disobey is death as we will find out shortly
 - **Point 2: In Genesis 2:22-24, we read that God instituted marriage – what is the significance of this as we think of Jesus?**
 - The church is illustrated here
 - The church is the bride of Christ (**Ephesians 5:25-27**)
 - **Point 3: In Genesis 3, we are introduced to the serpent later described for us in Revelation to be Satan (Revelation 20:2)**
 - I want you to notice what God says vs what the serpent says (**Genesis 2:17, 3:4**)
 - 1 word – *“You will **not** surely die.”* – 1 word is all it took for mankind to fall
 - Satan is crafty as we can see in his temptation of Christ in the gospels, but quite frankly he did not have to put that to use in this instance
 - By inserting 1 word into God’s words, he made himself to be a liar, and cause the fall of humanity
 - Temptation is a powerful thing – Satan knows our weaknesses

- He prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8)
- He was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44) and through the sin of 1 man, death entered the world (Romans 5:12)
- He got all of mankind – at least, so he thought

▪ **1 John 2:16**

- This tree is good for food (lust of the flesh)
- This fruit is pleasant to my eye (lust of the eyes)
- This tree is going to make me wise (pride of life)
- Satan gets us with the same things today
- We must resist him – that's the only way he'll flee from us (James 4:7)

○ **Point 4: Genesis 3:14-15**

- **What is the significance of this?**
- In the creation, we can see an illustration of God's plan of redemption but this is 2025
- We have the Spirit to reveal this to us
- God needed to reveal this plan to mankind and He does so right here
- Mankind now knows good and evil (Genesis 3:22)
- Genesis 3:22 – *"Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"*
- God says mankind – you could have lived forever, all you had to do was eat of the tree of life
- But with your free will, you chose to eat of the tree you were told not to eat from
- God in His infinite wisdom knew this would happen though
- And in verses 14 & 15 of Genesis 3, we have the first direct reference to God's plan of redemption
- This is something that God had planned from the beginning
- Therefore, you and I need to have a plan to get lost mankind safe within the church
- So in the creation, we can see God's plan of redemption, and now in the story of Adam & Eve, we can see that God has revealed it
- They certainly did not understand it (1 Corinthians 2) – but God revealed it
- 4 points of Adam and Eve
 - 1 – God gives us the choice of life or death (via the 2 trees called out for us)
 - 2 – God shows us the church and Christ via Adam and Eve
 - 3 – the serpent is after us – resist him and he will flee from you though
 - 4 – God's plan of redemption is directly revealed to us (Genesis 3)
- **CAIN AND ABEL**
 - After the events of the garden, Adam and Eve (all mankind that would later come from them) are banished from it (**Genesis 3:24**)
 - Look at the imagery here: a sword guards the entrance to the tree of life
 - **Hebrews 4:12**
 - How many times is God's word described as a sword?

- In Revelation, we see Christ destroying evil with the sword of His mouth
 - In Matthew 21, we read that Jesus' words will crush people if necessary
 - Here we read of a sword guarding the way to life
- And sometime later, they had at least 2 children – Cain and Abel
- Cain – tiller of the ground (**Genesis 4:2**)
- Abel – keeper of sheep (Genesis 4:2)
- In vs 3-5, we read that they both bring offerings to the Lord
 - This implies the following
 - 1 – they knew that they had to make a sacrifice before the Lord
 - 2 – they knew the details of what these sacrifices were supposed to be (**Hebrews 11:4**)
 - Abel knew God's requirements, listened to Him, and was considered righteous
 - Cain had no excuse
 - The same can be said of us today (**Romans 12:1-2**)
 - We must also make a sacrifice before the Lord and that sacrifice must be ourselves
- Cain becomes angry over God's displeasure with his sacrifice and God tells him some very important things in **vs 7**
 - Sin lies at your door and it is waiting to devour you
 - You must master it though
 - This tells us that sin can be mastered
 - We don't have to let sin run our lives
 - **Romans 6:15-23**
 - The choice of if you are a slave of sin or a slave of righteousness is yours
 - Christ is also lying in wait at the door (Revelation 3:20)
 - Will you answer for sin? Or will you answer for Christ?
 - Cain answered for sin
- He killed his brother in vs 8
- Jesus references this in **Matthew 23:35**
 - Cain – you killed righteous Abel out of your anger
 - Out of your disobedience – you killed your brother
 - Abel was righteous
 - Evil vs righteous is a spiritual war that has been fought since the beginning of time
- And Cain is punished for his actions (Genesis 4:9-15)
- Cain knew that he was guilty as evident by his response to God in vs 9
- Vs 10 – *"voice of your brother's blood speaks to me from the ground."*
 - 1 – the dead speak
 - **Hebrews 11:4**
 - **What do the dead say?**
 - 1 – Long for God's judgment
 - **Revelation 6:9-10**
 - Those righteous: wait for their reward according to information found in the sword

- Those unrighteous: they just wait for the sword (what a scary thought that is)
 - 2 – The beg for mercy for those left behind
 - **Luke 16:23-31**
 - Their response: listen to Christ
 - By His words comes condemnation and justification (Matthew 21:44)
- 2 – We learn for the first time that the life of any creature is in its blood
 - **Leviticus 17:11**
 - This is true physically
 - **Acts 20:28**
 - This is true spiritually
 - Our lives today are only found in the blood of Christ
- **What is the significance of this when we think of Jesus?**
 - **Hebrews 12:12-15**
 - Beginning in Hebrews 12:12, the Hebrews writer transitions from a theoretical argument to a practical, application based response
 - He is demonstrating the application to the theory that he has spent the entire time discussing thus far into the book
 - And he tells his audience in these verses to be disciplined, strengthen yourselves
 - He likens this to a path in vs 13 and reference Jacob's spat with the Man of God in Genesis 32:22-32
 - Remember how the Man of God touched the hip of Jacob and caused it to fall out of socket
 - And the Hebrew writer says in Hebrews 12:13 – if you are running a path with your hip dislocated, run the path that's going to heal it instead of continuing with it dislocated/lame
 - And the writer illustrates this point with 3 examples: Esau, Mt. Sinai with a reference to Abel, and an example from Haggai
 - **Hebrews 12:18-24**
 - Rather than having Mt. Sinai to look to (Israel looked to this and trembled in fear in Exodus 19), you have Mt. Zion
 - And within this Mt. Sinai/Mt. Zion example, the Hebrew writer concludes in vs 24 that Jesus' blood is better than Abel's blood
 - **In this context, what is the significance of this statement?**
 - The Hebrews writer further emphasizes the point that Abel's blood cries to God which we discussed earlier
 - But Abel's blood only condemned Cain – Abel's blood was that of condemnation
 - The Hebrews writer's point is that the blood of Christ is not blood of condemnation, rather His blood is the blood of reconciliation, a new covenant, justification, redemption
 - That is what Christ's blood does – Abel's blood only condemned, Christ's is better
 - So, during the creation, God showed us His plan

- During the fall of Adam and Eve, He revealed it to mankind
 - And now, He further reinforces the necessity of being obedient to it
 - Adam & Eve – you won’t listen to me? I’ll throw you out of the garden
 - Cain – you won’t listen to me, I’ll hide my face from you and I’ll mark you
 - We are all marked in one way or another (Revelation 7:1-3, 13:16-18)
 - God is either going to mark you as one of His or not one of His
 - Cain received the mark indicating that He was not one of God’s
 - This is the consequence of disobedience to God’s plan of redemption
- **NOAH AND THE FLOOD**
 - **Genesis 6:5-9**
 - The hearts and the minds of mankind were only evil ALL THE TIME
 - Since the time of Adam and Eve, the earth’s population has grown significantly
 - We do not know how much time had elapsed from creation to the time of Noah, but we know it’s been long enough for the earth to be populated thoroughly
 - And God saw that mankind was almost nothing but pure evil
 - The very creation that He called very good in Genesis 2 has now grieved the heart of God
 - And as a result, God saw that it was necessary to destroy them – all except for Noah
 - Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord
 - **Do you think God finds pleasure in punishing mankind – His greatest creation so to speak?**
 - Certainly not – **so why would God do this?**
 - But a just God demands that punishment be dealt for those who are disobedient
 - Else God would not be just and that is not true
 - No different than today – I assure you that you would have to look long and hard to find an earthly judge who enjoys delivering the death penalty
 - But if we wish to be a just nation who upholds our Constitution, sometimes the death penalty is necessary – punishment is necessary
 - If we do the crime, we must do the time
 - Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death...”*
 - All of mankind except for Noah and his family got the death penalty here
 - But God did not do this without grief
 - Just like He would later destroy Jerusalem with grief
 - **Luke 19:41-44**
 - Jesus of course makes a direct reference to Jerusalem’s future destruction here
 - Jesus weeps over the same people who were about to crucify Him
 - He knew that their actions, their disobedience to God demanded that Jerusalem be destroyed

- But Christ found no enjoyment in this – quite the opposite
- Jerusalem was destroyed once before as well (Jeremiah 25, 52, 2 Kings 25, 2 Chronicles 36)
- But they didn't learn their lesson
- God found no enjoyment in destroying mankind – but justice demands that the price for sin be paid, and the price is death (Romans 6:23)
 - God spared Noah from this though (2 Peter 2:4-9)
 - Just like God spared Noah, He will spare us as well
 - A statement that is repeated for us in Jude 16-23
 - Notice both of these verses tell us the same thing
 - God punishes the wicked, but spares His people from this punishment
 - It's almost as if both of these writers were inspired by a single Holy Spirit – and we know that they certainly were
- Genesis 6:13-16, 22
 - God gives specific directions to Noah for the ark
 - Gopherwood – **if Noah would have used any other type of wood, would the ark have floated?**
 - The ark is to have rooms, cover the ark both inside and outside with pitch
 - 300 cubits in length
 - 50 cubits in width
 - 30 cubits in height
 - The ark shall have a window, a door, and 3 decks
 - **Again, if Noah did not follow these instructions to the letter, would the ark have floated?**
 - God provides specific instructions to us as well
 - Hear (Romans 10)
 - Believe (Mark 16)
 - Repent (Luke 13)
 - Confess (Romans 10)
 - Baptism (Galatians 3)
 - Live faithful (Revelation 2)
 - **If we do not follow these instructions to the letter, will we be saved?**
 - Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8) – and it was through his faith that he built the ark and did everything God told him to do (Genesis 6:22)
 - James 2:18 – *“But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”*
 - Noah displayed his faith by taking God's instructions and carrying them out
 - That's how we display our faith as well
 - Imagine for a moment that when God told Noah to build an ark, and Noah would have responded “I believe you God when you say a

flood is coming and I believe you when you say I need to build an ark” – but he stopped there

- **What would have happened to Noah? Would his “faith” have saved him? Did his actions even suggest that he had faith to begin with?**
- Noah and his family would have perished if he didn’t follow God’s commandments after his belief
- We are no different today according to James 2
- And not only that, but God tells us in James 3 that if you’re teaching this, then you need to watch your tongue
- **James 2:26-3:1**
- Faith without works is dead, let not many of you become teachers
- What’s the connection?
- If you are teaching that faith is separate from works and you can get to heaven on faith alone – stop teaching
- Small bits in the large horses mouth controls its whole body
- Large ships are turned by a small rudder
- A little fire burns the entire forest
- A little false doctrine will lead you and whoever you teach to eternal destruction (2 Peter 3:16)
- However if we show our faith by our works as Noah did, God will add us to His church (**Acts 2:47**)
 - God will add us to His church – no man will do this
 - Just like God shut Noah and everyone on the ark in – no man did this (**Genesis 7:16**)
 - So here, we have a beautiful illustration of the church and the role that it will play in God’s plan of redemption
- Genesis 7:1-16 (do not read)
 - Here, we read of God’s instructions to Noah concerning what animals and the quantity of each to gather for the ark
 - 2 of every living thing – 6:19
 - 7 of every clean animal – 7:2
 - 2 of every unclean animal – 7:2
 - 7 of every bird – 7:3
 - Male and female in each case
 - **Understanding the ark as the church, what is the significance of this?**
 - The church is open to all
 - The gospel is open to all – both Jew and Gentile (both those that were once considered clean and those that were once considered unclean can now bask in the glory of God)
 - **Romans 1:16**
 - The gospel is for all – and it is God who will add you to the church just as he shut all of these individuals in the ark (7:16)
- Flood occurs – 7:17-8:22
 - **7:17-24**

- Genesis 6:5 – *“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*
- In this situation – mankind became sin
- Mankind did not just commit sin, not only did they continually live in sin, but as we reflect upon this story in 2025, we can see that mankind is the representation of sin in this story
- **What did we just read in these few verses?**
- Vs 21 – all flesh died
- Vs 23 – all living things on earth were destroyed except Noah and those who were with him
- God wiped out sin with water – this should sound familiar to you
- We read of baptism in the new testament in numerous locations that describes for us how this is the process in which we resemble Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection by putting our old man of sin to death in favor of the new creation in Christ Jesus
- We read in 1 Corinthians 10 that when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea as they were escaping Egypt (they were escaping from their “sin”), that they were baptized as a result
- So we have baptism in the Christian age, baptism in the Mosaic age, and now we have baptism in the Patriarchal age
- Do you think that the baptism is important in God’s sight? He has given us so many examples
- **1 Peter 3:20-21**
 - Now hold on a minute – I thought Noah was saved from the water by the ark?
 - But 1 Peter 3 says that he and his family were saved through the water?
 - **How can this be?**
 - Noah was saved from the evil in the world because God wiped that out with water from the flood
 - **Think of the applications to us now – how does this translate into our lives today?**
 - 1 Peter 3:21 says that baptism now saves us
 - The evil (sin) that we committed before we were baptized was washed away in the waters of baptism
 - That’s how God operates today as He operated in the time of Noah and in the time of Moses and the Israelites during the Exodus
 - Our sins are washed away and God adds us to the ark of safety – the church
 - Those outside the ark of safety – the church will be destroyed by the same waters that you and I are saved by
 - **So what does this mean?**
 - When we consider that baptism is a representation of what Christ did on the cross on our behalf – His death, burial, and

resurrection, then when we read the story of the flood, we can see Christ

- His death, burial, and resurrection
- Christ is all throughout the Bible

○ **Genesis 8:6-19**

- **Why would Noah send a raven first (vs 7)? What's significant about a raven in this setting?**
- Ravens are scavengers – they were unclean under the old law as a result (Deuteronomy 14:14)
- If you've ever read Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*, the raven in that poem is not pleasant
- Throughout the poem, the raven represents the main character's descent into madness, grief, hopelessness, despair, and death – while the raven just looks on
- Answering every question of the main character as he scrambles to find even just a little bit of hope to hang onto with "*Nevermore*"
- Ravens being scavengers, feed on death and darkness
- The raven kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth
- All the death that this flood brought was tremendous – God's judgment is real
- We will all face God in judgment someday (Revelation 20)
- The entire world except for 8 people perished
- Romans 6:23 - "*For the wages of sin is death...*"
- But for Noah and his family, there was life beyond this grave
- He opens the window and he sends a dove to see if the waters had receded from the earth or if they were still there
- The dove comes back the first time carrying an olive leaf
- **Why a dove and an olive leaf?**
- Peace – a covenant with God – reconciliation with Him
- **Jeremiah 11:15-16**
- Jeremiah 11 is a prophecy against Jerusalem
- Vs 4 tells us that God told the Jews that if you obey My voice, then you will be My people and I will be your God
- But you turned your backs on Me (vs 10)
- And now I am bringing calamity on you (vs 11)
- You will cry out to the gods that you put before Me even though Elijah proved to you on Mount Carmel that they do not exist (1 Kings 18)
- You were once a strong, green olive tree – lovely and of good fruit (righteous – upholding your end of our covenant)
- Look at this covenant that I gave to your fathers – and you turned your back on me
- Olive tree/branch is further equated with righteousness in Psalm 52:8 and numerous other places, but perhaps most famously with Jesus Himself
- In Matthew 26 and Luke 22, we find Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives
- **Why was this called the Mount of Olives?**

- Quite simply, it's where they crushed olives
- So olives being a symbol of peace and Jesus being the ultimate source of spiritual peace is being crushed
- Jesus knows what He is about to suffer
- And He prays to God the Father
- I'm sad, lonely, scared and ABBA (Dad) – I need help
- But Christ overcame
- And through this, He provided peace, reconciliation, a new covenant
- Jeremiah 31:31 - *"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - "*
- Jeremiah was prophesying of the new covenant, the one we now live under
- In the imagery of this dove and the olive branch he returns with, God is showing Noah that there is life beyond the grave
- Further emphasized by the fact that Noah released this dove a second time in vs 12 and this time, the dove did not return
- Dove showed us there is life beyond the grave as well (**Matthew 3:16-17**)
- As Jesus arises out of the waters of His baptism, the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove
- Death does not define the Christian – God provided us a way to avoid the second death through His Son
- Christ overcame death via His resurrection so that you and I can as well (1 Corinthians 15:12-20)
- Here, God provided Noah and his family an escape from death
- **Genesis 9:29 & Genesis 7:11, 8:13-19**
- I'm rounding, but Noah and his family were in the ark for a total of approximately a year
- Noah and his family entered the ark in the 600th year of his life, second month, 17th day of that month
- And they left the 601st year of his life, second month, and 27th day of that month
- Noah lived 950 years
- 1 year of a 950 year life – the flood was relatively short
- This life is short in the grand scheme of eternity
- James 4:14 - *"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."*
- Use your time wisely – you've got an eternity waiting on you and where you spend that eternity depends on the choices you make in this life
- **Genesis 9:4**
 - This is post flood and God is speaking with Noah and his family
 - And He notes to them that they shall not eat flesh with its life as its life is the blood
 - This corresponds greatly with **Leviticus 17:11**
 - You can see that sometimes you don't even have to look that hard for Jesus in the Bible
- We can see the following now
 - The creation – demonstrated God's plan of redemption for lost man

- Adam and Eve – God’s plan was revealed directly to mankind
- Cain and Abel – we can see that we have a choice in God’s plan – there are consequences for each choice (whether the consequences be good or bad)
- And now in Noah and the flood we can see that God’s judgment is real
- Those disobedient are subject to His wrath
- But for those who are obedient, there is life beyond the grave
- **TOWER OF BABEL**
- **Genesis 11:1-9**
 - In Genesis 10, we can see that after the flood, God repopulated the earth via Noah’s family
 - And apparently in Genesis 11:1 – they were all speaking the same language
 - But these people used this for evil – they wanted to build for themselves a city with a tower that extended to the heavens
 - Certainly nothing wrong with building cities and towers – we have many in existence today
 - But it was their attitude in regards to this as we’ll see shortly that is why they were condemned
 - Notice in vs 4, that these people were concerned with being scattered throughout the known world
 - They didn’t want this to happen
 - Not only that, but they wanted to make a name for themselves – they wanted the praise of men
 - They obviously had no concern for the praise of God
 - **Matthew 6:1**
 - The Bible is amazing as we can see here
 - We have the same message told to us as these people were about to have told to them\
 - Do not do charitable deeds, pray, or fast to be seen by men
 - If you do – you have your reward in full
 - God will not accept your deeds, prayers, or fasting if done with this attitude
 - It should come to us as no surprise that God was going to condemn these folks for what they were trying to do
 - I find it interesting that the Lord Himself came down specifically to see this city and tower (vs 5)
 - These folks were in the wrong and they were condemned for it
 - Their actions here displayed a very selfish and materialistic attitude – we will be punished as well if we behave this way – if not in this life, than certainly in eternity
 - Their language was confused and they were spread out all over the face of the earth
 - What they feared would happen to them did happen to them
 - **What can we learn from this today?**
 - **John 5:22** – Christ is our judge
 - **John 14:6** – Christ is the only way to the Father
 - Mankind is not going to build a tower to Him, nor are they going to get to Him via any other means – only through Christ

- In summary, I want you to take the following points home
 - Creation – demonstrates God's plan of redemption
 - Adam and Eve – revealed this directly to man
 - Cain and Abel – the consequences of your decision to either follow or reject God
 - Noah – God's judgment is real. Disobedience yields death, obedience yields life
 - Tower of Babel – Christ is a righteous judge and we cannot approach God by any other means