

I WANT TO KNOW MY BIBLE

The Foundation of Understanding

TEXT: Gen. 1-11

INTRODUCTION: Congratulations to all of you who joined us in the beginning to read the Bible through chronologically this week. It led to a lot of conversation among the congregation throughout the week, and not a few questions, all of which are good!

Let me offer a help I was told about on Monday. For the many of you who have smart phones, you can download an app called

YouVersion Bible app

Go to **Bible Reading Plans**

Select **Whole Bible**

And find **“Reading God’s Story: One Year Chronological Plan” by Dr. George Guthrie**

There is even a way with the **“Catch Me Up”** feature to set the start date as last Monday.

However you are doing your Bible reading, I commend you. Some are taking the printouts of the reading plan (more at the welcome desk) and sitting in their favorite chair with a cup of coffee and reading for 20 to 30 minutes. Some are reading it with their children. Some couples are reading it together. I have coupled the plan with listening to a new version of the Bible I have not previously read and taking a 20 to 30 minute walk each morning, which I have been needing and wanting to start for a good while. Some are listening in their cars as they go to and from work. Whatever works for you. Just read it!

And if you haven’t started, start today. You can catch up. Get a reading plan at the desk and a cd of last week’s sermon, and you can be right where everybody else is in a short time. We are going to have a great, great time.

I promised you that on Sunday I would preach from the previous week’s reading assignment. We just completed Genesis 1 to 11, so the text selection I had before me was not just like trying to eat an elephant but more akin to trying to consume the zoo.

From the beginning of recorded time when God said, “Let there be light” to Abram dwelling in Haran at the end of Genesis 11 covers a little more than 2,000 years.

Many a Christian has made the mistake of thinking that they need not spend time in the reading or the study of the Old Testament. After all, we are New Testament believers in a New Testament church.

But the ancient theologian and pastor

Augustine said rightly,

“The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed;

The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.”

And I will tell you that **it is absolutely impossible to really understand either the Old Testament or the New without a basic understanding of the Book of Genesis.**

There are over 200 references to Genesis in the New Testament.

100 of those references in the New Testament are to something in Genesis 1-11.

In fact, every author of one of the books of the New Testament makes reference to some passage in Genesis 1-11.

In fact, when the Jews were persecuting Jesus because He was telling them that God was His Father and showing Himself to be equal to God, Jesus said this:

John 5:45–47 ⁴⁵ Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

But dear friend, not only does what we read in Genesis 1-11 provide a foundation for all of the rest of the Bible, but it provides a foundation of understanding for our entire lives.

I. IT DECLARES THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE. (GENESIS 1-2)

There are only two world views:

either everything is a result of a cosmic accident,

or we are the result of a deliberate design by a Designer.

- A. The life we see in the world around us cannot be explained by chance or by any variation of the theory of evolution.**

Our DNA is an error-correcting, self-replicating code, consisting of over **3 billion elements** defining the manufacture and arrangement of hundreds of thousands of devices; each device consisting of unique assemblies selected from over **200 proteins; each protein involving 3,000 atoms** in 3-dimensional configurations, all defined **from an alphabet of 20 amino acids!**

Think of the DNA strand as equivalent to two strands of monofilament fishing line 125 miles long, stored inside a basketball; it is unzipped, copied, and restored on spools (at 3 times the speed of an airplane propeller), *without tangling!*

Advances in microbiology, and an understanding of DNA have dealt the death blow to Darwinism. **DNA is a digital code.**

Darwinism cannot explain the origin of life because it cannot explain the origin of information.

II. IT EXPLAINS THE EVIL WE SEE IN OUR WORLD AND THE LOSTNESS OF MAN. (GENESIS 3-5)

As we read, where did we first encounter evil in the newly created world? In the serpent. Now I have taken the liberty to read ahead, and I have found that the serpent was an animal possessed by the fallen angel called Satan.

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- A. Evil entered the world through Satan who chose to rebel against God.
- B. Evil entered the race when Adam and Eve chose to disobey the Lord.

Thus we see the very essence of sin – disobeying God

And as we see even a glimpse of the lives of the descendents of Adam and Eve, we very quickly see played out the truth

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

III. IT UNFOLDS THE MYSTERY OF THE WORLD AS WE SEE IT TODAY. (GENESIS 6-9)

We did not have to read very long before we saw not only the pervasiveness of sin but the results of the universal lostness of men and women.

Genesis 6:5–7 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. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

A. Whenever we look at our world today, we see the consequences of the world wide flood.

1. In the rain, in storms, in tornados, in hurricanes
2. In the sedimentary layers of the earth
3. In the fossils

B. But we also see in the flood the certainty of God’s judgment upon sin.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And again, looking forward, the Lord Jesus warned us that His coming preceeding the final judgment will come suddenly and unexpectedly upon an unbelieving world.

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

IV. IT REVEALS WHY THE FAMILY OF MANKIND IS DIVIDED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE. (GENESIS 10-11)

- A. The diversity of language also came because of sin as the new population of the world after the flood again disobeyed the Lord and built the tower of Babel.
- B. The separation of people according to language then gave rise to the development of the races, ethnic differences, and ultimately distinctive cultures.

C. Just as disobedience of the Word of the Lord led to the disunity of the human family, we should remember that obedience to the Word of the Lord to take the gospel to every person is the only thing that can reunite us for eternity under a single sovereign, the Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

CONCLUSION: Folks let me ask you. As you read through those early chapters of Genesis, did you catch some of the preliminary references to Christ and to the gospel?

The first came when the Lord pronounced His curse upon Satan in

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

**The seed of the woman would be Jesus.
Satan would bruise the heel of Jesus upon the cross.
But Christ shall crush the head of Satan as He returns to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**

And we saw the first reference to God’s way of salvation when we were introduced to the man named Noah. All of humanity was to die in God’s righteous judgment coming through the flood.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

And you can also through faith in Jesus Christ as your own Lord and Savior.