

The Genesis Standard



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The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Begins 5-22-2016

Lesson One – An Introduction To Genesis

INTRODUCTION

The book of Genesis is a fascinating book. It is divided into two parts described by the names **Creation** and **Generations**. The first eleven chapters of Genesis is taken up with **Creation**. These chapters are probably the most fascinating of all the chapters of the Bible. They are the foundation chapters for everything that follows throughout all sixty-six books of the Bible. If these chapters are misunderstood, misinterpreted, or disregarded, then the real meaning of the Scriptures is done away.

If these chapters are only myth, conjecture, or opinion, then the entire Bible is the same; but, if these chapters are true, then the entire Bible is true. If these eleven chapters can be trusted and are the basis of our knowledge of the real world, real logic, and real science, believers in Jesus Christ are at an advantage to know in a supernatural way the essence of all life, science falsely so-called notwithstanding.

These chapters set the basic teachings for the origin of matter, life, and even the spirit of man. They also tell us much about animal life, plant life, and spiritual life. So, then, if these are received in a wrong way, life will become confusing and arbitrary.

In these lessons we will study life, sin, redemption, the Messiah, sexual standards, marriage, children, education, and other basic elements of human life. Every believer should read these chapters often in order to stay grounded in the basic reasons for life, for blessings, and for reasons for living and love life that has come from God himself.

So, let us begin our study of these eleven chapters of the book of Genesis in order to ground ourselves and our minds in the basic fundamentals of what life is all about, giving glory to God for his sovereignty and his workmanship. We cannot give him too much praise for his creation and for the generations that follow that creation.

THE STANDARD OF CREATION

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* Of course, this begins our comprehensive journey through the Scriptures, and without this basic standard of life a person may not grasp what is called the tenor of Scripture, the general layout and the principal meaning of the Bible's true context.

To begin our study on creation, we must see what or who is behind this great feat, this so-called *magnum opus*, the great work of creation. We must see this work clearly and link this work to the rest of Scripture, linking it with every aspect of the Bible in order that the honor may redound to God.

God is the author of this creation, so sometimes we read only part of this verse for the force of its meaning to come to the surface. We read *In the beginning God . . .* to emphasize the fact that God is the author. He is the beginning of all things. 1 Chronicles 16:26 *For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.*(Repeated in Psalm 96:5). – Psalms 136:5 *To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.* – Jeremiah 10:12 *He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.*

When it was time for time to begin, God already was. He already existed. How can this be,

some may say. Someone explained it this way: Everything that exists must have a cause behind it—every effect has a cause; but anything that is, has no cause. That thing exists on its own without any outside force. The only thing that is like this is God. He exists in himself. His most notable attribute is existence. He can exist without any help, and he does. Being pure life, he can also make life, create things both animate and inanimate, which he does.

So we read further in Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created*. Creation is a time-long action; it is not a one-time, sudden action. Creation goes along with linear time, since time is not circular, as some people say. God's purpose in creation is his purpose in grace, and he is constantly, continually putting that purpose to practice. Everything that happens is a part of that purpose and plan, and the action of God goes ever forward, never backward.

Two words used in this relation are (1) evolution and (2) regression. *Evolution* implies a going forward, and normally it carries with it the idea that things will get better and better as they evolve. This is not true. The second word, *regression* indicates a going backward, which is not true, either. It is easy to think of regression when we see the world going deeper and deeper into sin and degradation of society, but that has nothing to do with God's time or God's purpose—these march ever onward to a fixed and determined end.

Even our salvation is a part of this ongoing forward action of God's purpose that is being played out by God in the world and in heaven. Notice Ephesians 1:11 *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:* and also James 1:18 *Of his own will began he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

Now as we go further into our text verse we read Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning God created*

the heaven and the earth. The word *heaven* is in the plural in the Hebrew language, so he is speaking, no doubt, of the heaven where the birds fly, the heaven where the stars shine, the heaven where the saints and angels dwell, and the heaven that is above all heavens. Ephesians 4:10 *He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)* Notice, also, what Deuteronomy 10:14 says, *Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.*

In this present heaven where we live and move and have our being, it is imperative that we acknowledge God as creator, for the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 12:1 *Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;* In our youth is when we can give the most to God. We have the energy, the quick mind, and the reflexes to accomplish much for the Lord; but we seem to wait until we are old to understand that God requires more from life than mere existence. He demands praise out of his whole creation. Paul speaks of the creature (or the creation) in Romans 8:20-22 *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

The heaven above us is full of the most wondrous beauty. The stars on a clear night can lift the most downtrodden heart to new heights and cause the heart to both tremble and be humbled. The sovereignty of God is manifested in the heaven above us. The Bible says in Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.* We need to go outside once in a while and stare at the starry sky and see the glory of God and his handywork.

He is a mighty God.

The heaven above the starry heavens is the one where we expect our loved ones who die to go after death. God is so good to cause our spirits to ascend into this heaven. The Preacher said in Ecclesiastes 3:21 *Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?* It is where the *saints made perfect* dwell: Hebrews 12:23 *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

The only heaven above all of these three heavens is the place where God dwells in his essence. Like the holy of holies in the Old Testament tabernacle, God dwells between the cherubim in heaven, and Christ is there sitting beside his Father, because he has overcome in the world and has ascended on high. Psalm 23:7-8 *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.* Luke 2:14 says, *Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.* He is not in the earthly tabernacle made with hands but in heaven itself (Heb. 9:24). Jesus went into the tabernacle in heaven not made with hands: Heb. 9:11-14 *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Now we have no real problem knowing where the earth is. The Lord created the earth, also. The earth was created at the first words of God in Genesis 1:1, but it was not called earth until it was drawn out of the water that covered the earth. Genesis 1:9-10 *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. 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.*

The earth is a beautiful place. My granddaughter and I got on Google Earth a couple of nights ago, and we traveled to some of the most beautiful places on earth. We sailed by mouse to small islands, climbed high mountains, saw the ocean, mingled along the roads with people and traffic, and came back home in almost an instant. We saw some beautiful place. We also saw some places that had been devastated by war, hunger, floods, winds, etc. God made the world, also. It was an amazing trip around the world. We may go again soon.

Psalms 24:1 *The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.* So, the earth does not belong to us. Actually we are the ones who are destroying the earth: Revelation 11:18 *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

The earth: that is where we live. We were born, and we must stay here until God moves us out; but the only way out is by death or by the rapture when Jesus returns. Each one of us must consider this and examine ourselves whether we be in the faith, for without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).

The earth, this world which is ruled by Satan, is a challenge to everyone who lives on the earth and in the world. Therefore, it is a challenge for every person to be in tune with the God who owns the earth, the God who created all things, the God by whom all things consist. The greatest challenge is sin, for we are all born with it. We have all sinned and do come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We must, then, turn from our allegiances to the world and Satan and turn to Christ Jesus, who is the only way, the truth, and the life. He has died to set us free. He was buried to carry our sins away and resurrected to justify us. Notice 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

So God created the heavens and the earth, both of them. He put them together in a good order and gave them to be a blessing to us and a praise to him. Psalms 69:34 *Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein.* God made the heavens and the earth that they may praise him, but we, his creatures, have turned from him in our hearts and have loved many idols and gods. The only answer for us is to turn back to God from our idolatry and sacrilegious garb by faith and wear the robe of righteousness which will be given to us by Jesus Christ.

Oh Earth And Heaven, Cry Out

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – May 21, 2016

Oh earth and Heaven cry out
To whom your life regards.
Take time from empty space
From which your minds regards

Give praise, oh heaven and earth
To the one who made you so,
Give praise not to the ones
Who destroy you as you go.

Oh heaven give shining light
From stars, florescent be.
Show the way to travelers
Who sail upon the sea.

And earth, keep warmth to desperate men,
To the many hungry feed.
Give bounty to the farmer
To meet his every need.

Oh heaven from where our Savior came
To die for men on earth,
Give council to the dying soul
And recommend new birth.

Creation was your beginning, oh earth;
Destruction will be your end.
The stars will fall from heaven's store;
God's grace will not defend.

But there will be new heavens;
A new earth soon will be.
Thank God his greatest mercy
Has set my spirit free.

Salvation through the blood of Christ
Is the word we all must hear.
My friend, you need our Savior;
His coming may be near.

Then the heavens shine much brighter still;
The earth will grander be,
And everyone who trusts his name
Will stand forever free.

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Begins 5-29-2016

Lesson Two – The Earth Formless And Void

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 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.

Let us not be bothered about the fact that the earth was without form and void (empty) and that darkness was upon the face of the deep; because the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. You see, the world was formless and void, meaning that, if man were created on it, man would not be able to understand it nor comprehend any reason or purpose for living on it.

So God, after creating matter, went to work on making the earth and the heaven reasonable and beautiful before he ever made man to see it, enjoy it, and glorify God because of it. Is it not just like God to prepare the earth for plants, animals, and human beings to live on this lovely earth? Isn't it like God to have us in mind, not only as he constructed a beautiful earth, but even before matter was created, because his mind was upon us before the foundation of the earth.

So, we need not be bothered by this formless and empty earth. God understood it. The Holy Spirit was moving upon the face of the waters comprehending everything that was needed to comprehend in the earth; so God did not make the earth for himself except it be a mirror of his greatness to show his glory and his handiwork (Psalm 19:1). The earth was made for man and man for God's glory. So, the Lord created heaven and the earth in a formless and void state so that he could have the testimony of his gracious work by taking six days to bring everything together to make a beautiful thing for man to enjoy and for God to receive the glory. Notice an interesting verse in Isaiah 45:18 *For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself*

that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

The Genesis Standard in this lesson is that only God creates; man cannot create. He can only make. One writer said, “Where there is a beginning, there must be an un-begun.” God is infinite. There is no real “infinite number”; for, as soon as the number is mentioned, it becomes finite. However, there is an infinite God who created all things.

God created everything, not only for our use and pleasure and our praise to God but also for his own pleasure: Revelation 4:11 *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

This formless and empty earth (empty of any kind of life to enjoy it) was created that way in order for God to enjoy making things from this formless and empty matter and for the enjoyment of plants, animals, and human beings. Therefore, which is to our main point today, there is no time interval between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. The philosophy that says there is a time laps here is called The Gap Theory. Some well known theologians believe this and go to great extent to try to prove it. Others defy it and teach with intent to destroy the Gap Theory. One version of this theory is called the Ruin-Reconstruction Theory. This theory places millions of years between verse one and two of Genesis Chapter One. Other versions include Theistic Evolution and Progressive Creation.

Why would someone desire to put millions of years between verses one and two? It seems to be evident that the reason is to bring Genesis under the powerful persuasion of the theory of evolution and the scientific geologic time table. In his book entitled *Without Form And Void*, Custance, says “Gap creation allowed religious geologists (who composed the majority of the

geological community at the time) to reconcile their faith in the Bible with the new authority of science. According to the doctrine of natural theology, science was in this period considered a second revelation, God's word in nature as well as in Scripture, so the two could not contradict each other.”

The Gap Theory was popularized by a man familiar to many of us. His name is Thomas Chalmers, a Scottish theologian. Since most scientists in the early 18th century were theologians as well, a geologist named William Buckland, a preacher, also helped to popularize this theory.

The Gap Theory was so well received that it is printed in some study Bibles such as the Scofield Reference Bible and the Newberry Reference Bible. A man by the name of G. H. Pember wrote a book in 1884 entitled *Earth's Earliest Age*, and further popularized the Gap Theory. Another writer by the name of Arthur Custance wrote a book entitled *Without Form and Void*, which academically took on this theory and helped to stabilize this theory on an academic level for places of learning.

The Scofield Bible says in the 1909 edition (reprinted in this form in 1945) “Fossils to the primitive creation, and no conflict of science with the Genesis cosmogony remains.” So the reason for this Gap Theory is to force the Bible to accommodate the liberal geologic time table as produced by evolution scientists.

It is said that, after God created a formless and void earth that a race of people lived on the earth and by way of some great cataclysmic force the earth was destroyed and a new one had to emerge. Therefore, verse two begins the second creation. There are many problems with this idea, and one of the those problems shows up in 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: (See also Romans 3:23). According to this verse, there could be no death before the only creation, because sin had not brought about death. There was no death until after Adam and Eve sinned, and sin was the reason for their deaths both physical and spiritual.

Then Gap Theory believers will use 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*. They believe that the word *replenish* means to refill, but the Hebrew word MALA does not mean to fill again, but it means to fill to the full. Adam and Eve were to fill the earth with their children, and they certainly did.

Now, out of this formless and void matter that God had created, he began to make some things and to set in order standards and rules that would regulate the earth that would be full of plant life, animal life, and human beings.

Verses 3-5 God made everything visible; he created light by his word, by his FIAT, or by his commandment. As soon as he said "Let there be light," there was light. He divided the light into two parts; darkness and light. The light he called Day, and the darkness he called Night. Both light and darkness have been used in the Scriptures for many applications to spiritual ideas.

He divided the firmament (or the space) to have upper and lower stories. One of these we call the sky where the stars are, and the other heaven we call atmosphere where we breathe and where the birds fly and where airplanes fly.

Then God brought all the waters together on the earth and called them Seas. By separating the water on the earth, he allowed the land to appear, the dry part of his creation. He called this dry land Earth. God saw that it was good. This was the third day, and in that same day the grass

began to grow and other plant life after its own kind.

And even though there was light, the sun had not yet been made. God made two great lights in the sky, one greater light and one lesser light. We call them the sun and the moon. They were made to separate the days and the nights. This was the fourth day.

On the fifth day God made the water creatures, small and great. He commanded the water animals to be fruitful and multiply. He also made flying animals, or birds, on this day, and it was good.

On the sixth day of creation, God created animals of all kinds, including the little creatures, creeping things that crawl under our feet, perhaps germs and all. On this day he also made man, male and female. God gave all kinds of plant life for food for people and for animals on the earth. He also commanded man to be fruitful and multiply, and so man did, and filled the earth with his kind, and the animals did so likewise.

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.*

At this point we must deal with the length of the days of creation. There are several theories regarding this, also. We have already learned a little about the Gap Theory. Pember said concerning this theory:

“We see, then, that God created the heavens and the earth perfect and beautiful in their beginning, and that at some subsequent period, how remote we cannot tell, the earth passed into a state of utter desolation, and was void of all life . . . The very light of the sun had withdrawn; all the moisture of its atmosphere had sunk upon the surface; . . . and the ruined planet, covered above its very mountain tops with the black floods of destruction, was rolling through

The Age-Day Theory says that the days in the beginning were not 24-hour days but lengthy

periods in a figurative sense equal to the geologic eras.

The Ideal Time Theory teaches that the time in the beginning when creation happened the days were ideally exactly what was needed for the time that was necessary for a geological explanation. This is nearly the same as Theistic Evolution.

But the days in the beginning were 24-hour days, and these days do not need to agree with the geologic time scale. H. Boyce Taylor said in his book of Genesis, “The twenty-four hour day is made by the revolution of the earth upon its axis, and that could have been without the sun’s shining as well as with it. The sun does not make the day; it lights it. The sun was created the first day.”

God made the world in one short word;
The sound of creation there was heard.
The Light resides in his own Son.
God was the Light e’er shone the sun.

Bishop Ussher was right, I think, when he figured the ages of the patriarchs and determined the creation of the earth is about 4000 BC. So, the earth is actually somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 years old. The geologic time scale is used to trick us into believing that scientists know what they speak of when they say that the earth is eternal and that fossils’ records go back about 500 - 600 million years. There is, of course, no proof of that; but these numbers are simply brought out at random with no true scientific reason.

We must remember that there is no such thing as Pre-historic Man. Man was created along with all other animals, and man has lived with all animals from that day until this day. Many animals have gone into extinction, but at one time man walked with and worked alongside all animals, including those who many today call pre-historic animals. There is no pre-history,

because history is the story of man on the earth and God's influence upon man in his mercy, his grace, and his judgment.

The first day that ever existed was the day when God created the heaven and the earth, for the first day did not end until after God had created light and the light was divided up into Day and Night. Verse five (5) ends with "And the evening and the morning were the first day." Exodus 20:11 says, *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.* God rested on the Sabbath day, the seventh day, to commend to us the keeping of one day of the seven for worship and praise of the God who created us. He rested from his work, and we are to rest from our work.

Now our Genesis Standard in this lesson is that God is the creator of all things in six literal, 24-hour days, and he rested on the seventh day. This standard keeps us from believing otherwise. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:20 *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Evolution is false; it is not scientific. It has no proof, but it stands on supposition.*

H. Boyce Taylor in his book on Genesis gives 15 reasons why evolution is not true. Here are some of those reasons.

1. The earth was created, hence matter is not eternal.
2. God created animals, so animals did not evolve from plant life.
3. God created man, so man did not come from lower forms of animals.
4. God's law for animal and plant life is "after its kind," so no species has developed into Another species (or kind).
5. God says that Eve is the "mother of all living," so we are not a product of evolution.
6. God brought the animals to Adam, and Adam named them, so man's intelligence was not once the same as or a little above the ape.
7. Thorns, thistles and sweat and toil and pain and fear are evidence of the truth of the first

three chapters of Genesis, and denies that instead of the development from inherent and resident forces being the law of life, it is only by intelligent forces outside of ourselves that give us the wherewithal to live, more, or have our being.

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Begins 6-5-2016

Lesson Three – Sexual Integrity

Genesis 1:26-28 *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. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 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.*

To this point we have noticed two Genesis standards: (1) Creation, and (2) 24-hour Days in the beginning. These are two important standards and cannot be broken. God is the author of these standards, or principles, and God will sustain these standards irrespective of any contest against them. God is the sovereign one, not man.

In this lesson we will take up the Genesis standard of “Sexual Integrity,” another of God’s creation standards, or principles, that no man can contest or destroy. Today in our society so much sexual perversion is advanced, advertised, and acted upon that rules regarding sexual activity seem to be nonexistent. When schools encourage young teens to be engaged in sexual activity (because they’re going to do it anyway), that philosophy replaces the sexual standard laid down by God himself in this important book of Genesis.

Sorrows, tears, heartaches, confusion, discouragement, depression, and other human emotions can come as a result of reaching out beyond the rules of God’s sexual integrity. Today homes are already broken before they get started as homes. When young people have children before marriage, the home is already broken. When young people, or even older people, live together without the benefit and sanction of marriage, it causes confusion, not simply to the

couple who are engaged in this, but also to the entire society of a nation.

If young people have a child before marriage and desire to be God-honoring in their lives, they should simply get married and bring the home into the realm that it should be with bonds and promises that are sincere and faithful. There are many reasons for divorce, which we will deal with a little today, and divorce has many heartaches and hurts all its own; sometimes a situation cannot be helped in divorce. However, young people who are not yet married have a choice as to whether they will have a child out of wedlock or whether they will follow God's pattern of sexual purity and integrity.

Also, those who have children before marriage must be loved and helped. After the child is born, there is no way to turn the situation around to where it was before the child was born. Both parents and the child should be loved and prayed for, and help should be given to help these through the situation if the couple really desire to do the right thing.

So, today we will consider three portions of the verse that we read at the beginning. We will notice (1) God made man, (2) He made man male and female, and (3) He commanded them to be fruitful and multiply, in other words, marriage.

First, then, let us notice that God made man. It is God who is our Creator. Notice Psalm 100:3 *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.* So, we are to recognize that "the LORD he is God." Without first seeing and knowing this, people cannot see the importance of keeping the Genesis standard. People on their own will refuse to abide by God's rules, and they will go about to make their own rules. Paul, speaking to the Jews, says in Romans 10:3 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted*

themselves unto the righteousness of God. We as Gentiles have done the same things: Galatians 2:15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

Secondly, we notice that God made man to be “male and female.” The Hebrew translated “man” in this verse is the word ADAM, and it means “man” in general, both male and female, people in general. God made man. God created plant life, animal life, and human life. He is the author of them all. We must see God, then, as our creator.

The word translated “male” in verse 27 is the Hebrew word ZAW-KAR and refers to a male person, a man as opposed to a woman, or a female, which is translated from NEQEBAW, female as opposed to male. So God created ADAM to be male and female. Matthew 19:4 *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female* Now we read in Matthew 19:5-6 *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

Mark 10:6 *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. A boy, then, is not the same as a girl. A man is not the same as a woman. They are different and that for God’s purpose. Notice these verses in Genesis:*

Ge 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

Ge 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

Ge 7:2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

Ge 7:3 *Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.*

Ge 7:9 *There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.*

Ge 7:16 *And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.*

Why male and female? Why did he make both animals and humans male and female. He tells us in Genesis 7:3 . . . *to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.* Notice that, when Noah went into the ark, he took his wife, his sons, and their wives. This was so that the earth could be filled after the flood was over.

Male and female are made for friendship. Boys and girls together can make really good friends. As boys and girls get older, they begin to have a physical attraction to one another, and this attraction must be carefully regulated by families and institutions, lest confusing things happen that may bring heartaches and tears.

Many years ago, many houses had parlors. The parlor was a room in the home where boys and girls would court. They were placed in that room together with the doors open wide to regulate any temptations that may come and the two may give in to temptation. The parlor in many homes is done away, and teenagers and young adults are left to their own devices, and this may very well be the devil's devices. Sexual desire can be very strong, almost irresistible, so it must be guarded with an intent garrison to save from embarrassment and heartache.

When dating, a boy and girl should always be around people, people with integrity, who will help guard against sexual impropriety or sexual sin.

Now the third and last item in this Genesis standard is that of Marriage. In Genesis 1:28 God

told Adam and Eve to *be fruitful and multiply*. That simply means that Adam and Eve, whom we could consider married, were to have many children. Sexual activity within the marriage bond is not only allowed by God, but it is encouraged by God, and in a big way. Intimacy in marriage binds hearts, heads, and emotions together; and the longer a couple is married, the more in love they become. One of the reasons for that is because they know they are doing things God's way rather than their own selfish ways. Notice also Genesis 2:24 *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* Matt. 19:6 adds, *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

Remember this verse in Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled . . .* The Bible never says that having children without marriage is honorable, but it does say in Ps 127:3 *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. . . .* Verse 5 *Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*

Hebrews 13:4 *but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.* The whore mongers and adulterers here are those who forfeit the marriage bed for the unmarried bed. These are not very nice names, and I would never call anyone those names; but God is the author of these words, not I. God will judge those who participate in sexual intimacy without marriage.

You may be thinking, "Have I ruined my life? Has my child ruined his or her life? What should I do if this pertains to me?" Let me say this, that every sinner, who is a sinner by nature, and has never come to know Jesus Christ as Savior, turned from his sins and trusted Jesus Christ, his death, burial, and resurrection, is under condemnation. Sins may be different, but condemnation is the same. God will judge all sinners, either in the death of his Son, Jesus, or in

the destruction of the sinner in hell if he does not repent.

Now notice 2 Chronicles 30:9 *For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.*

All have sinned and do come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Ec 7:20 *For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.* Romans 14:12 says, *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.* But the compassion of the Lord does not fail: Lamentations 3:22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

CONCLUSION

So, the Genesis standard of “sexual integrity” has three parts: (1) the fact that God has created man, and we belong to him and should ultimately give him glory in every part of our lives, (2) that God has made man in his image, and he has made man to be male and female, which intimates that a man and a woman can be joined together and become one flesh, which is the third (3) point of the standard, that of Marriage.

Marriage, then, is made by the coming together in a public declaration of one man and one woman, and man's leaving his father and mother and cleaving to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Marriage is an honorable thing, and everyone exercising marriage privileges outside of marriage will be judged by God; but God is merciful and will forgive those who have fallen short of God's glory. His compassions fail not, and he will pardon.

So, all are encouraged in this message to keep our sexual lives pure and honorable, keeping

the command of God in marriage, one man and one woman, as taught to us in the very first chapter of Genesis. If we learn this creation principle and teach it to our children, then perhaps we have a hope that our society will not completely crumble under our feet, but maybe we have a bright future for ourselves, our children, and their children. God made us all, and everyone will give an account to God. Let us learn that truth and live by it.

There is no one who does not sin. Even after we are saved we sin, but our sins are forgiven and are cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. If you are not saved, your sins will condemn you to hell, but by grace you may repent, or turn from, your sins and look to Jesus Christ, his perfect life, his terrible death, and his astounding resurrection and be saved.

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Begins 6-12-2016

Lesson Four – The Sabbath

Genesis 2:1-3

The word Sabbath is mentioned 116 times in the Bible of which 55 are found in the New Testament. The Sabbath was established by God upon the seventh day of creation; thus, the law of the Sabbath was in operation before Moses wrote down the ten commandments and included the command “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8).

Moses actually mentioned the Sabbath before it was given him to write on the stone tablets as one of the ten commandments: Exodus 16:29 *See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.* As a Creation Standard, the Sabbath was to be observed by those from Adam to Moses. Then it was kept by Israel as a nation as a commandment of God from Mount Sinai.

Paul says in Romans 5:12-14 *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: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 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.*

Sin was in the world before the writing of the Mosaic Law, and death was in the world before the Mosaic Law. That is because Adam sinned, and we all sinned in Adam before the law. The only law that existed when Adam sinned was the law against eating from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Death reigned before the Mosaic Law shown in 1 Corinthians

15:22 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Now in Exodus 20:8 we have the commandment “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Thus it became a rule and a commandment for the children of Israel as a nation. Moses told Israel in Exodus 31:14 *Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.* The punishment in Israel for disobeying the Sabbath was death. The Sabbath was so strict that the Israelites were not even to light a fire on the Sabbath: Exodus 35:3 *Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.*

Notice Numbers 15:32-36 *And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. 33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. 34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. 35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. 36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.* This was the strictness of the Old Testament Sabbath. No man could break the Sabbath and live.

There was even a Sabbath for the land. Every seventh year no crops were to be sown: Leviticus 25:4 *But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.* The land was to rest on the seventh year, as the Israelites were to rest on the seventh day of the week..

Yet, there are exceptions for work on the Sabbath. If a man did good on the Sabbath, there was no law against that Luke 14:5 *And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass*

or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? Notice also: Luke 6:9 *Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?*

It was lawful, also, for the Lord to heal on the Sabbath day. Luke 14:3 *And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? 4 And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;* We must remember that Jesus was born, made under the law, that he might keep the law for us, both the Ceremonial Law and the Moral Law.

When we look at the Ten Commandments in the New Testament, we see an interesting thing. All of the Ten Commandments are quoted and endorsed except for the Sabbath.

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me: Mark 12:32; James 2:19
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images: Rom. 1:23
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain: 1 Tim. 6:1
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy: No Reference
5. Honor thy father and thy mother: Mat. 19:19; Mark 7:10; Luke 18:20
6. Thou shalt not kill: Luke 18:20; Rom. 13:9
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery: Luke 18:20; Rom. 13:9
8. Thou shalt not steal: Luke 18:20; Rom. 13:9
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor: Luke 18:20; Rom. 13:9
10. Thou shalt not covet: Rom. 7:7; Rom. 13:9

The Jewish rest was a rest from a week's work, and in it one was not to do any work. It was to look forward to that rest in Canaan which Israel longed for as they wandered through the wilderness, into which Moses sent twelve spies to spy out the land, and only two came back with a good report—Joshua and Caleb. It is the land of rest to which only the young would go. The older men, who refused to go into the land at God's appointed time, death came as a result of their disobedience. They fell in the wilderness, and only those under the age of 21 lived to see the

victory of living in the Promised Land, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, who gave a good report of the land and encouraged Israel to push forward at the time that God had appointed. Two old men leading a myriad of youth went into and gained the land and settled in God's Promised Land, which the weekly Sabbath day depicted.

The Sabbath was to be a perpetual covenant between God and Israel: Exodus 31:16 *Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.* Now God said in Leviticus 26:2 *Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.*

Leviticus Chapter 26 tells us what God will do if Israel does not keep his commandments, including his Sabbaths. He will take them captive for a period of 70 years, as prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah, in his book, Chapter 25. Notice Leviticus 26:34 *Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.* It is implied in the story of Israel's captivity that the major sin of that nation was that they had not kept their Sabbatical years – Leviticus 26:35 *As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.* In their captivity to Babylon the land will now rest for 70 years until the time had fulfilled the Sabbaths that Israel had neglected.

One of our ladies said she had a stove that she bought, and it would not work on Saturday. She thought that very strange. She called the people from where she got the stove, and the man came out and said, "Well, this is a Jewish stove." That seems almost funny, but he was serious. The stove had been set up so it would not work on Saturday—the Jewish Sabbath. She was relieved that she had not gone crazy.

Notice that in the New Testament the Sabbaths had been taken over by the Pharisees; they became lords of the Sabbath. They had strict rules about keeping the Sabbath, so much so that no one could actually keep the law of the Sabbath perfectly by any means. Jesus, then, was accused of breaking the Sabbath several times. He picked grain and ate it on the Sabbath. He healed on the Sabbath, etc. This is because he is Lord of the Sabbath: Mark 2:28 *Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.*

The commandment for the Sabbath to be kept is not repeated in the New Testament as all other commandments are. Notice our list given before. So, what should we do pertaining to the Sabbath?

When Jesus was walking the earth, he kept the Sabbath scripturally. He did on the Sabbath that which the Pharisees thought was a breaking of the Sabbath, but he was not really breaking it. Even David, Jesus said, ate the bread from the holy place when he was hungry, and that was breaking of the Sabbath without any blame. Matthew 12:3-6 *But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; 4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless? 6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.*

So, what about the Sabbath day today? Many believe that believers should keep the seventh-day Sabbath to be in obedience to the Lord. Among them are the Seventh Day Adventists and the Seventh-Day Baptists. Remember that the only one of the Ten Commandments that is not repeated in the New Testament is the fourth one: “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Notice, then, that, when the Lord began building his church, especially after the Lord's resurrection, the disciples began to meet together on the first day of the week, and the Lord met them after his resurrection on the first day of the week. That is the day we call Sunday.

We are not under the strictness of the Mosaic Law of the Sabbath. Jesus has done his work and entered into his rest and began a new day of grace, since we are no longer looking forward to his death, burial, and resurrection, but we are looking back upon that great transaction that was done and completed by Jesus Christ, our Savior. We no longer, then, live under the shadow of the law, because Christ has fulfilled every jot and tittle of the law and has had victory over the grave and over the sting of death.

Now we do not keep the seventh-day, for it implies the keeping of the Mosaic Law. There was a rest from the work once a week and for the land in the seventh year, but grace is greater than our sin, where the works of the law were not sufficient for our sin. We live, then, in victory and life, for we are new creature in Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* – Galatians 6:15 *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.* So, we rest in a new beginning of life, not in completion of the law. Only Christ has completed the keeping of the law, for we read in Romans 8:3 *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

The first disciples in the church met on the first day of the week, and Christ appeared to them on the first day of the week. Christ resurrected on the first day of the week, so we worship him on the first day of the week and gather our tithes on the first day of the week. This I believe, then, is

the sanctioned day for worship for New Testament believers. If you are a believer in Christ, you should not miss any Sunday worshipping the Lord in his house, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The rest that we have, however, is not in church, in the law, or on a certain day of the week but in Christ. It is a rest of the soul, weak and weary, that has passed from death unto life and depends upon Jesus Christ for keeping of our souls. Then, when this life is over, we can enter into our rest. 2 Thessalonians 1:7 *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

But we must be raptured in Christ's being revealed, or we must die before he comes again. If we are to enjoy that eternal rest, we must die in faith. Hebrews 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.* These were Old Testament believers, who looked forward to a city whose builder is God. They all died in faith, as we must die in faith.

Mark 11:22 *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.* We read in Acts 16:31 . . . , *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.* Can you and will you believe on the Lord, Jesus Christ today and be saved so you can enter into that rest?

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Begins 6-19-2016

Lesson Five – God’s Law and Sin

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-8

There would be no Genesis Standard without law from God. God is the lawgiver: Isaiah 33:22 *For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.* – James 4:12 *There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?* One seemingly strange verse is found in Psalms 60:7 *Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver;* (See also Psalm 108:8). Now we know that God (even Christ) is our Great Lawgiver. We know that true and foundational laws come directly from God. Even though Judah is credited for being God’s lawgiver, they are a lawgiver only in the sense that they have God’s authority to make civil laws based upon the true laws of God.

God’s laws are meant to be kept. They are not for foolish jesting or for arbitrary use. God’s laws are serious, and they carry with them serious consequences, which include rewards for keeping them and punishment for breaking them.

Ezekiel 44:4 Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face. 5 And the LORD said unto me, Son of man, mark well, and behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears all that I say unto thee concerning all the ordinances of the house of the LORD, and all the laws thereof; and mark . . .

12 Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity. . .

23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. 24 And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and

my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths.

We can see by these verses that God's laws are stringent laws and are to be kept with all seriousness in heart and mind. Ezekiel has laid down technical laws for Israel to keep in their worship to God, the Great Lawgiver. God expects his people to keep his laws; and, even though he knows that no one will keep his laws perfectly, he still commands us to keep them, for his commandments are part of our taking up our cross to follow him, without which we cannot be his disciples.

Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Notice particularly that they are God's laws: Genesis 26:5 says, *Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.* Exodus 16:28 *And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?*

Now in our text, in verse 17, we see the first commandment given to Adam and Eve: "Thou shalt not eat of it." The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was a literal tree in the Garden of Eden, which God prohibited Adam to eat. He did this for the goodwill and safety of man. He said that, if he were to eat of this tree, he would "surely die." There would be no exceptions and no excuses. He was bound to obedience to this law. It was the only law that God had given to man

so far. The laws of nature were already in place and were active and obedient in every respect as God had created them and as he kept them in order.

God brought every beast and every kind of bird to Adam and had Adam to call them by name. This indicates Adam's intelligence and knowledge as a fully grown individual with a perfect brain, being created by God. God made the animals male and female, which gave every animal a helpmeet, or a helper and supporter in life. However, Adam did not have a helpmeet. So God put Adam to sleep (verse 21), and God took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman "out of Adam," or literally "out of man." Woman (Eve) was literally taken "out of man." Therefore he called her name "woman," which means "out of man." Now the woman, being out of man, is subject to the same law that Adam had received from God. Adam taught Eve about the commandment that God had given him, so they both knew that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was off limits for eating, though it was a beautiful tree and enticing, no doubt, to smell and look and, therefore, appetizing.

So far the law of God is good, which all of God's laws always are. No one had broken any of God's commandments, and all is well in Eden. What a beautiful place it must have been, with a beautiful river running through it, which broke into four branches with names, which are named in verses 10-14. As the mist arose from the earth to water the plants, and as the gentle, warm air lay all around them, the weather was always perfect. A canopy of water hovered over them in the heavens, and the sun was filtered by this canopy to keep out harsh ultra-violet rays. Beasts of the field, fowls of the air, and fish of the sea lived in perfect tranquility in this beautiful but brief existence.

Adam and Eve seemed to be satisfied and persuaded of the law of God, living in the perfect

will of God daily as long as this existence survived. We can only imagine the pleasing environment, the harmony of nature, the comradery of man and animals and plants, wind and water.

Until one day a serpent appeared on the scene, and things began to change rapidly. The serpent was subtle and deceitful and sinful. He was an angel which had been cast out of heaven into the earth, and now he comes as a beautiful serpent with his hellish subtlety and his lying deceit. So beautiful and gentle was this creature that immediately Eve was taken aback by him. She had no knowledge of his actual demonic qualities and his dangerous intentions. So, she was carried into a conversation with this talking snake. It makes me wonder how many of the other animals were talking animals, also, before the fall of man, but that is only conjecture.

In his diabolical scheme, the serpent (Satan) begins to attack, not Adam or Eve, but God's law. He hates God's law. He is an anarchist. He is Anti-Christ. He is against God's laws and protests against all of them. Satan goes by his own rules, yet he is in the limitations of God's natural laws. God puts boundaries around Satan so he cannot go but just so far, and then he must stop.

He challenges the law by asking Eve, "Hath God said?" He challenges the very words of God, because he knows that it was by God's word that he created everything, and it is by God's word that Satan will one day be destroyed in the Lake of Fire. He is saying, "Did God really say . . .?" He means, "What God says really does not matter. You need to listen to another opinion, an opinion from a different source."

When Eve explained the law of God, Satan challenged it further when he said, "Ye shall not surely die." (3:4). Here Satan challenges the consequence of breaking God's law. So, not only

has Satan challenged the law itself, but he has challenged the very consequences of breaking God's law. These are two things that people use today to deny and to disobey God's laws.

First, people will say, "Is the Bible really God's book," or some other doubtful expression of God's legitimate giving of real laws under which mankind must be subject. Secondly, people will deny the consequences of disobedience and will even make excuses for breaking God's laws such as "Everybody else does it," or "Nobody is perfect," or "Well, that's not as bad as"

But God does have a law, he is the author of it; and he expects people to know his law and to obey his law. If they do not keep his law, there are consequences, of which no one really wants to face or even admit. God is sovereign over everything, yet we take him so lightly. We think of the goodness of God: Psalms 31:19 *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee*; We think of the longsuffering of God: 1 Peter 3:20 *... once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing*, We think of God's kindness and love as in Titus 3:4 *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,*

But there is another side to God which people seem to forget, either purposefully or ignorantly; that is the wrath of God. Psalms 21:9 *Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them*. Proverbs 11:4 *Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death*. Proverbs 11:23 *The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath*.

Now back to our story of Adam and Eve, the serpent, being very subtle, told what we would call a "bald-faced lie" to Eve. Look at Genesis 3:5 *For God doth know that in the day ye eat*

thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. It seems that people have always wanted to be more than what they are. It seems to be almost like “If there is a God, he is too strict for us, so we want to make our own God to be submissive to our will.” Satan was trying to bring God down to his own level by trying to persuade Eve that he knew as much or more than God knows. God is just another entity, nothing special. Actually, who is he to be making laws anyway. His laws are simply meant to make people miserable and to have control over their lives. That is Satan’s argument.

Look at verse 5 again: *then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good from evil.* Don’t we all want to know right from wrong? Our society is trying that all the time, trying to come up with a subjective moral law that will satisfy everyone, nothing objective to which we must all obey, only laws that will satisfy us in our current existential culture, laws that can be changed to meet the evolution of society as time goes on. Permanent laws, objective laws of right and wrong, are too strict; they do not fit every generation, so laws must evolve as each generation comes on the scene. This is the kind of law Satan is proposing to Eve.

So, Eve takes another look at the fruit and, as she has done at times before, noticed how beautiful a fruit it was, how luscious it seemed, and how it must taste; but she cannot know unless she tastes it. She took of the fruit (3:6) and ate it. Then she took a fruit to her husband and had him to eat it. Eve broke God’s law as a result of temptation; Adam ate the fruit and broke God’s law as a result of a selfish desire to have his wife, Eve, with him; and, since she did not die immediately, he may have thought that God did not mean what he said. So, he ate of the fruit, also, and broke God’s law.

And here is a verse that we have read many times: 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: Adam was that one man, and he sinned without the temptation of the serpent, the Devil. As a result, Adam's sin was presumptuous and profane. He now, being the natural head of the entire human race, made a decision for the entire race: to eat of the forbidden fruit. You and I were in Adam seminally. From his loins came the entire human race, so the entire human race sinned in Adam. Adam and Eve fell into sin, which deserves the wrath of God and God's punishment unto both physical and spiritual death. Our first parents are now depraved with a broken human nature. Each one of us is the same. We all know Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* Many of us know the verse in 1 Corinthians 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Adam and Eve are now dead in their trespasses and sins. What will they do? How will they, how can they overcome this problem of sin? The answer lies in verse 8, which we shall take up next time, but we must read it now: Genesis 3:8 *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: . . .*

Until you meet the Lord in the cool of the day, you will never be able to do anything about your sin, your death in sin, and your need to flee the wrath of God that is to come. You must meet him, and you must submit to his words, his law of the Gospel, as he tells us to come to him, repent of our sins, and trust his Son, Jesus Christ, to be saved. Then you will be raised to new life from your death in sin: Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;* Verses 8 and 9 of this chapter say this: 8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* 9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – 6-26-2016

Lesson Six – Sin And Its Redemption

Genesis 3:6-24

I. THE SELFISHNESS OF SIN, 3:6

After that Eve had sinned in eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, she also gave to her husband, and he did eat. Now Adam and Eve are both in a despicable position. They are now seemingly alone in the garden and are enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season (Hebrews 11:25) just as many human beings are now enjoying sin in their lives, not caring about what God thinks or what God may do eventually when the day of judgment comes.

Adam and Eve have not yet been confronted by God, so they do not know the seriousness of what they have done. Perhaps Satan is still there encouraging them and comforting them in their new found knowledge. Their eyes have been opened, as Satan told them, and now they know good and evil; but at this point they know only the good part, the pleasing and comfortable part of evil. Sometimes it feels good to sin, and many enjoy sin as long as there is no punishment for it.

Your sins, both of commission and omission, are fine as long as you have no consequences for them; but, when the consequences come, you will not feel so comfortable, but you will humble yourself before God and give an account of your sin before a holy God. God will then mete out the reward of unrighteousness (2 Peter 2:13). Let's read Ecclesiastes 11:9 *Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.* This life will end says Ecclesiastes 12:7 *Then shall the dust return*

to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. You will find that this life is only vanity and vexation of spirit. In Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Solomon says: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

II. SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS OF MAN, 3:7

Knowing, however, that they have sinned against God, since they realized that they were naked, they knew that God should not see them in their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves to make themselves spiritual clothing that would hide both their physical nakedness and hopefully their spiritual nakedness also so that, when God comes walking in the cool of the day, they might have wherewith to present themselves before him, not unclothed, but clothed with a righteousness that hopefully God will accept in behalf of the sin they had committed.

But the righteousness of man is not sufficient to the requirements of God. Ezekiel 33:12 *Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.* In Matthew 5:20 we read: *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

Now, how is the righteousness of Adam and Eve going to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees? The fact is that the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees was a

personal, self-righteousness. It was not wrought of God but was wrought from within themselves, just as this righteousness in Adam and Eve was their own, and not God's, righteousness.

Self-righteousness includes anything that you may do to meet the requirement of God in order to save your soul from the punishment of Hell. It may include many good works, religious zeal, kindness to others, church membership, baptism, and many more things that are done by oneself. None of these things is enough to satisfy God's justice, for we see in Isaiah 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

III. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CHARGE, 3:8-20

Now, as Adam and Eve are enjoying their new-found freedom (for they have covered their sin with fig leaves), they are in for a great awakening. God comes to visit in the cool of the day. They knew that it was God's custom to visit them daily at this certain time, so they expected his visit. That is why they dressed for the occasion.

Yet, when they heard God come into the garden walking in the cool of the day, they were afraid. They doubted, then, their own righteousness, for the very majesty of the presence of God had rebuked their self-righteousness. So, they hid among the trees. The trees are another symbol of self-righteousness. Trees were often used for worship among the Gentiles, and heathen, unbelievers. They built themselves groves in which to give sacrifices. They were hiding behind, not only their fig leaves, which were taken from a tree, but behind the trees themselves, thinking that God could not find them. Thus it is with everyone who believes in Christ. First, they hide from God, but then God comes looking for them and confronts them with their sin, brings

conviction and then salvation. It is all of the Lord.

Adam in verse 10 says “I was afraid.” I think if God came walking up to your door one day, you would be afraid, too. The majesty of God is overwhelming to the human mind. One day every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess to him (Isaiah 45:23; Rom. 14:11; Philippians 2:10). His presence is awesome, and no one can get away from him once he presents himself. His judgment is sure, and his justice will be met.

Now Adam makes excuse that it is his wife who is responsible for the sin, because she gave the fruit to him; but he had to confess to God in verse 12 “and I did eat.” He just admitted to his own sin. When God confronted Eve, she said it was the serpent’s fault. According to the scriptures, everyone was at fault. Satan for the temptation, Eve for surrendering to temptation, and Adam for sinning presumptuously.

Now God begins to curse, first the serpent. From now on he will go upon his belly and eat dust all the days of his life (verse 14). Also, he will put enmity (a hatred) between him and the woman and between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman. Once we are saved, we learn to hate the Devil and his deeds, and the Devil is always persecuting her seed. There is an enmity between us and sin, between us and Satan, between us the darkness, between us and the world. SONG: “Let The Sun Shine In”

The serpent’s seed are those who are lost and who will not come to the Lord for salvation but stay in their own self-righteousness, and there is a great enmity between his seed and the seed of the woman. The seed of the woman is Christ. A great enmity exists between Christ and the children of Adam who follow the ways of the serpent. That enmity is stopped only by the grace of God. Galatians 3:16 *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And*

to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. So, Genesis 3:15 is the first mention of the Gospel in the Bible.

When Jesus died on the cross, he bruised Satan's head. Satan is alive on the earth, but Satan is not well. He thinks he is winning the war for men's souls, but God snatches souls out of darkness regardless of what Satan does. He cannot enslave God's people. He cannot persuade those of God's elect away from their faith in Jesus Christ. So, when we come to the Lord, believing in Jesus Christ, his life, his death, and his resurrection, then we are in a sense bruising Satan's head. One day this bruise will kill Satan, and he will be among the living dead in eternal punishment, spiritual zombies, who die throughout all eternity. Those who go into eternal hell are awake and conscious, but that is not called life in the Bible, it is called the "second death." The second death is mentioned four times in the book of Revelation (2:11; 20:6; 20:14; 21:8).

The curse on Adam and Eve physically for their sin was that they would die in their bodies. We know that, because Adam died, and Eve died. Had they not sinned, they would not have died. Eve's curse was that she will bear children with much pain, and I don't think any woman would disagree with that (3:16). Also, Adam was cursed with having to actually work to make a living rather than simply enjoying the fruit of the trees of the Garden of Eden (3:17-19)

IV. THE SALVATION OF THE FIRST COUPLE, 3:21-24

Adam and Even, then, were gloriously saved, because in verse 21 we read that God gave to Adam and Even "coats of skins" and he "clothed them." This is significant, for salvation is of the Lord said Jonah in Jonah 2:9. God made the coats by killing an animal and shedding the blood. This is a picture (a type) of the sacrifice of Jesus in his death, shedding his blood for his people

on the cross, dying, and then resurrecting on the third day. Not only did God make coats of skins, but he clothed them; he put them on Adam and Eve, which indicates to us that God must do everything in our salvation. God brought the first couple to conviction and repentance, then he covered them with his own righteousness rather than their own righteousness, which was nothing more than filthy rags. The imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ is not inside of us as a part of our nature, but it is only a covering, as clothing, so that God can look at us and see nothing but the righteousness of Jesus Christ, although inside we are still sinners, weak, and afraid. One day God will change our vile bodies into a body like unto Christ's glorious body, and we will be perfect throughout (Philippians 3:21).

Then, as a further work of grace, God drove out Adam and Eve from the garden. You may think that this is a curse rather than grace, but I submit to you that it is grace. If Adam and Eve had stayed in the garden, they, no doubt, would have eaten of the Tree of Life, and then they would have lived in their depraved condition for eternity. But God, in his prevenient grace, kept them from eating of that tree, thus making way for God's provided redemption through the blood of Christ. It was grace that brought them out of the garden in order that they may live as ones redeemed by Christ's blood so that they may live forever, not in their depraved condition, but in a faultless condition before God himself. Jude 1:24 *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, God will deliver us faultless before him in love (Ephesians 1:4; Jude 1:25), and there will be joy in our own hearts and in the heart of God as he accomplishes the promises made to those who believe.*

Now God places Cherubims and a flaming sword east of the Garden of Eden so that Adam and Even could no longer go into the garden. There is no going back into the old life once a

person has trusted in Christ. It is only a long, forward, joyous, and secure life following Jesus Christ and his word, worshiping in the church where God receives his glory, and being patient with endurance as the wiles of the Devil keep coming our way, putting on the armor of God in order to fight against the wiles of the Devil and his fiery darts.

The Christian life is not an easy life. Adam and Eve were used to a good life in the garden, but now they must work and experience tiredness and pain and even death. God knows that, and God gives provision for those things that we need to serve him and to live a victorious life. Philippians 4:19 says, *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*. He will answer our prayers; he will comfort us (2 Cor. 1:3); he will guide us to all truth (John 16:13). He loves us with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3). He will correct us, discipline us, (Deut. 11:3; Hebrews 12:8).

Are you still living in the Garden of Eden? It is no longer that perfect and beautiful garden that it used to be. Literally, no one knows where it may be found, but it will represent our lives in the world. The Devil took charge of the Garden of Eden, and that same thing he has done to the world. That is why he is called the “prince of the power of the air” in Eph. 2:2. That is why he is called “god of this world” 2 Cor. 4:4.

Satan rules this world, and the system of this world is regulated by him except where God overrules him in order that God may have his pre-eminence, in order that God may execute perfectly his plan for the world and for his people in the world.

You have already tasted of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; will you now partake of the tree of life and live forever in your sinful condition? Will you face God’s judgment without a garment of salvation? Just as with Adam and Eve, it is completely by the grace of God

that you can escape this corrupted Garden of Eden, which symbolized our own human depravity, being Adam's sons and daughters.

Coats of skins are awaiting everyone and anyone who will repent, or turn from sins, see Jesus dying, paying for your sins, and trusting him with his whole heart. He will come to you in conviction of sin. You will see your sin and want to hide from God and his sovereignty, but God's grace is sufficient to bring you to the cross on bended knee, confessing your sins, and his grace will clothe you with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and you will be saved forever through faith in Jesus Christ as your only Lord and Savior.

You will then be driven out of the garden of the world and into the gracious and glorious kingdom of Christ. Colossians 1:13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:* And you shall wait for a time, knowing that we all must work in his vineyard until the night comes when no man can work. In that coming day, we shall be translated into a new body like unto his glorious body, and so shall we ever be with the Lord (Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:17) .

Whether it be in the rapture, or whether it be in death, we as believers stand before God completely justified because of the work of Jesus Christ. He is our Savior. We have no other remedy for our sins. John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – 7-10-2016

Lesson Seven – The Case of Murder

Genesis 4

I. THE BIRTH OF CAIN, 4:1-2

Cain was the firstborn of Adam and Eve, the third person on the created earth. He was, therefore, the head and ruler over anyone else who would be born after him. He was first in line for the blessings of his father and his father's inheritance.

Abel, born later, was the younger of the two. Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was a tiller of the ground. Abel was a shepherd; Cain was a farmer. Both of these boys came from good stock. Both had good occupations, but their hearts were day and night apart.

II. THE BRINGING OF AN OFFERING, 4:3-4a

There is no doubt that, from the offering of the animal given by God himself to make the coats of skins for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God had taught them of the proper offering, or sacrifice, that was to be given unto God as a type of the true offering for sin in God's Son, Jesus Christ, when he would come to earth and shed his blood for our sins and for Adam's sins to redeem us from the curse of the law. So, it was expected that Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel were to bring the same kind of offering to the Lord at the proper time and the proper place.

Abel brought a lamb, and it would not surprise me if I would find out that God slew a lamb in the Garden to make clothes for Adam and Eve. This lamb was a symbol of the shedding of blood, and Abel knew this as well did his father and mother, who were saved by the shedding of blood.

Cain, however, brought his offering of the fruit of the ground. It may have been the best of

his crop. Cain was doing his part in bringing an offering to God.

God had respect to Abel's offering, but God rejected Cain's offering, for it was a bloodless offering and sacrifice. God hates a bloodless sacrifice; therefore, he hates offerings given to idols, which are many times bloodless, and, when it has blood, it is usually the blood of innocent people. God cannot respect any offering that is not a true type of Jesus' blood as redemption for the sins of his people.

Cain, then, became angry. He was angry with God, no doubt; and he was angry with his brother out of jealousy, I believe, because God respected Abel's offering and not Cain's own offering. His countenance fell (his facial features). He was very sad and frowned at the whole world because of his ignorant heart.

III. THE BETTER SACRIFICE, 4:4b-5

A. Abel's Offering

Abel's offering was a good offering. He had, no doubt, given thought to what offering he would give to God. He understood that blood was an important element in the true meaning of redemption and forgiveness of sins. Therefore, he brought a better sacrifice.

Abel gave a better sacrifice, because he was a righteous man: *Matthew 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.*

Abel had faith in God and in Christ: *Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.* Old Testament sacrifices and offerings

foreshadowed the Lord and his work on earth, but they could not save. Abel was not saved by the sacrifice that he gave here; he was saved by God's grace through faith in the Messiah. He understood that the sacrifice of a firstling of his flock was not sufficient for his soul's salvation, but he did understand that there was a Lamb that would come and sacrifice himself to save his soul. I am of the opinion that God did much more teaching to Adam and Eve than we find written in the Bible.

Abel's offering, then, foreshadowed the blood of Christ: Hebrews 12:24 *And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.* In this verse the blood of Jesus and the blood of Abel are compared.

The blood of Abel could here have reference to the blood that he shed in the offering that he gave in worship to God, as it would time and again foreshadow the coming of One who would shed precious blood to actually and effectually cleanse from sin; but the offering of Abel would not and could not effectually remit sins; or this "blood of Abel" might refer to his being killed by his brother, Cain, which would indicate that Abel's death was not sufficient for any spiritual power but was inferior to Christ's blood being shed for our sins. Therefore, the blood of Christ speaks better things than the blood of Abel. Abel was killed by his angry brother, and Jesus Christ was killed by his Jewish brothers, who hated him as much as Cain hated Abel. Jesus said in John 15:25, . . . *they hated me without a cause.*

B. Cain's Offering

There was no blood shed in Cain's offering to God. There was no remembrance in the mind of God of his own plan to send his Son, Jesus, to be a propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2). The offering given by Cain was rather a repudiation of the purpose of God in redemption, preaching

in his offering that man can be saved by his own power and with his own ingenuity and his own plan. But Cain's offering was insufficient for a type. His, then, was LESS excellent to God than the offering given by Abel. Cain's offering had no excellency, not good in any quality, not superior, which was required by God. God's offering is more superior in its meaning than any offering made up in the mind of man.

John said in 1 John 3:12 *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.* The reason that man desires to give his own offerings to God is that he is "of that wicked one," the Devil, who is the father of all who do the lusts of their father, the Devil (John 8:44).

Also, Jude speaks of Cain in Jude 1:11 *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.* The way of Cain was the way of envy, for Cain envied God's blessings upon Abel because of his respect to Abel's offering. In New Testament times, many envied and lusted after the gifts of the apostles, desiring to use them for their own profit. This, no doubt, was the mind and attitude of Cain and the reason for his killing his brother.

IV. THE BOLD STATEMENT OF GOD, 4:6-7

A. "If thou doest well"

All one needs to do is to do right. Cain only needed to give the right and proper sacrifice, from the heart of love to God and his high respect for God in obedience to him. But, not only did he need to give the right offering; he also needed to give that offering with the right heart. Psalms 105:3 *Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.* Proverbs

10:20 *The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.* Hebrews 3:12 *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*

B. “Shalt thou not be accepted?”

God receives true praise only from a pure heart. Psalm 24:3-5 *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

C. “If thou doest not well,”

Cain must present an offering, not only with a pure heart in righteousness, but also with the proper sacrifice of blood.

D. “Sin lieth at the door”

Sin is present when an unacceptable offering is given. It is a great sin to offer up an offering to God in a cavalier way, because sin and its penalty are near. Also, a sin offering, a proper one, is very near and would be easy to obtain.

E. A proper offering brings great blessings

He would please God and be accepted. He would rule over his brother, Abel. But his heart was cold and hateful, selfish and deceitful, as all human hearts are: Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

V. THE BOUNTY OF A WICKED HEART, 4:8-16

A. The Murder, 4:8

Cain first talked with his brother, Abel, perhaps to lure him into the field where he knew he would kill him. Cain's wicked heart was so full of rage that he slew his brother. This is called fratricide (the killing of a brother).

B. The Consequences, 4:9-16

1. He was cursed from the earth, 11-12

The earth will reject any work Cain may do as a farmer. The crops will not grow, and the earth will not help and protect him as it would had he not committed this great crime.

2. He was driven out from God's face, 14

Psalms 31:16 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake. Psalms 80:3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. . . . 7 Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. . . . 19 Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

3. A target to kill, 15

God placed a mark upon Cain so that anyone finding him should kill him. This was a very precarious life to live, knowing that anyone could come along any time and kill. What was this mark?

It could be Cain's reputation, having killed his brother, the first and only murder on earth. It could be, some say, a lameness on his legs, a grossness of his looks; a twisted face that would be like a monster; a mark on the forehead that would mark him to kill. We really do not know what the marks is, but we know that Cain was marked to kill. His life was at a place where there was little or no purpose in his life. He was rejected by God and by the earth and now by men on the earth. I am surprised that he did not kill himself.

4. Cain went out, 16

As a result of his sin, Cain went out from the presence of the Lord. This could mean that he went about his life without the blessings of the Lord, the protection of the Lord, and the love of the Lord. It also may indicate his going out from the place of worship which had evidently been marked by God where offerings were made to God, never to bring another offering to God again.

He went out from the place of worship, from God's blessings, cursed of God, cursed of the earth and of man, reprobate, unrepentant, unregenerated, forsaken, lost, never to return to the Lord again.

5. Dwelt in Nod

Cain went to a place by the name of Nod. The name of this place means "wandering." So, Cain went to the place of wandering, hiding from people for fear of his life, lonely in his spirit, because he would not return to God, weary of life yet continuing to live, marry, and have children. Nothing good came from Cain. His legacy is one of sadness and of morbid details. When we read of him, we read of a heart that was lost from the presence of God, a soul that is wandering in the world without purpose and without blessings from God. How sad!

Many today are out there wandering around in the world, going astray, not considering their sin, not knowing that a sin-offering is at the door, the blood of Jesus Christ that can be received by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, repentance from sins being the first fruit of regeneration, turning your back on sin and coming to Christ, our Redeemer, who can apply his precious blood to any heart and soul who will come to him in faith believing the Gospel, the work of God on the cross, his death, his burial, and his resurrection.

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – 7-17-2016

Lesson Eight – The Noahic Flood

Genesis 6:1-8

I. INTRODUCTION

I don't suppose that we could call the Noahic Flood a Standard, because a standard would be a way of life, an order of living, the law of life. The flood only reminds us that God is not only a God of love but also a God of wrath, and that is God's standard. He brings judgment upon the world. The judgment upon the world in Noah's day was a judgment that occurred only once, never to be repeated; but, if there is a standard here, it is the standard of God's way of dealing with sin. He will once again one day bring judgment upon the earth, and we are to expect it; because God has made it plain in his word.

There are many theories of this time of the flood all the way from the estimation that it never did happen all the way to the estimation that, if it did happen, it was local and not universal. Some who believe that it happened believe also that it was simply a natural disaster and not a judgment from God. Let's look at a few things about the flood, and maybe we can come to some good and valid conclusions.

II. THE REASON FOR THE FLOOD

Genesis 6:5 *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

Genesis 6:13 *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.* Three specific things are mentioned here that were the cause of the flood.

A. The Wickedness of Man, 6:5

In verse five we see “the wickedness of man.” We know that man in his own state is wicked at heart. That is why we must teach children to do the right things. They do not have to be trained to do the bad things. They already know that by their own nature, the nature of man, the nature of Adam.

In the days of Saul, Israel called for a king. They wanted a king just as the heathen nations around them had. Samuel told them that God was their king, but they were not satisfied with that. They wanted an earthly king, one they could see and perhaps one that they could influence to do as they wanted. Therefore, in desiring an earthly king, they were turning their backs on God in a positive way. 1 Samuel 12:17 *Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.*

It is the wickedness of man that brought the flood: Proverbs 11:5 says, *The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.* God makes a difference between his children and the world in 1 John 5:19 *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.* This worldwide wickedness is the wickedness with which God was angry in the time of the flood. He does not like evil and wickedness. It disgusts him, and he brings judgment upon it.

After the flood was over, God judges every person individually. We read in Ezekiel 18:20

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. One day the entire world as a whole will end, when Jesus comes again for judgment on the entire world by fire, not by water. 2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. . . . 2 Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

We read of the wickedness of man in Romans 1:29-32 *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

B. Thoughts of the Heart, 6:5

We have read many times from this pulpit Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* Jesus said in Matthew 12:35 *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

In Matthew 15:18 we read, *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.* It is what is in the heart that counts. The words we say can be

deceiving;

Many good things also come from the heart of believers: 1 Peter 3:4 *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*

Romans 10:10 *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

C. Violence, 6:13

Psalms 11:5 *The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.* There has always been violence in the world, and it will continue until the Lord returns. It seems to be growing greater in our country and around the world.

An impure heart can bring violence in a person: Psalms 58:2 *Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.*

Proverbs 4:17 *For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.*

These are the reasons for the flood, and God was just in doing what he did.

III. THE RAINBOW IN THE FLOOD

A. The Promise

In order to give a sign of a covenant between God and man, that God would never destroy the earth by water again, he put a bow in the sky: Genesis 9:13 *I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.* The old world was destroyed, and a new world came into being. We will never know what the old world looked like nor what technology those people may have had before the new world was brought about by way of the

catalysts of the flood. The surface of the earth was turned wrong-side-out, and the surface of the earth is no longer as it was in the days before the flood, the Antediluvian Age. Let's notice 2 Peter 2:5 *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

There were only eight souls saved in the flood; all others died in the flood. Every living creature on the face of the earth died along with the fowl of the air. Notice 1 Peter 3:20 *Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

The covenant made between God and the earth is still good today. Seasons will continue as they always have from the beginning of time. Prophecy tells us that there will be earthquakes, wars and rumors of wars, diseases, heartaches, pain, sorry, and death all the remaining days of the earth, until the Lord returns.

B. The Perspective

Most people, when they see a rainbow, the first thought is to get a camera and take a picture of it. That is because a rainbow is one of the most beautiful scenes on earth. They are also mystical, and many legends are told about rainbows.

Rainbows are created from the sun and water. The process is called *refraction*, or the "bending of the light." As light travels through space, it travels at a certain speed. As it goes through the water, however, it slows down and requires more energy to reach the earth. As the light particles hit the resistance of the water, the ray of light bends somewhat as in a glass prism. The white light from the sun is then divided into its primary colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Depending upon just how the light hits the water particles, a rainbow can

be brighter or dimmer or show more or fewer colors.

God's rainbow includes all of the primary colors of white light, so God's perspective to us in the rainbow is that he is showing us his entire light, all of his colors, in his covenant with the earth to assure us that he is still in control of nature's laws and that his promise is sure. Isn't it wonderful that he reminds us of that often? I just saw on Facebook yesterday a story about a Vacation Bible School class, which had just been studying the rainbow in Noah's day. At the end of the class, they went outside and immediately saw a bright rainbow. That was a great object lesson.

The next time you see a rainbow, remember that all of God's colors are showing, and remember the promise, or covenant, that God has made with the earth and with us that the earth will never be destroyed by water again and that God is true to his word.

C. The Perpetuity Of The Rainbow

God's promises are simple and sure: 2 Corinthians 1:20 *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.* God has many promises that he has given, and many of those promises are given to believers.

Promise of the Spirit of God: Galatians 3:14 *That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Promise of Life: 2 Timothy 1:1 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,*

Promise of present and future life: 1 Timothy 4:8 *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

Promise of an Inheritance: Hebrews 9:15 *And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

Promise a crown of Life: James 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

God not slack concerning his promise: 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

IV. CONCLUSION

So, the Genesis Standard here is that God is a just God. He will reward evil, and he will reward good. All evil on earth comes from man; all good comes from God. There is no good in any one of us, so we need to know and believe God's promises. They are good, and they are sure. He will never forget his promises; he will always keep his promises, and we can always rely on his promises. When you read your Bible, look for promises, and jot some of them down in a notebook so you can remember where they are in the Bible.

I want to close with this Scripture: John 3:16-21 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the

condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

The Genesis Standard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – 7-24-2016

Lesson Nine – Distribution Of The Human Race

Genesis 10-11

I. THE GENETIC DISTRIBUTION

Noah had three sons. These three sons went into the ark and were saved from the flood of water that God brought upon the earth to destroy the first world. Their wives also were saved. There were, then, four couples who were saved through the waters of the flood: (1) Noah and his wife, (2) Ham and his wife, (3) Shem and his wife, and (4) Japheth and his wife.

Genesis 10:32 says, *These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.* All of us here, then, are descendants of Noah through one of his sons. It was God's intention for Adam and Eve to have children and to fill the earth with people. God told Adam in 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.* God told Noah in Genesis 9:1 *And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.* The people were to spread out across the earth and to people the earth, scattering themselves across God's whole earth. We will see that they disobeyed this command.

The three sons of Noah were Sethites; they were sons of Seth. All of Cain's offspring died in the flood. Only Seth's offspring survived the flood. Noah came through the line of Seth: Seth Gen. 4:26; Cainan 5:9; Mahalaleel 5:12; Jared 5:15; Enoch 5:18; Methuselah 5:21; Lamech 5:25; Noah 5:29. It was God's will to spread his chosen line of Seth throughout all the earth.

Noah's father was named Lamech (not the same as the one who killed Cain). Lamech was born while Adam was still alive. Now Cain had children, and the lineage of Cain went about four generations. Cain was the father of Enoch, who was the father of Mahujael, who was the father of Methusael, who was the father of Lamech. Now Lamech was the man who killed his great-great grandfather, Cain. This is the genetic end of the line of Cain. Abel was killed by his brother, Cain; and that is the end of the lineage of Abel. Now Seth was born to Eve as a child, she thought, to replace Cain, so we have now only Seth to produce children who would live through the flood; so all of us, then, are descended from Adam through his son, Seth. We could all be called, I suppose, Sethites.

Having chosen Seth to be Adam's chosen seed to repenish the earth with people, God brought offspring down to Noah, who was 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth. Noah had three sons, and they produced children who filled the earth in all directions around the earth. We will consider that in a few moments. Then God chose one of Noah's sons to be a chosen seed to bring Abram (or Abraham) into the earth, the father of us all – Romans 4:16

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

So we see that God is a selective God, who has brought about his eternal plan down through the ages to bring glory to himself. He blessed the world through spreading Noah's seed through the world, he blessed Israel through his selection of Abram to be the father of Isaac, through which God said he will bless the seed of Abraham, and he blessed us spiritually through our spiritual father, Abraham, who believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness (Rom.

4:3; Gal. 3:6; James 2:23).

Then through the line of Isaac God brought forth his Son, Jesus Christ, who is the promised seed through King David – Acts 13:22-23 *And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. 23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:*

So, the whole purpose of this genetic distribution of God after the flood through Seth, the son of Noah, was to bring into the world our Savior, Jesus Christ, unto whom be praise and glory forever.

II. THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Not only were the people of the earth distributed genetically through the selection of God, but they were also distributed geographically by the plan and purpose of God. The nations of the world are not divided haphazardly by some coincidence of natural selection or evolution. They are placed in their territories by the plan and purpose of God.

Through Japheth: Genesis 10:5 *By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.* Mainly the people of Japheth migrated into what we now know as Europe. These are the people we call **Caucasians**.

Through Ham: These are the **Negroid** peoples of the earth. As the sons of Ham traveled south and southwest from where the ark landed, we read that they set up the city of Babel by Nimrod in the land of Shinar. Asshur also built Ninevah and some smaller cities. From Ham also came the Canaanites, which settled in what is now known as Israel. The Hamites traveled as far south as

Sodom and Gomorrah near the Dead Sea. The Egyptians are also descendants of Ham.

Through Shem: Genesis 10:30 *And their dwelling was from Mesha, as thou goest unto Sephar a mount of the east.* These are the people of Asia, or the **Mongoloid** people. They settled to the east of where the ark settled after the flood.

Geographically, the Lord is responsible for the location of all nations on the earth; it was by divine appointment and not by happenstance that nations are located where they are. Notice Deuteronomy 32:8 *When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.*

Genesis 10:32 *These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.*

III. THE LINGUISTIC DISTRIBUTION

Notice Genesis 11:2-4 *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

The city of Shinar is the same as Babylon, which this place was called later. Genesis Chapter 11:1-9 deal with an incident that occurred after the children of the sons of Noah began to disperse into all parts of the earth. As they traveled “from the east” they found a place in the land of Shinar; and, instead of going on into farther parts of the earth, they decided to stay together

and build a city. God commanded them to scatter into all parts of the earth, but they decided, rather, to stay together.

Notice the phrase “let us.” This indicates their selfish motives. By this time they had forgotten God and his work among the people and were gratified in their own efforts. They said “let us make brick,” vs 3. They said in verse 4, “Let us build us a city and a tower.” Also in verse 4 they said, “Let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” This reminds us of Genesis 6:5 *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* They were all in rebellion against God, which is the basic nature of man outside of the grace of God.

God knew that what these men had decided to do they could do. Everyone spoke the same language. What language that was is not known. Some Hebrew scholars think it was Hebrew, but there is no positive proof of that. I am of the opinion that everyone there went away speaking a different language from the language he spoke when they arrived in Shinar.

Notice now what God says in the same phrase “let us.” He said in verse 7, “Let us go down.” He had already come down to see what they were doing; now he is coming down for a different reason. We know that God is omnipresent; but, when he is ready to do a specific thing on the earth, we are to think of a special “coming down” of God in order to accomplish some good or bad thing that he has proposed to do. So God came down.

God came down, and what he did is world-shaking and permanent for earth dwellers. Scientists, especially linguists, can learn much from this thing that God did. God came down and changed (confounded) everyone’s language so that they could not understand one another’s speech (vs. 7). This forced the people with different languages to go abroad on the earth,

scattered to every part of the earth according to the boundaries that God has set for them. The Bible says in Acts 17:26 *And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;* This is God's doing, not man's or evolution. God has placed people where he wants them to be. The nations are controlled by God: Job said in Job 12:23 *He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again.*

So, the people left off, or quit, building the tower to heaven that was supposed to make them a name and build up the human spirit and promote humanism and rationalism to its highest point. But God overthrew man's attempt to do so. Because this happened, the place of this city is called Babel (or Babylon). So "*the LORD did scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth (11:9).*

The divisions of the languages around the world according to their identification are few. First, there is the **Indo-European** group of languages, which include Hindi, Persian, Norwegian, and English. These languages come from Noah's son, Japheth. Then there is the **Semitic** language group. The word *Semitic* comes from Noah's son, Shem. People who speak these languages are Babylonians, Assyrians, Hebrews (Jews), Phoenicians, Arabs. The third group of languages is the **Hamitic** languages. These are spoken by the people of Africa and the Negroid peoples of the world and come from Noah's son, Ham.

Although there are three basic groups of language from which all languages are derived, they have nothing to do with different races of people, for there is only one race of people on the earth—the human race. We are all of one blood, The first part of Acts 17:26 says, *And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth,* But God has made different languages. The reason is very clear for the confusion of languages, since by having only

one language, the people of the earth could come against God with one voice, one heart, one mind, and one intention. Psalm 2:1-4 *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.*

There have been efforts to try to develop one language that would allow people all around the world to relate to one another freely without any language barriers. It has been said that music is the universal language, but we can transmit only sounds through music, not words that everyone alike can understand. The language of Esperanto is one effort at making a universal language. There are many thousands of people who can speak this language. There are very few rules: everything is pronounced as it is spelled, and the sentences are plain and basic. There are forms of several languages in Esperanto, and it is relatively easy to learn. I have an Esperanto Bible and a dictionary for that language and was learning it when I lived in Clarksville, Tennessee. We had a student who spoke it and read it, and he was trying to teach me. I had little interest in it.

Fortunately, God can understand the language of our hearts; so he does not need for us to speak a certain language in our prayers and praise to him. He also speaks to us through his Holy Spirit in our hearts, so we do not need to know God's heavenly language.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:4 *How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.* Job wanted to debate his condition with God to get things worked out between him and God, but he eventually called for a Dazeman, a Mediator, a Lawyer, an Advocate, for he realized that he could not speak to God on

God's level. We all stand speechless in God's presence, so we listen to God as we read his word. We read intently and absorb the essence and the detail, the logic and the structure of what God's word says so that we may be taught by the Holy Spirit to know his word and learn of him. Jesus said in Matthew 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

Man in his human nature is an alien and an enemy of God. Colossians 1:21 *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.* Now that we have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we are reconciled unto God.

Like the descendants of Noah, we are alienated from God; but we can be reconciled. Paul said in Romans 5:10 *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

So our message today is found in 2 Corinthians 5:20 *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

We as believers have been given a ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18 *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;* Let us preach the message of grace through faith so that people can be reconciled to God. Our human nature wanted to build a tower to God to make us powerful in ourselves to rule our own lives, but God will save us from ourselves and our own wickedness if we hear his word and believe on his Son, Jesus Christ.