

Chronological Bible Study

Week 1:
In The Beginning:
Creation to the Birth of Isaac
Genesis 1:1-24:67

Opening Prayer

[Link to Video](#)





Introductions

- Name
- Where were you born?

Questions?

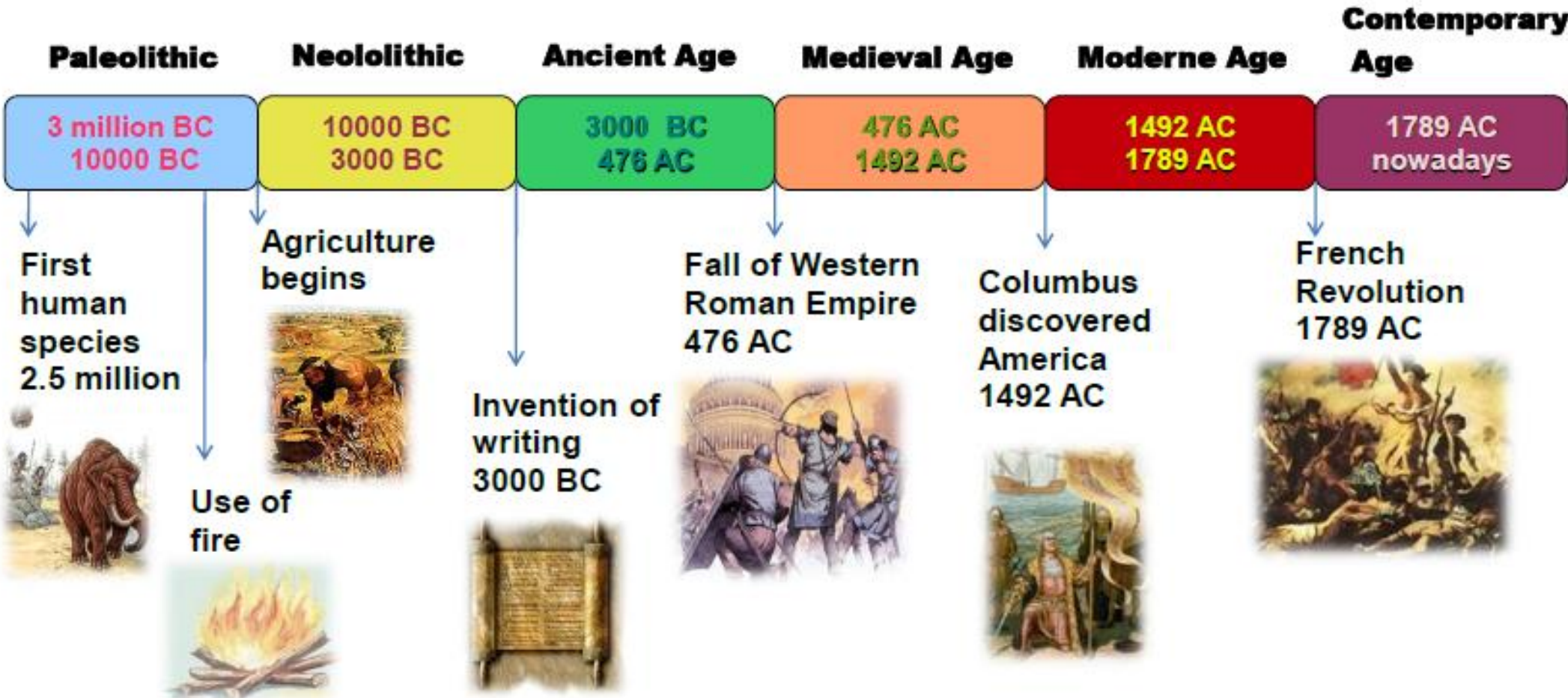
Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

- The Creation
- Man's Rebellion: Sin, Death, and Judgement
- The Life of Abraham

Prehistory
3 million / 3000 AC

History
3000 BC / Nowadays





Hattusas

CAUCASUS

Caspian Sea

HITTITE EMPIRE

ANATOLIA

CYPRUS

Mediterranean Sea

CANAAN

LOWER EGYPT

EGYPT

SYNAI

EDOM

MOAB

AMMON

ARAM

BABYLONIA

ASSYRIA

ANCIENT
NEAR EAST

ARABIA

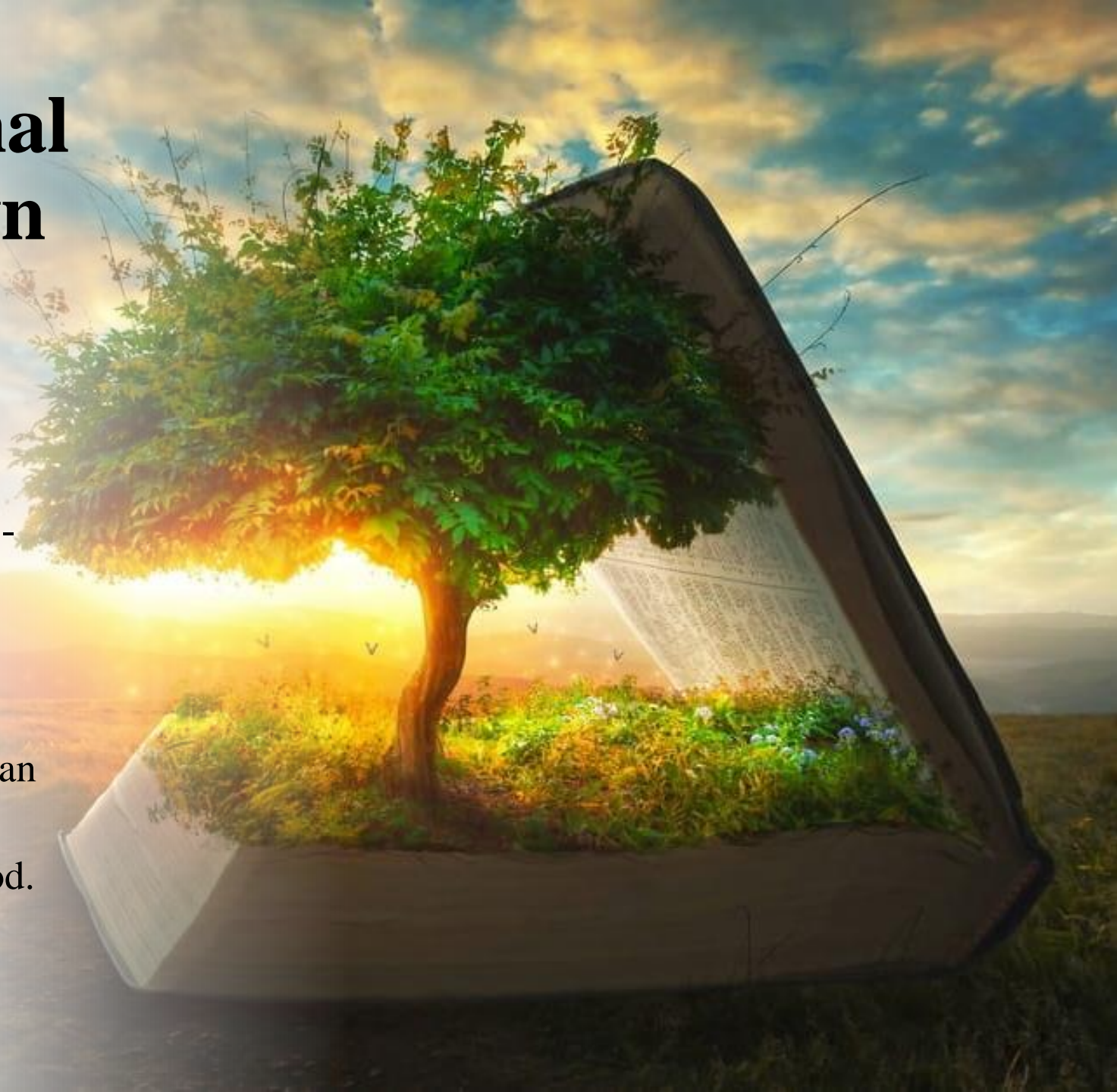
PERSIA

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SUMER

Genesis: A Generational Narrative Passed Down

- Genesis began as an oral tradition
- These oral stories preserved Israel's religious heritage.
- Over time the oral stories were collected together and written down. A prologue (GE 1-11) was added to affirm the foundation of Israel's beginnings in the cosmic order of creation.
- The God of Genesis is very involved in the ordinary, everyday, familiar activities of human life.
- We too are created, blessed, and called by God.



Big Ideas in GENESIS

God creates the world
and everything in it

God creates humans
in his own image

All that he created is good

Sin enters the world through
one man, Adam

Sin disrupts the harmony between
God and humans, humans and
each other, and humans and the
rest of God's creation

Only by faith can people
be reconciled to God

Through Abraham, God
enacts a plan to bless
the world and reverse
the effects of Adam's sin

Purpose: Genesis lays the historical and theological foundation for the rest of the Bible. The Bible is the story of God's redemption of his people.

- Genesis 1-11 tells why redemption is necessary: humans are rebels, unable to redeem themselves through four great events: creation, fall, flood, and Babel.
- Genesis 12-50 shows the steps God initiated to make a way for the Redeemer to come through the story of four great men: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.
- Genesis introduces themes that the rest of Scripture develops. It is necessary to make sense of the rest of the Bible.

Geographical Focus:

- Genesis 1-11 occurs generally in the Fertile Crescent.
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob location shifts between Haran and Canaan. The Joseph story shifts between Canaan and Egypt.

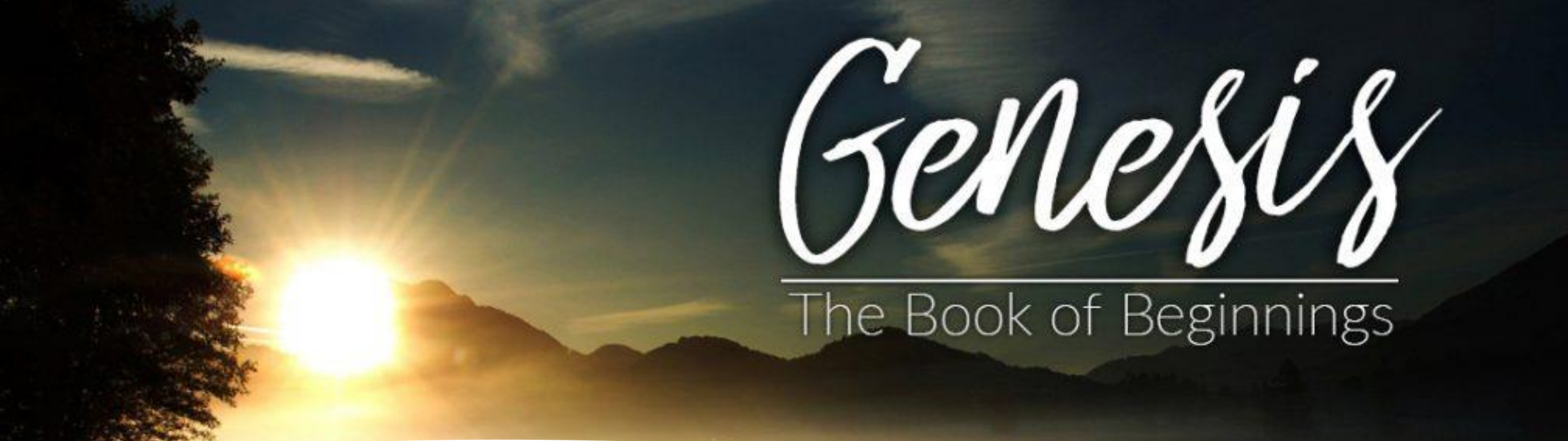
Genesis means Beginning

Themes in Genesis

Creation, Death, Flood, Covenant, Providence

- The account of creation of the world and humankind in God's image and his relationship with his people.
- God's plan for redemption, the covenant of grace, transformation of the sinner, and the obedience and faith of man – all told through the stories and characters in Genesis.
- Mankind's fall and predicament.
- Faith and obedience in response to God's call.
- Nothing is impossible for God.
- Judgment and hope for a renewed creation.
- God's authority demonstrated by his covenants
- God's providential care over his covenant people.

Genesis: An Affirmation of Faith

A scenic background image showing a bright sun setting behind a range of mountains. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with some clouds. The sun is on the left side, and its light creates a lens flare effect. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright sky.

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

Key Events in This Week's Reading

- Creation of the World (GE 1)
- Garden of Eden (GE 2)
- Cain and Abel (GE 4)
- The Descendants of Adam (GE 5)
- Noah and the Flood (GE 6-9)
- The Tower of Babel (GE 11)
- The Call of Abram (GE 12)
- Abraham and Sarah (GE 12-23)
- The Sacrifice of Isaac (GE 22)

Genesis 1-11 Video

[Link to Video](#)



Prehistory: Genesis 1-11

- God brought form to the formless and filled emptiness with life through divine speech. God spoke to create.
- People were lovingly created in God's own image for the purpose of having a relationship with God.
- The names in early stories (Adam, Eve, Cain, Able, Noah) are larger-than-life archetypes that represent the complex relationship between humankind and God.
- Specific events (Garden of Eden, Noah and the flood, tower of Babel) broadly represent God's creative interaction with humans.
- God is intimately involved in the daily affairs of human people.



Parallel Literary Structures in Genesis 1

The literary ordering of Genesis 1 depicts God as creating ordered environments (Days 1-3) and then filling those with corresponding inhabitants (Days 4-6). God takes control of the world in his rest (Day 7).

ENVIRONMENTS	INHABITANTS
1. LIGHT (= DAY) vv. 3-5	4. LIGHTS vv. 14-19
2. DOME CEILING vv. 6-8 SKY vv. 6-7A SEAS v. 7B	5. INHABITANTS vv. 20-23 BIRDS IN THE SKY FISH IN THE SEAS
3. DRY LAND vv. 9-10 VEGETATION vv. 11-12	6. LAND ANIMALS vv. 24-25 HUMANS vv. 26-31
7. GOD'S REST	



Is Genesis True?

- The stories are not merely myth – they proclaim God.
- The authors borrowed from other creation stories to express the strong belief that the one God of Israel is the God of all creation.
- The Bible does not address the details of how or when creation occurred.
- The stories are pre-scientific. They are a confession and affirmation of faith.
- The answer: Yes. God creates order out of chaos and creates everything in goodness.
- The Creator God is superior to the deities worshipped by neighboring peoples.

God Always Existed

- God was not created.
- God has always existed as one God in three persons
 - God the Father
 - God the Son
 - God the Holy Spirit
- The relational nature of God is expressed in the Trinity.



DISCUSSION

What characteristics of God are shown through the creation?



Image of God



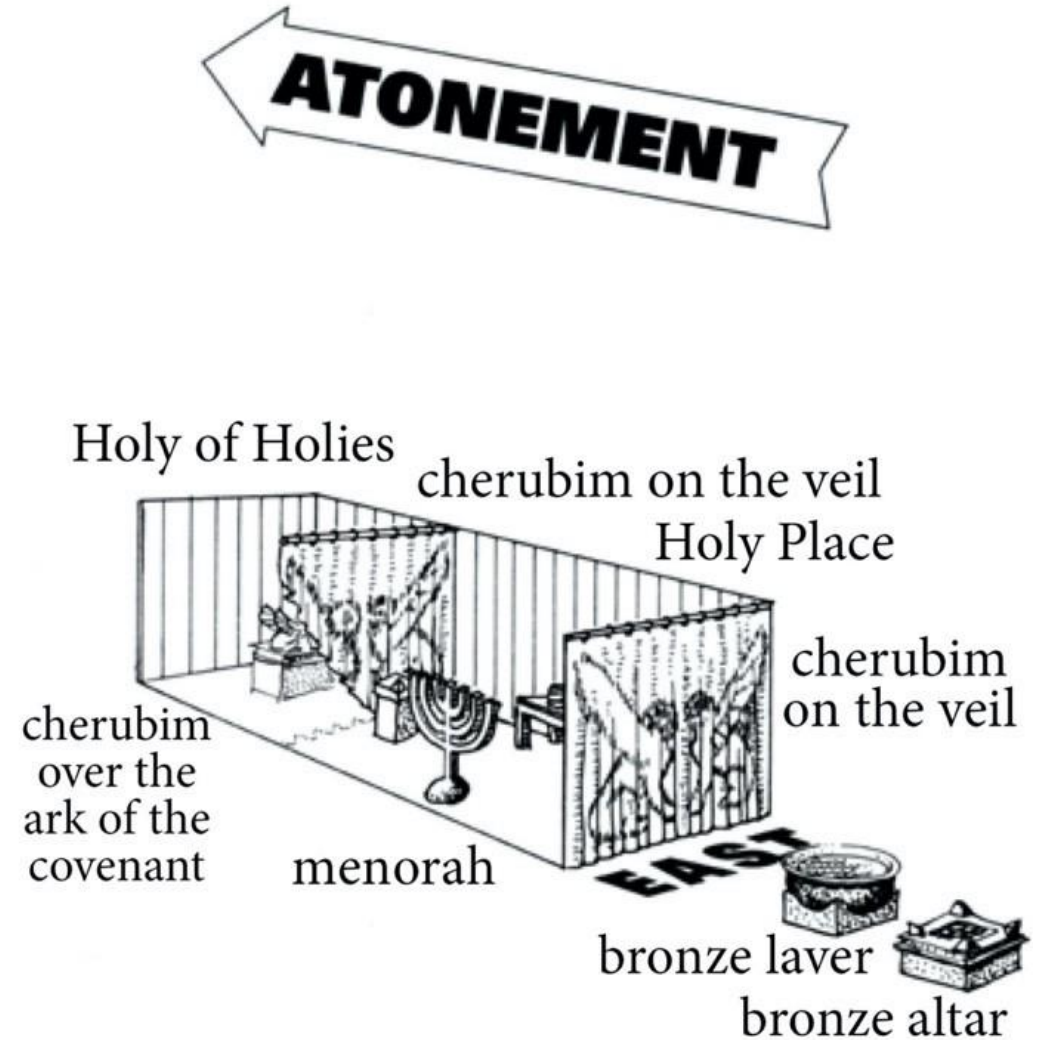
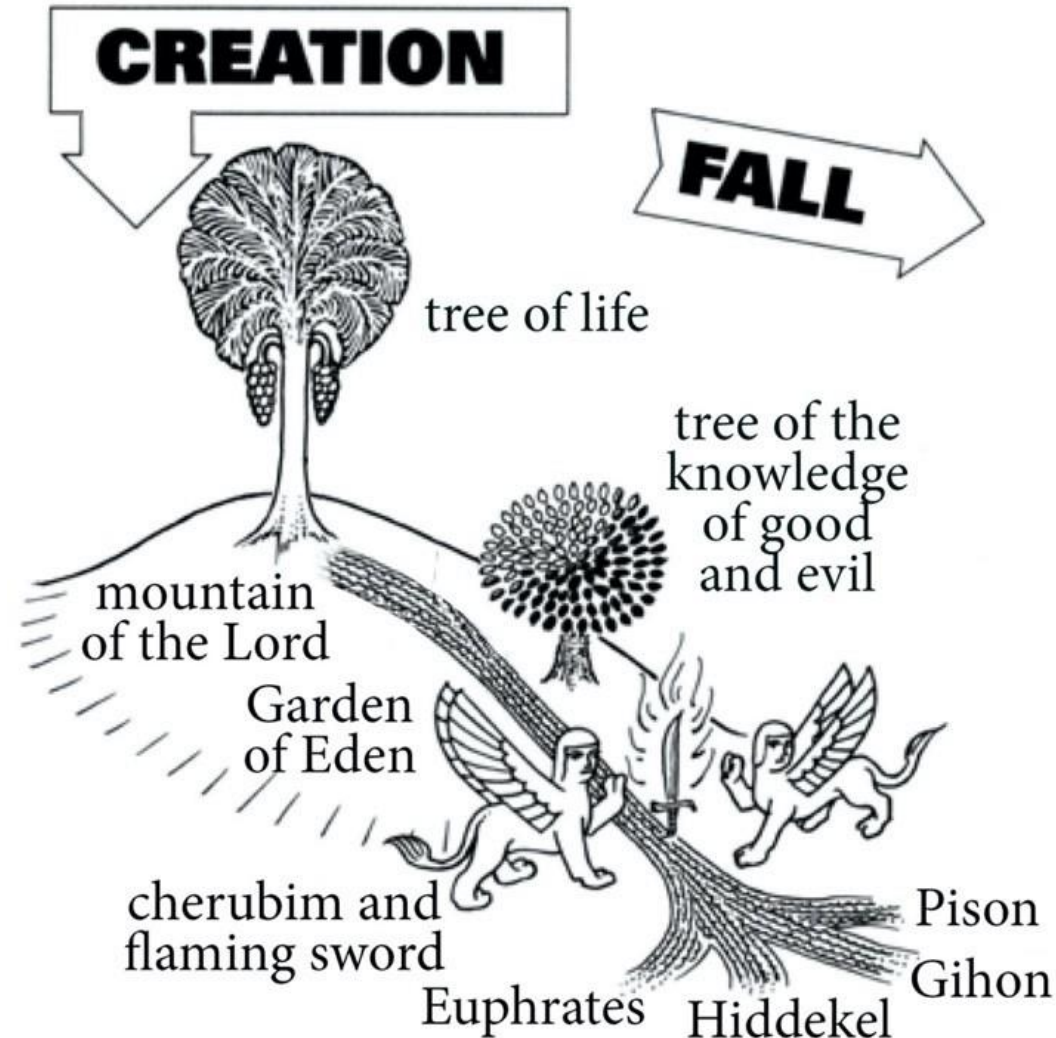
Image of God Video

[Link to Video](#)



“The garden of Eden is not portrayed in Genesis simply as a piece of farmland, but as an archetypal sanctuary, where God dwells and where man should worship him. Many of the features of the garden are found in later sanctuaries particularly the tabernacle or Jerusalem temple. These parallels suggest that the garden itself is understood as a sort of sanctuary.”

The Garden of Eden Models the Temple



The Fall: The Battle Against Temptation

- Adam and Eve represent all that humanness entails. Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect relationship with until they chose to willfully disobey him.
- In the biblical world snakes were variously symbolic of life, wisdom, and chaos.
- Adam and Eve decide to define good and evil on their own terms. Sin is essentially man's failure to trust God.
- Their failure to show fidelity to God shows their need for justification and sanctification through grace.



Human Sin and Its Results

GEN 3, 4

SUSPICION OF
GOD'S GOODNESS,
SELF-DECEPTION

QUEST FOR WISDOM
AND GOODNESS
APART FROM THE
CREATOR

JEALOUSY, MURDER

HUMANS ESTABLISH
CITIES WHICH ARE
CORRUPTED BY
SIN AND VIOLENCE

GEN 6

SPIRITUAL BEINGS,
"THE SONS OF GOD"
DEFY GOD'S GOOD
ORDER

HUMANS BECOME
MORALLY CORRUPT
AND RUIN GOD'S
WORLD AND EACH
OTHER

GEN 11

HUMAN ARROGANCE
AND DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
FROM GOD

NAÏVE TRUST IN
TECHNOLOGICAL
PROGRESS

DISCUSSION

Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden until they chose to willfully disobey Him.

Why would God create us and give us the freedom to turn away from Him?



Cain and Abel



- Sin separates us from God, leading to competition, violence, and death.
- There is a continuing conflict between the presence of God and sin in every individual's life.
- God bridges chasms caused by our estrangements.
- Walking with God involves humbling ourselves to maintain our relationship with God.
- The story of Cain and Abel start with sacrifice to God and ends with Corporate worship. Worship is rooted in the creation narrative of the People of God.

The Flood

- Noah lived many, many generations after Adam and Eve, when everyone alive was wicked except Noah and his family.
- God told Noah to build an enormous ark that would rescue his family and all animal species from destruction by a flood.
- Noah, his wife, and 3 sons (Japheth, Shem, and Ham) and their wives spent 120 years obediently building the ark and 375 days in the ark.
- Noah had a relationship with God before building the ark. He already knew God well.
- God entered into covenant with Noah and sealed the covenant with the rainbow.
- Our hope for all new beginnings emanates from God, who remembers.



*The Noahic Covenant [Genesis 9:8-17]:
God will never again deal with
wickedness by sending a flood to cover the
earth. The rainbow is an everlasting sign
of this covenant that God made with all
generations.*

The Covenants Video

[Link to Video](#)



The Tower of Babel

- The story occurred many generations after Noah.
- The city of Babel (Babylon) was the summit of human accomplishment.
- The people of Babel confused their great advancements with a lack of a need for God.
- Humans overreach in their knowledge and realm of God. This was Eve's problem as well.
- In their rebellion against God, the people of Babel try to reach to the heavens and become god-like.
- What happens in Babel foreshadows a future exile in Babylon and will be reversed at Pentecost (Acts 2) when languages can miraculously be understood.
- The creation narrative began with God ordering chaos and ends with the chaotic scattering and confused tongues of God's people.



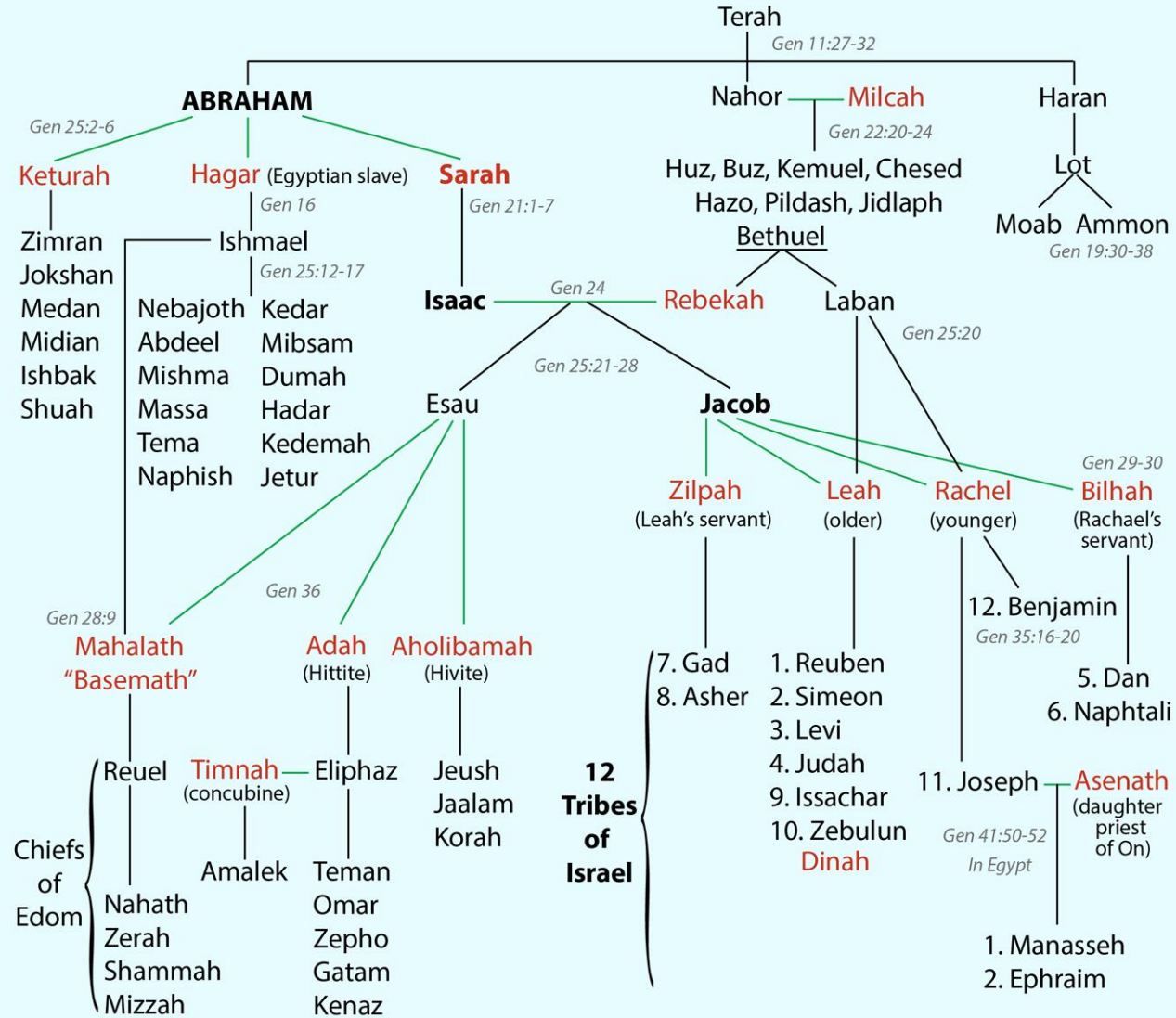
Genesis 12-50: The People of God

- We move from prehistory of the cosmos into the history of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the People of God.
- Abraham and Sarah are historical individuals uniquely chosen to begin a family of heirs to the promise of God.
- The with-God stories of these people help us interpret our own.
- The call of Abraham initiates a journey of faith.
- God's intimate involvement in the lives of his people can be seen through this complex family.

Timeframe of Abraham: ~ 2000 B.C.



GENEALOGY OF ABRAHAM



GENEALOGY OF JESUS

Luke 3:23-38

GOD Adam Seth Enosh Cainan Mahalalel Jared Enoch Methuselah Lamech Noah Shem Arphaxad Cainan Shelah
 Terah Nahor Serug Reu Peleg Eber

Matthew 1:1-17

14 generations from Abraham to David

Abraham Isaac Jacob Judah Perez Hezron Ram Amminadab Nahshon Salmon Boaz Obed Jesse David

14 generations from David until captivity in Babylon

David Solomon Rehoboam Abijah Asa Jehoshaphat Joram Uzziah Jotham Ahaz Hezekiah Manasseh Amon Josiah Jeconiah Shealtiel Zerubbabel Abiud Eliakim Azor Zadok Achim Eliud Eleazar Matthan Jacob

14 generations from captivity in Babylon until Christ

Joseph (Father of Mary, Grandfather of Jesus) Mary (NOT Husband of Mary)

David Nathan Mattathah Menan Melea Eliakim Jonan Joseph Judah Simeon Levi Matthat Jorim Eliezer Jose Er Elmodam Cosam Addi Melchi Neri Shealtiel Zerubbabel Rhesa Joannas Judah Joseph Semei Mattathiah Maath Naggai Esli Nahum Amos Mattathiah Joseph Janna Melchi Levi Matthat Heli (Husband of Mary, Adoptive Father of Jesus)

JESUS

Conforming To Jesus.com

Divine Speech

- God tells Abram to GO.
- Despite the waywardness of humans, God refused to abandon the creation. The themes of promise, blessing, judgment, redemption, and faithfulness continue with Abram's family.
- God's continues to call us into a close divine-human relationship.

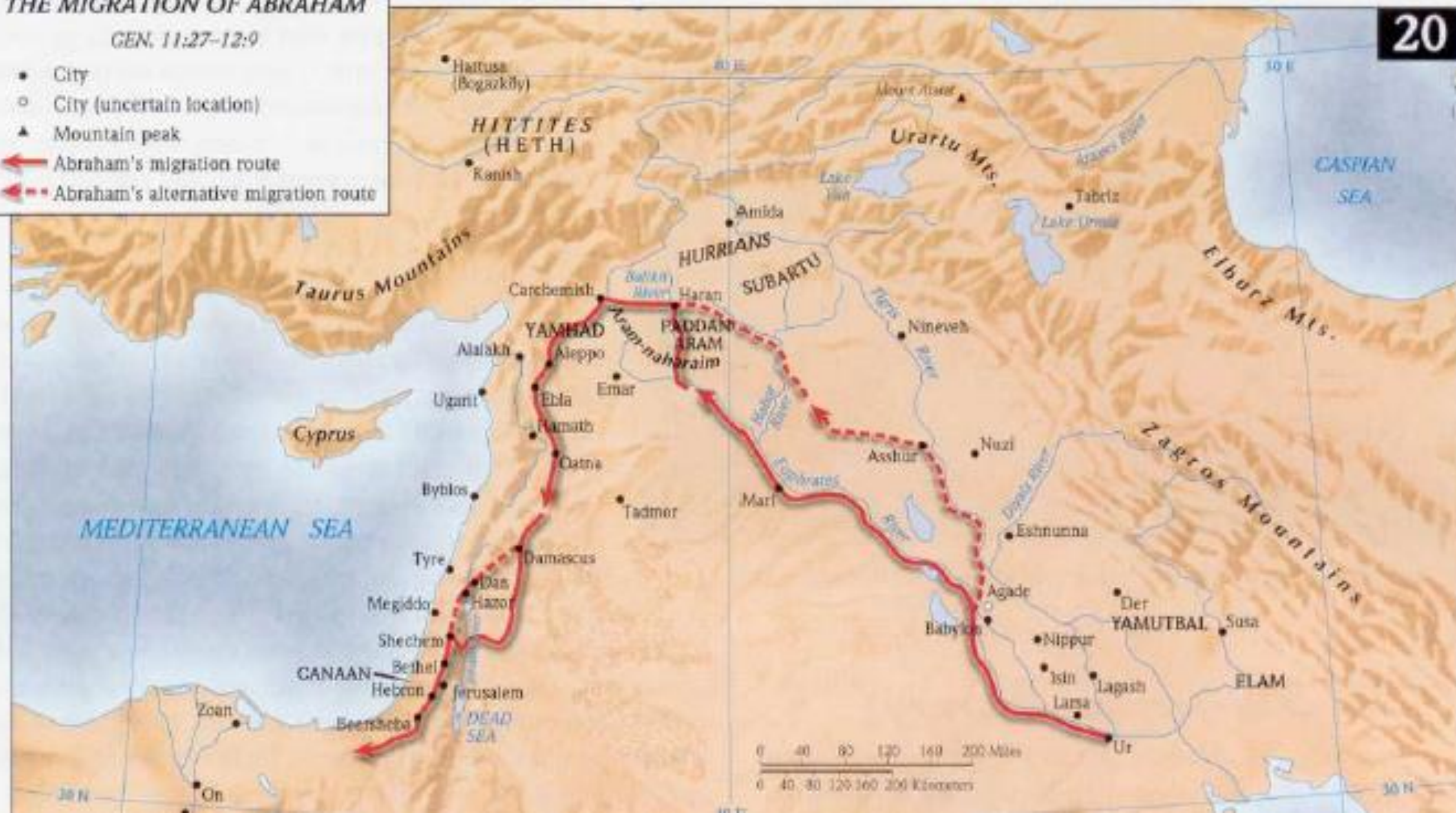


THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM

GEN. 11:27-12:9

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Abraham's migration route
- ← - - - Abraham's alternative migration route

20



Abraham travels to Canaan (Genesis 12:1-22:13)

- Abraham and his family travel from the idol worshipping city of Ur to Haran.
- Abraham, Sarah, and Lot (Abraham's nephew) travel from Haran to Canaan.
- God changed Abram's name to Abraham which means ancestor of a multitude and Sarai's name to Sarah (princess).
- Sarah was barren but at age 90 gave birth to Isaac (promised son).



The Abrahamic Covenant

God promised Abraham a land (the Promised Land), a son (Isaac), many descendants, and a blessing to all people through one of Abraham's descendants (Jesus).

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

[Genesis 12:1-3]



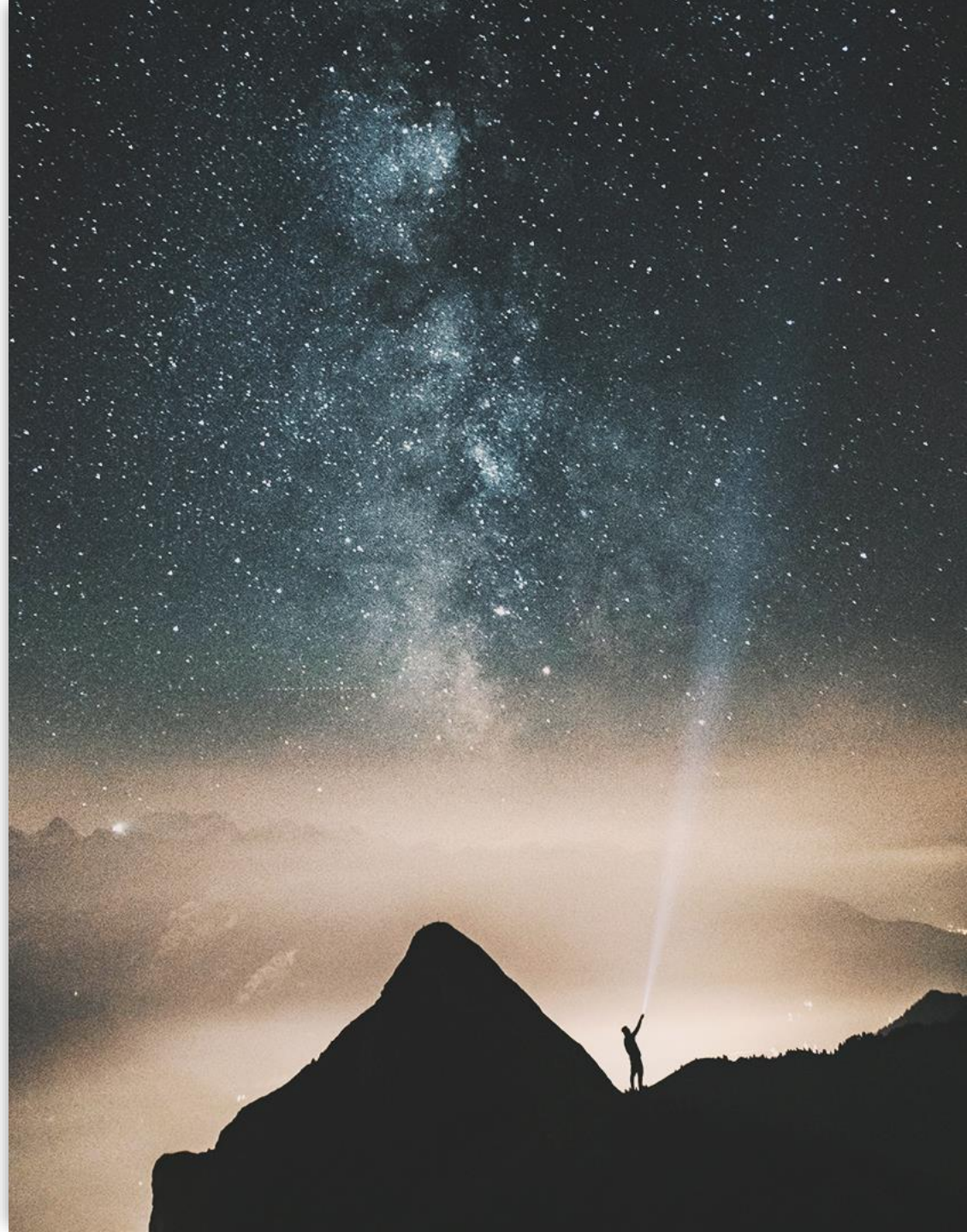
God's Plan to Rescue Humanity Through His Covenant With the Family of Abraham

- God chooses one family out of the scattered nations so He can rescue all nations.
- The promise to Abraham consists of a number of key elements that are developed in GE:12-22:
 - Abraham and Sarah Grow Into a Nation (GE 12:1, 15:5, 17:1-8)
 - Abraham will inherit the land of Canaan (GE 12:7, 15:17-21)
 - Abraham's name will be great (in contrast to the Babel Builders (GE 11:4)
 - All nations will find blessing through Abraham's family (GE 12:3; 18:18; 22:18)



God's Blessing: The Foundational Biblical Storyline

- God blessed humanity in the beginning (GE 1:26-28)
- Humanity forfeited God's blessing through rebellion and sin and brought about the curse of fractured relationships and death (GE 3:14-19)
- God restored the promise of blessing for humanity through the line of Noah and then Abraham (GE 9:1, 12:1-3; 18:18, 22:18)
- God Repeats the promise to each generation after Abraham (Next week's readings: GE 26-48)
- Paul described the church as those who have received the blessing of Abraham in Messiah Jesus and become part of his family (EPH 1:3; RO 4)



Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot

- Lot is a believer, like Abraham, but makes choices that put him and his family close to evil.
- God is in relationship with Abraham and converses with him.
- Rejection of God's ordering governance creates a violent, uninhabitable place.
- As Noah is saved from the flood, Lot is saved from the destruction of these cities. God's severe judgment is always coupled with saving grace.
- Lot, through his daughters, fathered the Moabites and Ammonites, who will struggle against Israel in future years.





The Binding of Isaac

- God's request to for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac remarkable given the importance attached to Isaac's birth.
- Abraham had faith that God would never have Isaac as a sacrifice.
- The test of Abraham's obedience results in a divine oath that guarantees the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham.
- The test forms a fitting climax to the story of Abraham's relationship with God.
- This sacrifice I traditionally thought to have happened on the temple mount in what would be Jerusalem.
- The binding is often compared to Christ's crucifixion. The Lamb of God (the ram) died for the sins of others (Isaac).

DISCUSSION

How do you think you would have reacted to God's instruction to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice?

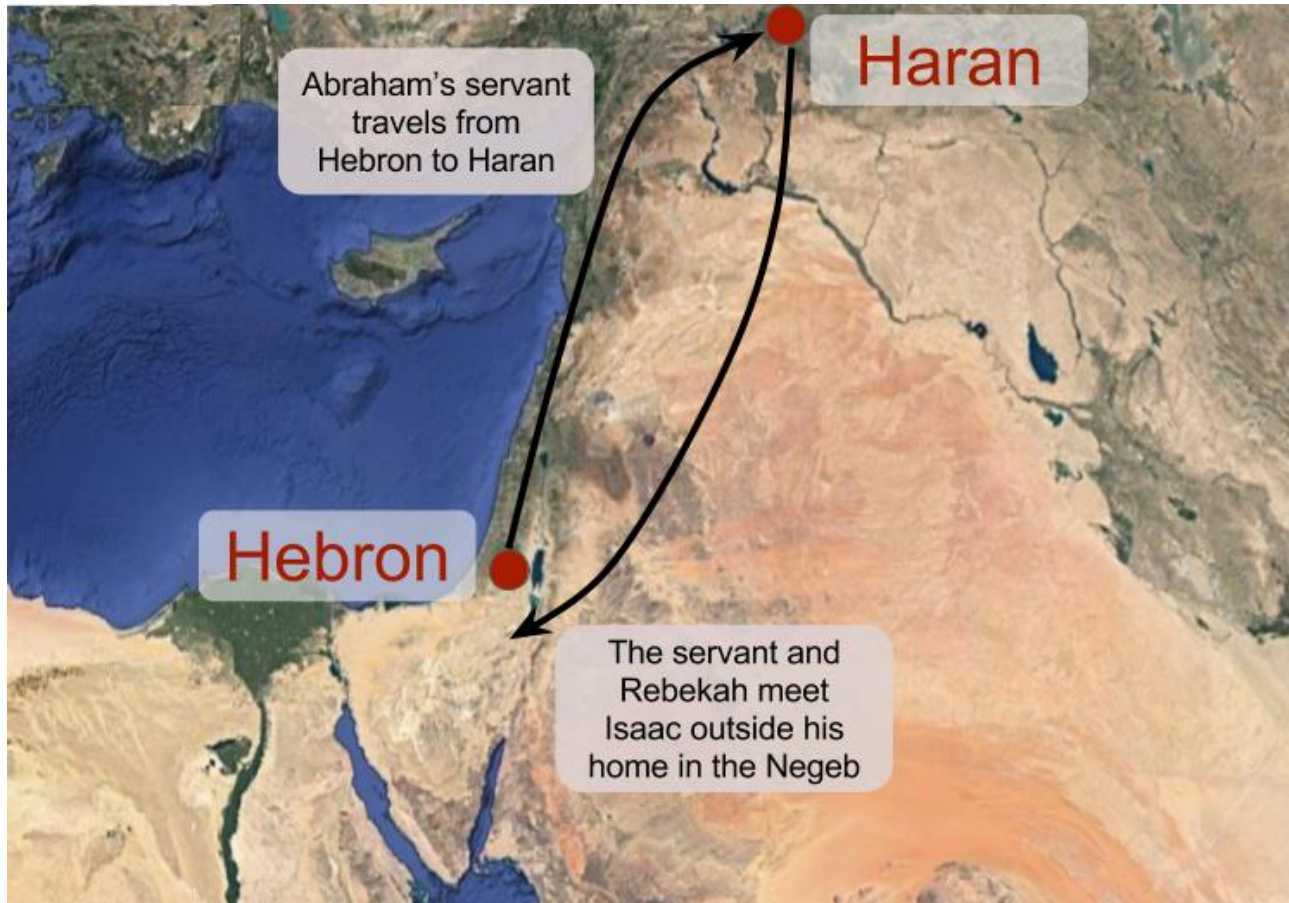




Sarah's Death and Burial

- Abraham purchases a burial plot when Sarah dies.
- This burial plot is in the land of Canaan. The first property Abraham owns is in the promised land.
- This story shows movement toward fulfillment of God's promise.

Isaac Seeks a Wife from Haran (Genesis 24:1-67)



- Abraham did not want Isaac to choose a wife from among the idol worshippers in Canaan
- He sent a servant to the home of his brother Nahor in Haran to find a suitable wife for Isaac.
- Nahor's granddaughter, Rebekkah, agreed to leave Haran and travel to Canaan to marry her cousin Isaac
- Isaac and Rebekkah had twin sons: Esau (Edom) and Jacob.

Additional Resources

- Video: [Abraham and Melchizedek](#)
- Video: [Blessings and Curse](#)
- Video: [The Test](#)



Closing
Worship:

Oh God of
Abraham

[Link to Video](#)



Abraham and Melchizedek

[Link to Video](#)

The Royal Priest Series

Abraham and Melchizedek Q+R



Blessings and Curse Video

[Link to Video](#)



Does God Test People?

[Link to Video](#)



Genesis tells the story of God’s purpose and plan for his creation and demonstrates God’s sovereignty, and the Love God has for His creation. Genesis tells why redemption is needed and presents the first steps in God’s bringing people into right relationship with him. It is written as an affirmation of faith and proclamation of God. Everything begins with God, who elects a people of his own. Genesis is the origin of major themes of Scripture: God’s creation of the universe, humanity’s origin and mission, mankind’s fall and predicament, God’s authority, human responsibility and divine sovereignty, God’s judgement, God’s justice and mercy, God’s plan for redemption, the covenant of grace, transformation of the sinner, and the obedience and faith of man -- all told through the stories of the pioneers of the faith.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: GE 1:1—4:26
 Day 2: GE 5:1– 6:22
 Day 3: GE 7:1 – 8:22
 Day 4: GE 9:1 – 11:32
 Day 5: GE 12:1 – 15:21
 Day 6: GE 16:1—20:18
 Day 7: GE 21:1 – 24:67

Outline

The creation (Day 1)
 Man’s Rebellion: sin, death and judgement
 The Fall (Day 1)
 The Judgement of the Flood (Days 2-4)
 The Judgement on the Tower of Babel (Day 4)
 The Life of Abraham (Days 4-7)
 The Birth of Ishmael (Day 6)
 The Birth of Isaac (Day 7)

Key Characters

Adam	Eve
Cain	Abel
Enoch	Noah
Japheth	Shem
Ham	Terah
Abraham	Sarah
Nahor	Lot
Hagar	Ishmael
Isaac	Rebekah

Key Locations

Garden of Eden
 Mesopotamia
 Babylon/Babel
 Ur
 Haran
 Egypt
 Sodom and Gomorrah
 Canaan
 Mt. Moriah

Key Terms

Beginning
 Covenant, promise, swear
 Blessing
 Descendants
 Land (Canaan)
 Sin, evil, wickedness
 Sacrifice

Key Verses

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth [GE 1:1]

So God created man in his own image [GE 1:27]

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you. [GE 12:2-3]

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. [GE 17:7]

Teachings About God

- Reveals God as creator.
- The Spirit of God is mentioned (GE 1:2; 6:3).
- God is righteous in his commands
- God delights in walking in fellowship with his people
- God promises to never again destroy the world because of its sin; instead, he sacrifices his own Son to undermine the power of sin (GE 8:21-22)
- God judges when humankind disobeys.
- God uses imperfect, flawed people to advance his kingdom.

Teachings About Humanity

- Mankind alone was made in “the image of God.” (GE 1:26)
- Mankind is bent on finding their own way, apart from God (GE 11:1-9)
- Humanity is shameful, demonstrated by three incidents: the fall, the flood, and Babel. All three events portray humans as sinners in need of a Savior.
- The people of God underestimate the power of God to supersede natural law (GE 18:13-14).

Teachings About Salvation

- Genesis shows why redemption is needed and presents the first steps in God’s bringing a people into right relationship with him.
- Abraham shows a pattern of salvation for all the redeemed. Abram believed the LORD and he credited it to him as righteousness (GE 15:6)
- God’s makes covenants with his people.
- The incident of the death of a ram instead of Isaac points to a substitutionary understanding of sacrifice.
- GE 12-50 shows the beginning of God’s covenant people.

Reflections of Christ

- Christ is the co-creator of creation (GE 1:26)
- Adam is a representation of Jesus (GE 2:15)
- Christ as redeemer first promised. He will fight for humanity (GE 3:15)
- Jesus is metaphorically our ark as he saves us from God’s judgment (GE 7:23-24)
- Just as God’s plan was to bless all nations through Abram, Jesus fulfills the covenant. (GE 12:2-3)
- Melchizedek, like Jesus, is king and priest (GE 14:18-20; Hebrews 5:1-10)
- God provides a substitute for Isaac’s sacrifice (GE 22:8) in the same way He provided Christ as our substitute through his death.
- Through Abraham’s seed, Jesus Christ, all families of the earth will be blessed.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Historical narrative. Selective history of the entire human race (GE 1-11).
- Poetry/Poetic Prose (GE 1:1-2:3, 3:14-19)
- Genealogy (GE 5)

Author/Date of Writing

- Moses, ~1445 BC
- Began as an oral tradition of narrative stories passed down generation to generation.

First Audience

- The Israelites at Mount Sinai

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE1: God created the heavens, the earth and everything that lives. He made humankind in his image, and gave them charge over the earth.

GE2: God formed a man and gave him the garden in Eden, except the tree of good and evil. Adam was alone so God made a woman as his partner.

GE3: The serpent deceived the woman. She and Adam ate from the tree. The ground was cursed, and God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden.

GE4: Eve's sons made offerings to the LORD. Only Abel's was acceptable, so Cain killed him. Abel's blood cried out and God sent Cain away.

GE5: Adam's line was: Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah. Noah's sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth.

GE6: Humankind corrupted the earth with evil. God decided to destroy them. He told Noah to build an ark to be saved from the flood.

GE7: Noah and his family went into the ark with two of each creature. It rained for forty days and forty nights and the earth was covered.

GE8: The flood abated. Noah sent out a raven and two doves. When the earth was dry God called them all out of the ark. Noah built an altar.

GE9: God blessed Noah and set the rainbow as a sign that he would never flood the earth again. Noah got drunk and cursed Ham's son Canaan.

GE10: Japheth's line lived in the coastlands; Ham's included Nimrod and the Canaanites; Shem's lived in the East. These formed the nations.

GE11: They began building a great tower for themselves, but the Lord confused their language. Shem's line included Abram who married Sarai.

GE12: God told Abram, "Go, I will make you a great nation. You will be a blessing." In Egypt Abram lied about Sarai and Pharaoh was cursed.

GE13: Abram journeyed with his nephew Lot. Their servants argued, so Lot went to Sodom, Abram to Canaan. The LORD promised Abram the land.

GE14: The kings went to war and took Lot captive. Abram rescued Lot. Melchizedek blessed Abram and Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE15: The Lord promised Abram an heir and many descendants. Abram believed. He was told that they would be enslaved but would then return.

GE16: Sarai told Abram to have children with Hagar. Hagar conceived, then ran away, but an angel sent her back. Hagar's son was Ishmael.

GE17: God made a covenant with Abram and renamed him Abraham. He renamed Sarai Sarah and promised them a son. The men were circumcised.

GE18: Three visitors came and said that Sarah would have a son next year. Sodom was very evil; Abraham pleaded with the LORD for the city.

GE19: Angels took Lot out of Sodom. The city was destroyed by fire and Lot's wife was turned to salt. His daughters had children for him.

GE20: In Gerar Abraham said, "Sarah is my sister." King Abimelech took her but God warned him in a dream. He restored Sarah to Abraham.

GE21: As promised, Sarah had a son: Isaac. She had Hagar and Ishmael sent away but God preserved them. Abraham and Abimelech made a treaty.

GE22: God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. As Abraham obeyed, an angel stopped him. The LORD provided a ram instead and blessed Abraham.

GE23: Sarah died in Kiriath-arba. Abraham asked the Hittites for a burial site. He bought a cave from Ephron and buried Sarah there.

GE24: Abraham's servant went to Nahor to find a wife for Isaac. He met Rebekah by the well. She went back with him and married Isaac.

WEEK 1 QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What did I learn about God?

- How does God being the creator of all in the universe and the world help define who God is? What characteristics of God are shown through the creation?
- If God is light, what did things look like before creation? Could it be anything other than light?
- What is God's Image? What characteristics of God was man expected to follow to be "in his image"?
- What character traits are displayed in God's decision to "Bless" all nations through Abraham? How does God continue to bless us today?
- What does God's openness to Abraham's requests to save Sodom tell you about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden until they chose to willfully disobey Him. Why would God create us and give us the freedom to turn away from Him? What are the temptations today that cause people to turn from God? When do people tend to turn toward God?
- How did humans (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Lot and his family, Rebecca and Isaac) make decisions that threatened or supported God's plan? How does this challenge/comfort us?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you respond when you see all the things God created? How does having a Sabbath allow you to appreciate God and all He created?
- How does being made in the image of God impact your view of yourself? When do you see the image of God reflected in others? In yourself?
- If you were asked by God to create an ark (like Noah) or leave family and friends and start a new life in a strange land (Abraham) what would the reaction be? By you? By your family? By friends? By society? How do you generally react when you feel God is leading you to do something? Have you ever felt you were in this situation?
- How do you react when God scatters your projects and plans (like the Tower of Babel or Sarah and Haggai)?
- How do you think you would have reacted to God's instruction to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice?
- When you talk to God, what do you expect God to do?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- How does the view of the earth during ancient times impact the way we understand the story of the creation?
- How does the story of creation in the Bible differ from the creation stories of other cultures (narratives on pages 4 and 5 of study Bible)?
- How does the story of the flood differ from flood stories in other ancient traditions? (narrative page 10, 11 and 12)
- Discuss how the culture led Sarah to try to "take things into her own hands" with getting an heir for Abraham (narrative pg 33)