



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#1 - This Is the Account of...
Psalm 78:1-8

PICTURES NEEDED

1-1 Moses talking to the people

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- Since this lesson marks the beginning of a new study there is no journal, lesson or Bible verse review. Instead the review time should highlight the beginning of a new study.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions are derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

What is the Bible? The Bible is the Word of God.

Who wrote the Bible? God spoke to prophets who wrote down what he said.

Into what two main parts is the Bible divided? The Old Testament and the New Testament.

What is the difference between the Old and New Testaments? The Old Testament is the part of the Bible that God gave to the Jewish people before Jesus came to earth. The New Testament is the part of the Bible that tells about Jesus' life and teachings, the early church and the doctrines (beliefs) of Christianity.

Which is the first book of the Bible? The first book is Genesis.

What does genesis mean? Genesis means beginning and the first three words of the Bible in the book of Genesis are "In the beginning...", giving us the name for this year's study. Since the Bible says that creation and history speak of God, we need to take the time to stop and listen, or we will miss what they have to say. To learn more about God and the history of mankind we will spend a whole year going through the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which contain the accounts of creation and the beginning of human history.

The importance of understanding who God is, his Word and the things he has done is laid out in Psalm 78.

Psalm 78:1-8 (NIV84)

¹ O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- ³what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. ⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, ⁶so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. ⁸They would not be like their forefathers-- a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

What does God command parents to teach their children? God tells parents that they need to teach their children his praiseworthy deeds and the statutes he has decreed.

What are deeds? Actions that are performed intentionally or consciously.

What are God's praiseworthy deeds? The creation of all that exists, the giving of his law, and the redemption that comes through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross are all praiseworthy deeds.

What are statutes? Statutes are written laws, decrees or regulations.

What are God's statutes? God's statutes are the laws, decrees and regulations in the Bible.

Why are parents to teach their children the deeds and statutes of God? If children don't understand who God is and what he has decreed, they won't put their trust in God and obey what he has commanded.

What will happen if children fail to learn the deeds and statutes of God? People who don't know God and the way they should go become stubborn and rebellious.

Why will that happen? They will have no fear of God. They won't understand who God is and that they are accountable to him for their thoughts, words and deeds.

Before we begin the study of Genesis, we want to establish the purpose for its writing. Ten times in Genesis the phrase "This is an account of...", occurs, dividing the book into sections of history. The first time this is seen is in Genesis 2:4 where it says, "*This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.*"

What does it mean to give an account? If I give you an account of something that means I am carefully relating a correct description of what took place. Genesis is a correct account or report of creation and the beginning of history. It is a narrative or description of both the creation of the physical world and the beginning of human society.

Who wrote the book of Genesis? The account of Genesis was written by the prophet Moses. The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses and are called the Pentateuch. (Penta in Greek means five.)

Who is Moses? **(picture 1-1)** Moses was a prophet of God. He led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and was the one to whom God gave the Ten Commandments.

Who were the Israelites? The Israelites were the people through whom God chose to reveal himself more fully to all mankind. They are referred to by different names: the Jews, the Hebrews, and the people of God.

Besides the story of creation, what else does the book of Genesis include? It is the account of the beginning of human history, starting with the creation of Adam and Eve.

Why do we need to study history? To be wise we need to learn from those who have lived before us. Deuteronomy 32:7 says, *Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.*

If we are smart, we will study the Bible and learn from those who have lived before us. We become better educated through learning about their failures and successes.

Jorge Santayana, a famous Spanish philosopher, said that, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." What does that mean? If we don't study the past and the things people have done before us and see the consequences of their actions, we will make the same mistakes they did.

Moses carefully related the story of creation and the history and genealogy of Adam and Eve and their offspring so we would know and follow the truth. Moses, who spoke with God, wrote down what he knew to be true so that we would have a way to know God more fully.

What can we learn about God through the study of his creation? Through the general revelation of God in creation, we can know the power and wisdom of God. The voice of creation speaks to all people everywhere revealing that there is a creator God who has all power and wisdom. When we have eyes to see, we understand the design and intricacy of creation and are amazed at the majesty of God.

What can we learn about God through the study of his statutes in the Bible? Through the written revelation of God contained in the Bible, we can know the character and heart of God. The voice of history and of truth written in the Bible reveals to us the nature of God and the consequences of people going their own way rather than God's way.

What does history show us about people in relationship to God? History shows us how people are fallen, rebel against God, and need a savior. Jesus, the Son of God, entered human history and made a way for all people who believe in him to escape the burden of and punishment for their sin.

Knowing and entering a relationship through Jesus Christ is the means by which we are saved, knowing, understanding and living out the Word of God is the means by which we become wise.

What is wisdom? Wisdom is knowing what is right to do and doing it.

What is the benefit of becoming wise? Having wisdom leads to living a good life.

How do we become wise? Proverbs 9:10 says, The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

What is the fear of the Lord? The fear of the Lord is the understanding of who God is, that he knows and sees everything, and that we are accountable to him for our thoughts, words and actions.

Why is that the beginning of wisdom? If we fear God, we will choose to know him, study his word to know what is right to do and then do it. Following God's ways will make us wise and keep us from making bad choices.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What is an account? What is Genesis an account of? Who wrote Genesis? Why did he write Genesis?
- **Thought Questions:** How do we know we can trust the account of creation and history related in Genesis? What is the result of trusting the Genesis account? What is the consequence of not trusting Genesis?
- **Prayer:** Thank God for the history of creation and his people that is recorded in the Bible. Thank him for the evidence in creation itself and other recorded history that substantiates the truth of the Bible. Pray that as you study the Bible you will grow in understanding of him and our tendency to rebel against him. Pray that this study would cause you to devote yourself more fully to God, learn from him, and become wise.

- **The Big Question:** How do we become wise?
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Questions: What is the fear of the Lord? Why is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Genesis is the first book of the Bible.

1. Genesis was written down by the prophet Moses.
2. Genesis describes how God created the heavens and the earth.
3. Genesis gives an account of history and tells the story of mankind.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** The Book of Genesis

Instructions: Look up the following verses in the book of Genesis to find out who Genesis gives an account of. Find the names in the word search puzzle.

5:1 – Adam’s line

25:12 – Ishmael

6:9 – Noah

25:19 – Isaac

10:1 – Shem, Ham, Japheth (Noah’s sons)

36:1 – Esau

11:10 – Shem

37:2 – Jacob

11:27 – Terah

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Instructions:

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the lesson notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.

4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Hebrews 11:24-28 Moses lived by faith.

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. He was a man of great faith; he trusted and followed God in all circumstances.

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Discussion Questions: What did Moses choose when he was older? Why did he choose that? What does that show about Moses?

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: What does the Bible tell us about God?

Reading 1: Isaiah 43:10-13 God is God.
Who is God? What has God done?

Reading 2: Isaiah 40:25-31 God is the creator and sustainer of all things.
Who is God? What does God do?

Reading 3: Job 28:20-28 Wisdom comes from God
Why does wisdom only come from God?

Reading 4: Hebrews 4:12-16 We will all be accountable to God.
What does God know about us? What does it mean to give an account? What will we receive when we stand before God? Why?

Reading 5: John 17:1-5 Jesus is God.
Who is Jesus? What did Jesus come to do?

Reading 6: John 17:20-26 Jesus is the way to the Father.
What was Jesus' prayer for believers? What did Jesus want for the world to see? Why?