

LESSON 2: FALL, FLOOD, & TOWER

OLD TESTAMENT 1

Introduction

Read **Genesis 1:31**.

Read **Genesis 6:5, 11-12**

Context

Historical Context -

Textual/Literary Context -

Redemptive-Historical Context -

Theme

Mankind's first parents decided to set themselves up as equals to God, and have disobeyed Him. In doing so they have incurred the just wrath of God and have been expelled from that pristine created order, where they will no longer enjoy that perfect fellowship with Him nor each other, nor rest and peace on earth. However, this is not the complete wrath they deserve, for God has already established a way by which the curse of sin will be overturned and the universe re-created to its original state.

Outline With Pivotal Texts

- I. **Genesis 2:4-4:26¹**
The Dawn of Humanity – 2 Seeds
- II. **Genesis 5:1-6:8**
The Descendants of Adam and Their Sin
- III. **Genesis 6:9-9:29**

¹ These divisions are not arbitrary, but determined by the text. Notice each section begins with the Hebrew word *Toledot*. It is translated by these words in English: "genealogy," "generations", "account," "family history," "ancestral narrative." This repetition shows a natural break in Moses' writing.

The Punishment for Sin: Un-Creating the Universe...
and Grace: Re-Creating the Universe

IV. **Genesis 10:1-11:9**

Humanity after the Flood: Still Sinful

V. **Genesis 11:10-26**

The Seed of the Woman Continues On

Theme Texts

2:15-17

Part of man's responsibility as kings under God's greater Kingship, is to obey God.

- The tree is a symbol that, though they are given great privilege and many freedoms,² they are nonetheless *not God*.
- To "know" good and evil = to determine what is good and evil.
- With this tree, God is saying to Adam and Eve, "I alone have the right to determine what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong in my universe. Remember that my children, or there will be dire consequences."

3:1-24

Read **Genesis 3:1-5**.

- The serpent = The devil (Revelation 12:9), a created angel in rebellion against God.
- The lie: "I am like God. I know what's good and what's evil."
- Notice that Eve's confusion about what God has said—she misquotes Him.

Look at **verse 6**.

- Adam and Eve both fell for it.
- By eating the fruit of the tree, they tried to supplant God and take their own seat at the head of the universe.

² In fact, they had freedom to eat of every tree as much as their little hearts desired.

Look at **verses 7-8**

- Immediately they are not behaving like gods, but like people ashamed of what they've done.
- They hide from each other (v7), and from God (v8).
- The death that was promised as a consequence in 2:17 has begun.

What God is going to do?

1. For Eve (v16)

- Childbearing will be painful.
- Woman's relationship with her husband will have difficulties and strife.
- But it will continue (grace).

2. For Adam (v17-19).

- His work will also no longer be restful or peaceful.
- No longer will he be able to control the environment.
- Yet again, Adam and Eve will still get to live on earth (grace).
- They are driven out of the presence of God (v23-24), but physical life *still* continues.
- Mankind will return to the dust from which he was taken (v19).

3. For the Serpent (v14-15)

- Enmity: *hostility to the point of killing each other.*

- **Three levels:**

1. Between the devil and the woman.

2. Between the woman's seed and the serpent's seed.

- Seed of the Serpent – some of those *physical* offspring of Eve who, like Satan, do not obey God, but will throughout their lives fall for the deceits of the devil.

- Seed of the Woman – Those of the physical offspring of Eve, who through faith and repentance, attempt (as much as one can in this fallen world) to follow and obey God.

John 8:44, *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*

1 John 3:8, *"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning."*

John 15:19, *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."*

1 John 3:13, *"Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you."*

3. *"He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

- Who is this One Seed? the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:8, *"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."*

- This victory over the devil and his works was accomplished on the cross.

John 12:31-33, *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.*

Colossians 2:13-15, *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

Hebrews 2:14-15, *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him*

who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

4:8, 25-26

- The rest of the Bible now is an outworking of this very verse, Genesis 3:15– the three levels of enmity being played out in history.
- Satan is always trying to destroy God's image bearer. *More specifically, he is using his own spiritual seed to corrupt or destroy the godly descendants of Eve, with the goal of preventing the One Seed, the Champion, from coming into the world and crushing him.*
- *Example: Cain killing Abel.*
 - Look at **Genesis 4:8**. So has the serpent won? Is the godly line ended? _____(V25-26)
- As the story though the Bible continues we ask:
 - *"Will Satan win at snuffing out the line? Or will the promises of God be fulfilled?"*
 - *God will always provide a way.*

5:1-32

- Chapter 5 lists out the godly line as it descends from Adam, through Seth.
- Sin and death linger and loom like the very real menace they are.
 - **Verses 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, and 31** all end with the same phrase: *"and he died."*
- Though godly to some extent, they are still sinners.

6:1-9:17

- In chapter 6 we see more of mankind's further and further descent into depravity and evil.
 - Read **6:5-7**. The wickedness and treachery and rebellion and dishonoring (not glorifying) of God has become so great that His patience has run out.
 - Read **7:11-12**. Now the sea is bursting forth to swallow up the land, and the skies are dumping all their rain.

- Read **7:19-22**. Much of the phraseology here is taken right out of Genesis 1 and 2 to help us see that judgment for sin is here experienced in the form of creation being undone.
- **How can God's promised Seed ever come to crush the head of the serpent if everyone is dead?**
 - God's judgment and wrath are again mixed with grace and mercy.
 - Read **6:8, 17-20**.
 - Read **8:1-2, 16-17, 21-22**.
- **Why did we need to go into all that detail about judgment taking on the form of un-creation, and grace taking on the form of re-creation?**
 - **Typology:** *God, in His providence and sovereignty, has done things in the Old Testament—caused events, created institutions, used people—to foreshadow something greater in the future, usually things about His Son Jesus Christ.*
 - The flood narrative in Genesis, the un-creating and re-creating, is a picture of a future, greater, cataclysmic undoing and redoing of the universe, not water this time, but by fire.
 - Read **2 Peter 3:5-7, 11-13**. The flood was real, but also a picture of a greater and final judgment and re-creation at the end of time.

11:1-9

- Mankind is again rebelling against God. God will once more execute judgment on them. And again that judgment will be mixed with grace.
 - **Read 11:4.**
 - Mankind wants a name for themselves instead of promoting God's name.
 - They don't want to be scattered over the earth instead of obeying God's command to multiply and fill the earth, by spreading out.
 - **Read 11:7-8.**
 - Their plans are halted, and one of the greatest attributes that comes from being created in the image of God, the gift of communication, is frustrated.

Conclusion: Redemptive-History Has Begun!

Application:

1. What are we struck with here is the real horror of sin.

If nothing is more important than God's glory, then nothing is more evil than trying to deny God the glory that is his. Therefore, nothing is more important than God vindicating his righteous glory by punishing sin and destroying those who mis-bear it.

2. Knowing God will hold us accountable for our actions should serve as a motivator toward holiness.

***2 Peter 3:11-12a**, "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God."*

3. No matter how righteous a life we lead relative to some worldly standard, we will never live up to God's standard of holiness.

4. We need to follow Christ by hearing and obeying the Word of God.

HOMEWORK: Briefly in your own words,

What do these scriptures teach us about God?

What do they teach us about man?

What are the implications of your answers above in your daily life?

What are some practical ways that can you weave these truths into your daily conversations?