

Genesis – Section 1

A Study in Genesis 12 weeks

- 01 – In The Beginning
- 02 – Creation
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This was originally an expository series of sermons given in the church where I was serving as Pastor. A few years later, they were edited to be used as a Bible Study. There are a few things I feel I should share with you before using this material:

First: I had no intent of sharing or publishing this material until encouraged to do so by some friends. While I did consult several commentaries as I was preparing the original sermon series, I did not make notes of the references used in the messages. There was not in the beginning, nor is there now, any intent to plagiarize. Should you see anything you feel is the original thought of another, I ask for your grace and mercy.

Second: In my notes for teaching (or preaching), I tend to spell certain words phonetically for the purpose of emphasis. When transforming these notes from sermon notes to teaching notes, I felt inclined to leave a number of these phonetic spellings. They help me to make emphasis in the lesson at particular points.

Third: In my notes for teaching (or preaching), I make little effort to conform to rules of grammar. One example is that I often use a hyphen (-) to indicate a point where I may want to pause slightly and to keep certain thoughts connected as I speak. Another example is that I will use local colloquialisms to make points in the message.

Please accept that these notes are not an academic work. But I do hope they will help the preacher or teacher to be able to more quickly prepare their own sermon or teaching.

Genesis - 01 - In The Beginning

It is not my intent in this lesson - to argue again the age old disagreement between many secular and biblical scholars. Many theories contradict God's Word. However, no scientific finding, nor any archaeological discovery, nor any historical fact has ever improved upon this phrase, - "In the beginning God"!

To all of those who wish to argue the existence of God, such as:

those who claim "there is no God"

those who claim that "we cannot know God"

those who claim "there are many Gods" those who state "all nature is God"

those who say "matter is eternal and not created"

those who proclaim "there is no divine plan in creation or our history"

this simple statement - "In the beginning God" - is a powerful answer to them all.

Read Genesis 1:1 and make notes:

“beginning” - *reshiyth* (ray-sheeth) = the first in place, time, order, or rank
(the beginning, chief, first, or principal thing)

“God” - *elohyim* (el-o-heem) = the supreme God (in plural)

We should take note that in the very first chapter - and in the very first verse of God's Word, - God is recorded as being in a plural form; which we learn later to be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

“heavens” - *shamayim* (shaw-mah-yim) = dual form of the sky, air, heaven

“earth” - *erets* (eh-rets) = the earth

I believe it is also interesting to note here that God created - the "heavens" in plural - but the "earth" in singular.

"In the beginning"- before there was anything, or anyone else, - "the Supreme God, which is in plural" - created this dual "heavens" and this singular "earth".

Read Genesis 1:2 and make notes:

Genesis - 01 - In The Beginning

“formless” - *tohuw* (to-hoo) = to lie waste; a desolation

“empty” - *bohuw* (bo-hoo) = an indistinguishable ruin

These two words seem to be rather harsh words to use to describe something that is just "under construction." Many bible scholars believe that the fall of Satan occurred between verse 1 and 2. The words here could easily describe the condition following the "casting out" of Satan and one third of Heaven's angels.

In Revelation 12:7-9, a vision is recorded:

there was war in Heaven

Michael and his angels fought against the dragon

the dragon and his angels fought

he was not strong enough - they lost their place in heaven

the great dragon, the Devil, Satan, who leads the whole world astray

he was hurled down to earth along with his angels

Where the Bible is specific – we should be specific.

Where the Bible is vague – we should be vague.

If you choose to accept this, then you may also wish to place some significance to the word "Now." "At this time" the earth was formless. The word "was" could very well be "became".

“surface” - *paniyim* (paw-neem) = plural the face,

“deep” - *thowm* (teh-home') = an abyss, deep, depth

The word for "surface" is a plural form. If in fact - the fall of Satan did occur sometime between verse 1 and verse 2, - then probably – at this time - God also created the "great abyss" - that was created for Satan and his followers. This could mean that "darkness" - was over the face of the "great abyss" - as well as over the "depths of the earth.

“Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” “God” - same as in verse 1

“hovering” - *rachaph* (raw-khaf) = to brood, implies to flutter, move, shake

“waters” - *mayim* (mah'-yim) = dual of water

The “spirit” of the “Supreme God” (in plural) is just "brooding" over the "waters." Perhaps this is referring to the waters "in heaven" and the waters "on earth".

There are two kinds of “hovering;” - one is the hovering of a champion – the other is the hovering of protection.

For those who believe that the fall of Satan occurred between verse 1 and verse 2; - you could see this picture: There was a revolt in Heaven. After God cast out Satan and the angels that followed him, - there was great destruction (desolation).

Genesis - 01 - In The Beginning

God positioned Himself over all His creation and domain. So here we find the Spirit of God "hovering" over His domain both in a stance of "champion" or "victor" - and "hovering" over His domain as an act of stabilization.

If we accept the fall of Satan as occurring between verse 1 and verse 2, - then the chaotic state of the earth is a result of rebellion. The account of creation in chapters one and two is an account of restoration (with the exception of verse 1).

The universe created by God becomes violated by an act of sin by Satan; through rebellion. The result of sin was judgment. This rebellion brought about destruction in the universe.

God, as is His nature, restores the universe to something beautiful and to something useful. We see this "action of God" - restoration - repeated throughout the Bible.

The fall of Satan at this time accounts for him being active and at work on earth in chapter 3.

Read Genesis 2:4 and make notes:

“when” (NIV) - “day” (KJV) - *yowm* {yome} = from an unused root meaning to be hot; a day (as the warm hours), whether literal (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figurative (a space of time defined by an associated term)

We should never be so faithless as to think that God "simply could not have created the earth in six literal days." Jehovah the Supreme God could most certainly have done so. And He may very well have done so.

However, this word "*yowm*" - lends itself both to "literal day" and to " a space of time." If in fact the earth did form and come into being over a long period of time (as we measure it), - that takes nothing away from this account.

If we do not believe that God “could have” created our world – and all that is upon it – in a literal six day period – then we are denying the Power of God. If we believe God created our world – or parts of our world - over a long period of time – then the Bible account presents no conflict.

As stated earlier, there are a number of theories that contradict the Bible – but at this time there still remain no evidence to support the theory against the Bible. Until some fact is presented to prove otherwise – I choose to take the Bible at face value – I accept six literal days.

Genesis - 01 - In The Beginning

“LORD” - *Yhovah* {yeh-ho-vaw'} = (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah

“God” - *elohiyim* {el-o-heem'} = gods in the ordinary sense;
but specifically used of the supreme God (notice “gods” is plural)

The scripture makes an important statement here. This is the account of the "heavens" and the "earth" being created. They were created by the "Eternal Self-Existent Supreme God".

"In the beginning" is a term that only has meaning in reference to man and his environment. Since God is Eternal, there can be no discussion or account of His beginning.

It should also be noted that this verse states that the universe was created by "Jehovah the Supreme God." "Jehovah" is the name God used in making "covenant" with the nation of Israel.

Read Genesis 2:5 and make notes:

“man” - *adam* {aw-dawm'} = ruddy i.e. a human being

“ground” - *adamah* {ad-aw-maw'} = soil (from its general redness)

This account of "the beginning" is starting at the time that God "created" the earth and it's environment. This account is starting when there wasn't yet any plants in the fields, - there was no grass, - there wasn't any man to "till" the ground or to "serve."

Right here in the very "beginning" - we see that God has it written, - that man would be here to serve. And yet throughout the centuries and even today, people would still ask, "what is the purpose of man." For those who would debate, "why did God create the universe?" - this is "the beginning" of the answer.

God created man to serve. God created the universe for a habitation for man. God created an "ideal place" from which man could serve.

Note the word for "ground." Man was called "adam" - because he was taken from the "adamah." The Jewish historian Josephus states that "This man was called Adam, which in the Hebrew tongue signifies 'one that is red', because he was formed out of red earth, compounded together; for of that kind is virgin and true earth."

Perhaps the first man and woman on earth were of "red skin".

Genesis - 01 - In The Beginning

Read Genesis 2:6 and make notes:

“streams” [mist] - *ed {ade}* = a fog: -- mist, vapor.

We know that today when it rains, it helps to "clean up" our atmosphere by washing the pollutants out of the air. At this time, - "in the beginning" - perhaps there was no need for the action of rain.

Sin was not yet "in the earth" and things were still pure. As we will see in later chapters, God sent rain to "clean" the earth after it had been contaminated with the sins of man. But, at this time there was no need for rain.

Please don't allow anyone – including Satan – to get you so bogged down with technicalities – that you miss the message!

Maybe you have a life that has become like the earth had become – following Satan's rebellion. Maybe you feel your life is destroyed – formless – empty – full of desolation and indistinguishable ruin.

Isn't it glorious – that God still is restoring today! Do you think your life is more devastated than this earth had become at the “beginning?” No, it simply can't be. Let me assure you that our mess IS NOT too much for God to Restore!

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 01 - In The Beginning

(this page for additional notes)

Genesis - 02 - Creation

Why did God have the account of Creation included in the Bible?

He could have started His Holy Scriptures with "He created Man" - and then taken it from there! Why did He take the time to dictate the events to Moses and instruct him to write them down?

Read John 1:1-3 and make notes:

We are not going to enter into a debate as to whether God created the world and its inhabitants or they came about through some magical physio-chemical occurrence. God dictated to Moses that "God created everything." Then, some 4,000 years later, - God dictated to John and instructed him to write it down - that "The Word, who is Jesus, was there and He created everything that is!

As far as I am concerned, that settles the whole issue of "just how the earth came to be!" The question is, "why did God have the creation account recorded for us to read today?"

Because it reveals something about the nature of God - and something of His characteristics. God wants us to know Him! There are some monumental principles revealed here - in the creation account that God desires for us to comprehend.

Do you remember - from the last lesson - what the situation was at this point? "The earth was formless and empty" - "desolation, and indistinguishable ruin." The Holy Spirit had positioned Himself over all the universe and "hovered" there!

Why was the Holy Spirit "hovering" over creation? To bring stability and calm!

Read Genesis 1:3-5 and make notes:

“God” - *elohiyim* {el-o-heem'} = the Supreme God (in the plural)

“darkness” - *choshek* {kho-shek'} = the dark; ~ (literally)
darkness; figuratively, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness

Genesis - 02 - Creation

“day” - *yowm* {yome} = from an unused root meaning to be hot; a day (as the warm hours), whether literal (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figurative (a space of time defined by an associated term)

“night” - *layil* {lah'-yil} = properly, a twist (away of the light), i.e. night; figuratively, adversity

“evening” - *ereb* {eh'-reb} = dusk:

“morning” - *boger* {bo'-ker} = properly, dawn (as the break of day); generally, morning

“first” - *echad* {ekh-awd'} = properly, united, i.e. one; or (as an ordinal) first

It is important to note that the word for 'God' used here is the plural word for the Supreme God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as one God; - united in purpose and action; - created the Universe.

The word used for 'light' can be used figuratively as 'happiness'. The word used for 'darkness' can be used figuratively as 'misery, destruction, sorrow'. The word used for 'night' can be used figuratively as 'adversity'.

This relationship could lend itself to the interpretation that at this point - God was separating “good from evil” - or perhaps “happiness from sorrow.” It also could lend itself to the interpretation - that God was creating “happiness and joyousness” - following the destruction that occurred from Satan's rebellion.

As we see that God was 'hovering' above His universe at the beginning,- it is very likely that God did command into being a “happiness” from the “sorrow.” Not unlike what happens in a home today when the children are fighting and arguing - the parent commands "peace", - "calm", - "quietness", - "be good to each other."

The word used for 'day' is used to designate a literal day or figuratively a 'space of time'. God at this time created 'light' - right in the midst of darkness - and separated it from the darkness. This theme of God calling the 'light' to be separated from the 'darkness' - flows throughout the entire Bible.

Darkness has so filled the lives of a large portion of people today. So many lives are filled with adversity. Then we come in our destruction and ruin - we give up and surrender the control of our lives to Jesus - and then, - in the midst of our ruin and darkness, - God calls into being "light" - and then He tells us "to be separated from the darkness!"

At this time, God had not yet created or established the 'sun'. It could be that this 'first day' was not a twenty four hour period, - but a space of time' designated by the 'end of the time of darkness - and the beginning of the time of light'.

Can you remember how you rejoiced when the time of darkness in your life ended - and the time of light began ?

Genesis - 02 - Creation

There was light – there was darkness. It is easy to see the double meaning in this text:
One – literal light from darkness;
Two – Spiritual happiness from misery.

Read Genesis 1:6-8 and make notes:

“expanse” - *raqiya* {raw-kee'-ah} = properly, an expanse,
i.e. the firmament or visible arch of the sky:

“so” - *ken* {kane} = properly, set upright; just; rightly or so

God created an 'expanse' or 'sky' to separate the water in Heaven - from the water on earth. And when God said "let it be" - it was 'set upright and just'.

If we see “water” as representing “word” - then God created a "separation" between the “word” in Heaven from the "word," on earth.

Why would God have created this separation? Who was now residing on earth?

Remember man had not been created yet. Satan and all the angels that had followed him in his rebellion had been cast to earth. Sin against God - rebellion against God - disobedience to God - brings about a separation from God.

The creation of "this expanse as we know of it was the second 'day' or the second 'space of time'. It was the end of the time when all was within Heaven and the beginning of 'some things being outside of Heaven'. There was now a separating!

Read Genesis 1:9-10 and make notes:

Water gathered into one place – only on earth. The water in Heaven is not mentioned!

Genesis - 02 - Creation

Read Genesis 1:11-13 and make notes:

“gathered” (v9) - *qava* {aw-vaw'} = to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect

“place” - *maqowm* {maw-kome'} = properly, a standing,
i.e. a spot; but used widely of a locality (general or specific);

“land” - *erets* {eh'-rets} = the earth (at large, or partitively a land)

“gathered” (v10) - *miqveh* {mik-veh'} = something waited for,
i.e. confidence also a collection, i.e. (of water)

“seas” - *yam* {yawm} = a sea (as breaking in noisy surf) or large body of water

“good” - *towb* {tobe} = good in the widest sense; (good, a good thing, a good man or woman;
also as an adverb (well): -- beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, fine, glad, good,
graciously, joyful, kindly, kindness, like~, loving, pleasant, pleasure, precious,
prosperity, ready, sweet, wealth, welfare.

“vegetation” - *deshe* {deh'-sheh} = a sprout; by analogy, grass

“seed-bearing” - *eseb* {eh'seb} = grass (or any tender shoot)

“kinds” - *miyn* {meen} = a sort, i.e. species: -- kind.

In the 'third space of time', - God 'gathered' the water on earth into one place. Do you remember
- we read in the last lesson - that the "water ascended to the surface and misted the earth?"

The whole face of the earth was covered with water. Listen carefully to this, "everything on
earth was covered with the Word of God!" God "gathered the Word (the water) into one place" -
and then "Spoke that dry land should appear!"

God called this act 'good', but take a moment to look over the extensive meaning of this word
used here to describe what God had done in collecting the seas together. This same word 'good'
is used several times to refer to the things that God created.

Some people believe a Kingdom Principle revealed here; - "if we will cover ourselves and our
situation with the Word of God, then we may be able to speak some things into existence."

Genesis - 02 - Creation

Then He called into being the various species of plants. Please notice what it says here in verse 11 - God commanded the "land to produce vegetation." The "dry land" was commanded to come forth from the water (the Word). Then the dry land is commanded to produce.

Have any of you ever tried to stand on water? There is a feeling of being stable when you have your feet on dry ground. Dear friends, from the Word of God comes those stable foot holds that we all desire to have.

If you are finding yourself to be unstable, or drifting out of control - then cover yourself and your life and your situation with the Word of God. Then you will be able to speak into existence some stable places from which to deal with things. From these stable places that come from the Word of God - we can then begin to command that they produce fruit in our lives.

It would be noteworthy to notice that God called into being - plants that reproduced 'after their kinds.' This can be seen as a statement refuting evolution!

Apples produce more apples and oranges produce more oranges. Oranges never become apples or apples never become oranges. We as righteous beings are not going to produce unrighteousness - and we as unrighteous beings are not going to produce righteousness. We will reproduce after our kind.

Read Genesis 1:14-19 and make notes:

“lights” - *maowr* {maw-ore'} = properly, a luminous body or luminary,
i.e. (abstractly) light (as an element): figuratively, brightness, cheerfulness bright, light

“signs” - *owth* {oth} = a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument,
omen, prodigy, evidence,

“seasons” - *mowed* {mo-ade'} = properly, an appointment,
i.e. a fixed time or season; specifically, a festival; conventionally a year;

If it wasn't already 24 hour days - this 'fourth space of time' was probably the beginning of the twenty four hour day. This is the time when God created the sun, moon, and stars.

These were made by God specifically to establish and govern seasons. Those who make their living raising plants or animals, learn quickly to keep track of the sun and the moon and thus the seasons. They watch the signs!

Genesis - 02 - Creation

Jesus is the Light for those of us who are saved. Jesus is here to separate the light from the darkness. Jesus is here to give light to us. Jesus is here to govern our life and to be a sign in our life.

The people of this world are certainly watching our signs - what are they seeing?

It is interesting to note that God created these lights and then He 'set' them into place. Some suggest they may very well have been created at some other location within the universe - and then moved across space to their current location to serve the earth and it's inhabitants.

Read Genesis 1:20-23 and make notes:

The same word 'good' - is used here to describe the living creatures that God made - was used to describe the seas that God had made. It should also be noted that God took time to 'bless' the living creatures that He had made. After blessing them, God told the living creatures to reproduce, to 'increase in number' and to fill the sea and to fill the sky.

The 'fifth space of time' was the end of 'no living creatures' on earth - and the beginning of 'living creatures on earth' .

Read Genes is 1:24-31 and make notes:

I don't feel led to make or establish any doctrine out of this about eating, - but I do feel led to point this out to you - God created the living things in the water - and the living things in the air. God "commanded" the to produce the living creatures that are upon it.

The scientist and doctors of today are telling us that there is a difference - in eating fish and fowl as to opposed to eating meat from land animals. Well, there is a difference in their origins. God "spoke" fish and fowl into existence. The "land" produced the animals.

Please hold onto this thought - that there is a difference between what is spoken into existence and what the "land" produces. At the end of the 'sixth' day, - God had created everything that was created.

Genesis - 02 - Creation

The word used for 'day' leaves open the possibility that the first few 'days' were not actual twenty-four hour days. However, if you believe that God could not have created these things in literal twenty four hour days, - then you do not know the power of Elohim Jehovah.

God blessed the creatures that He created. God's personality is clearly seen in this account of creation. God speaks, sees, names, and blesses.

Why did God create the universe? The New Testament makes it clear that all things were not only created by Jesus Christ - but that all things were created to bring glory to Jesus Christ.

What does creation reveal about God? Read Psalms 19:1-2; Romans 1:20. Creation reveals God's glory – and what has been made – reveals God's eternal power and divine nature. So, we are without excuse. Please do not stay in a Lost State.

After God had made everything except man, - God stated that what He had made was 'good'. Understanding the concept of what took place in this creation - and the magnitude of what God did; - will help us to have a more complete understanding of what happens when we are saved.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and make notes:

Just as – at the creation - when we 'speak the Word', we can see the 'new creation' come to pass in peoples lives around us. We will see the 'Word of God' divide the 'light' from the 'darkness'.

When we cover ourselves with "the Word of God" - we can speak stable and secure places into existence in our lives. We can speak to these stable places in our lives to produce fruit. And we will have Jesus "set in place" - to be a light to our life - and to be a sign for our times and seasons.

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 02 - Creation

(this page for additional notes)

Genesis - 03 - Making Man

Draw near to God – and resist the Devil – and the Devil will flee from you (taken from James 4:7). This is for Spiritual Children – there is something else for Spiritual Adults.

In the last couple of lessons, - we have looked at "the creation" of everything except man. In this lesson we are going to take a look at the "making of man."

Read Genesis 1:26 and make notes:

God wanted to make a “human being” in the “resemblance” of Himself and as a “representative figure” of Himself.

Read Genesis 2:7 and make notes:

“Lord” - *Yehovah* {yeh-ho-vaw'} = (the) self- Existent or Eternal; Jehovah,
Jewish national name of God:

“breathed” - *naphach* {naw-fakh'} = to puff, in various applications
(literally, to inflate, blow hard,

“breath” - *n@shamah* {nesh-aw-maw'} = a puff, i.e. wind, angry or vital breath,
divine inspiration

In the sixth day, the same day that God had commanded the land to produce the living creatures, - God personally formed man from the earth. Notice the word for 'ground' from which man was made. Josephus, a 1st century Jewish historian, says that the first man was called Adam (meaning red man) because he was formed from red virgin soil.

If you will remember from the previous lesson - God spoke some things into existence, - and He commanded His creation to produce some things into existence - Yet when God set in to make man, - He took personal actions and an intimate involvement in bringing life into man.

God took on the forming and creating of man with some very personal acts. He 'formed' man much the same way a potter forms clay, - and then He personally 'puffed' into man the 'breath of life'.

Genesis - 03 - Making Man

Man was created from the same material as the animals. Man was created on the same day as the animals. Man has been here as long as the animals. However, of all God's created beings, only man had God to personally 'puff' life into his being.

Read Genesis 1:27-28 and make notes:

“subdue” - *kabash* {kaw-bash'} = to tread down; hence, negatively, to disregard; positively, to conquer, subjugate, violate: -- bring into bondage, force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness of it is His also. From the moment of creation, God has instructed – and expected - man to 'subdue' the rest of the earth. No one should need to apologize for their efforts to harness some force of nature and to make it useful to man's purposes.

Gen 1:26 says that God made man to - "rule over everything in the water" - "rule over everything in the air" - "rule over everything on the ground" - "rule over all the earth." Then in Gen 1:28 God instructs man to "subdue" the earth.

Now we know that there were plants on the earth - so man was to subdue and to rule over the plants! There were water creatures, air creatures, and land creatures on the earth - so man was to subdue and to rule over all these creatures! Who or what else was on earth at that time?

Satan! - and his following of disobedient angels - those demons! If man is to "rule over all the earth", this means Satan and his demons too! We are supposed to "subdue" them.

Do you remember the negative aspects of the word used for subdue? negatively, to disregard; violate:--bring into bondage, force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection

We are supposed to "violate" Satan - "destroy the works of the evil one" - we are supposed to "keep under" and to "bring into subjection" Satan - we are to rule over all the earth!

Read Psalms 8:3-9 and make notes:

Genesis - 03 - Making Man

"Now brother Bob, you know that this passage is referring to Jesus and not to us." The Devil sure wants us to think that - but the truth is - that it is talking about man.

Read Hebrews 2:6-9 and make notes:

Jesus died so that we don't have to die. Jesus died a "spiritual death" so we don't have to die a "spiritual death." When Jesus died in obedience to God - What was it that was not made subject to Him? You have no doubt heard it said - "you don't have to do anything but die - we all die sooner or later."

Read Matthew 16:19; Revelation 1:18; Romans 14:9 and make notes:

Jesus took the keys to both "death and the grave." Even "death" and "the grave" has been made subject to Jesus. "In putting everything under man, God left no-thing that is not subject to man." And at this present time we don't see everything subject to man! But we see Jesus ! - our example!

God gave man a place to be lord over, - the earth. God made man in His very own image. This could explain part of the reason that Satan was so quick to attack man and try to destroy the special relationship between God and man.

Read Genesis 5:1-2 and make notes:

Genesis - 03 - Making Man

The command to the original creation was to "subdue the earth" - and to multiply and fill the earth. The command to the 'new creation' is "subdue the earth" - and to multiply and to fill the earth.

"Christians", are we listening? At the present, we don't see very much of Satan – and his activities - being made to submit! But, we do have God's Word that it is God's plan for Satan to have to submit to man! We have the commandment from God - for man to "subdue" all the earth - and that leaves nothing on earth that is not subject to man!

Satan has blinded us far too long in this matter! It is past time for us to "get with it" - let's start "violating" this rascal - let's start "making him subject to us!

Read 1 Corinthians 15:47-49 and make notes:

Do you remember what we read in Hebrews? "While we don't presently see everything being subject to man, we do see Jesus!" Since we have become the "new creation", we are supposed to take on the likeness of Jesus. He made the Devil to submit - He said, "Give me the keys to death and the grave" - and Satan had no choice but to comply.

Read Philippians 2:5-8

By becoming obedient to God, - Jesus received the authority to make the Devil submit to Him. By becoming obedient to God, - we receive the original authority that was given to man to have Satan to be subject to us.

That is why we can "cast out demons" - that is why we can "cast out sickness and disease" - that is why we can "take authority over situations." But when we are not obedient, "unto death", - we place ourselves into the same category as Satan - and we no longer have authority over him.

Christians for too, too long have voluntarily given up their authority over Satan - and mostly out of ignorance! God's Word tells us that He does not want us to be ignorant concerning spiritual things: Romans 1:13, Romans 11:25, 1 Corinthians 10:1, 1 Corinthians 12:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 2 Peter 3:8.

Genesis - 03 - Making Man

While the Spiritual Children are instructed to “resist the Devil while drawing near to God” - Spiritual Adults are instructed to become obedient to God and subdue everything on earth – and that includes the Devil.

Today, - right now - stop being ignorant! Become totally obedient to God and take back the authority over that - lying, scheming, destroying, thief!

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 03 - Making Man

(this page for additional notes)

Genesis - 04 - Making Woman

There is a Kingdom Principle laid down and exposed here early in the Book of Genesis - that will explain much of scripture that is given in later books of the Bible. In this lesson - we are going to look at the "Making of Woman."

Read Genesis 2:18-24 and make notes:

“man” (v23) - *iysh* {eesh} = a male person

“leave” (v24) - *azab* {aw-zab'} = to loosen, i.e. relinquish, leave

“united” (v24) - *dabaq* {daw-bak'} = to impinge, i.e. cling or adhere; to catch by pursuit:
abide fast, cleave (fast together), be joined (together), keep (fast),
pursue hard, stick, take.

“Eve” (v30) - *Chavvah* {khav-vaw'} = life-giver; the first woman: Eve.

Every thing that God created - He saw as 'good' except that of man being 'alone.' God was not surprised – nor was it an unexpected discovery – that man needed a mate. God was not surprised – nor was it an unexpected discovery – that there was no creature on earth that was a suitable mate for man.

God did not take a companion from among any of the existing creatures; -showing that at least some type of separation is to exist between man and beast. God did not see man's helper as a 'pet.'

God made the first woman - out of the flesh and bone of the first man. This is a beautiful picture of Jesus and the Church. The Church, which is the Bride of Christ, is made out of Jesus' own flesh and blood.

Adam and Eve were of "one body" - Adam's wife was also Adam's body! Eve was the BODY of Adam - and she was the BRIDE of Adam.

God said "for this reason" a man will relinquish his father and mother and be joined together and united with his wife and they will "be one flesh."

Genesis - 04 - Making Woman

God foresaw the future as He always does - and He saw that man would need help in understanding several things of the Kingdom. By using the institution of marriage and the marriage relationship - God provided a means for us to understand several things concerning Kingdom Principles and a relationship between God and Man.

There was a time when the Jews began to question Jesus about marriage and divorce.

Read Matthew 19:8; Mark 10:4-9 and make notes:

Concerning Moses allowing men to divorce their wives, Jesus said, "it was not this way from the beginning." Jesus also said that what "God has joined together, let man not separate."

We need to make sure that we understand and apply this concept not only to the physical man-woman marriage relationship - but also to the God-man marriage and relationship!

Read 1 Corinthians 11:8-12 and make notes:

"angels" (v10) - *aggelos* = (to bring tidings) - AV - angel; - messenger;
a messenger, envoy, one who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God

We need to be careful that we don't get into the "old chicken and egg" argument - "which came first - the chicken or the egg?" - "Well man came first and then woman- "But now the man comes from the woman!" ALWAYS REMEMBER : "Everything comes from God."

God made man – and God made woman. Man Did Not make woman!

Genesis - 04 - Making Woman

Read Ephesians 5:22-32 and make notes:

In Matthew, Mark, 1 Corinthians, and now in Ephesians, we have been reading all these wonderful scriptures about the husband - wife relationship: while the example is the husband-wife relationship, here in the flesh - the picture is of the God - man relationship, here in the spirit.

This is a profound mystery – when Jesus was teaching on the man-wife relationship – it also applies to the Christ-church relationship.

Do you remember in Genesis 2:21 - that God put Adam into a "deep sleep" - and while Adam was in this "deep sleep", - God formed his bride from a part of his "flesh and bone?" Jesus was put into a 'deep sleep' upon the cross - and His side was opened. Just as Adam accepted his bride, Jesus accepts His bride. This also helps us to begin to see what it means to be 'the body of Christ' and yet to be the 'bride of Christ' .

When God instituted marriage between a man and a woman - He had developed a marvelous picture for us to be able to "see" and to understand just what our relationship with Him would be! When a man relinquishes his hold to his father and mother - and ties himself inseparably to his wife - he is making a statement as to how it is between God and man!

God will never leave us or forsake us. That's why He doesn't want there to be divorce - what a terrible testimony to relationship and commitment! And surely you can see why Satan wants there to be much separation in this covenant relationship. Satan doesn't want us to "get the picture!"

One of the major reasons God made the Woman - was so that He could create the marriage covenant. SO THAT - He would have a picture to show us as to what the relationship is supposed to be between God and man. SO THAT - we would have a picture to show us just what Jesus has done for us - THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY CHURCH TODAY IF JESUS HAD NOT GIVEN UP HIS BODY EVEN UNTO DEATH !

This principle laid out 'here in Genesis - of a man and a woman coming together in a covenant relationship - giving up a separate identity - becoming one flesh - is absolutely contrary to what most of us hear in today's world. "Be yourself" - "Find your own identity!" - "You've got to live your own life."

I can tell you WHO it is that is always saying things the reverse of God's Word and God's will.

Genesis - 04 - Making Woman

CHURCH - It is time that we restore the picture to the clarity and purity that God intended. It is time that we as Believers in Jesus as Savior - show the world the picture of the relationship that God desires.

Sure, we need to restore the picture in our fleshly marriages - but we need to restore the picture in our church relationship as well! We are "in fellowship" and "out of fellowship" so often that nobody can tell if we are "in or out!"

It is time for us as the Bride of Christ to "submit" to our Lord and our Husband - and be faithful to that commitment - no matter what!

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 05 - Sabbath Rest

Read Genesis 2:2-3 and make notes:

God did not rest because He was tired. Psalms 121:4 says that God does not get tired. God rested because His work was complete. God blessed the creatures that He created. God blessed the man that He had created. Now God blessed the day that He was able to just sit back and watch His creation before Him.

There isn't any commandment here - for man to observe this day.

This is approximately 4000 B.C. Since man was created on the sixth day of creation, this would be man's second day.

The Sabbath doesn't come up again until much later (Exodus 16 & 20). This would be approximately 1491 B.C. So, for the first 2500 years of man's history and existence - there wasn't any spoken or written requirement to observe the "seventh" day as a sabbath.

The first indication that God wanted anyone to observe this "day" as a "holy day" - was when the Children of Israel were on their way to the "promised land" - after being delivered from Egypt. We find the account in Chapter 16 of Exodus.

They were in the wilderness - and God was supplying them with manna. Every day they got just enough for each person - and when some tried to keep back a portion of it until the next day - it went bad overnight - would stink and get worms in it.

Then on the sixth day when they were able to collect twice as much as usual - the rulers of the tribes came to Moses to tell him that the people had been able to collect twice as much as the other days.

Read Exodus 16:23 and make notes:

“holy” - *qodesh* {ko'-desh} = a sacred place or thing;

“sabbath” - *shabbath* {shab-bawth'} = intermission,

Genesis - 05 - Sabbath Rest

Moses told them that this was God's plan and desire - that they get twice as much today - and save a day's portion for tomorrow – and then collect nothing on that day - and just eat what had been supplied the day before - that it was God's desire that the people observe this day - as the "day of rest of the holy sabbath before the Lord."

Then very shortly thereafter, God gave them the Ten Commandments:

Read Exodus 20:8-11 and make notes:

Later in chapter 31 - we find God spoke very directly - about how strongly He felt about the people observing the Sabbath.

Read Exodus 31:14-17 and make notes:

What changed? Why did God now – after 2500 years – ask the people to observe a day of rest? Is everyone supposed to observe the "sabbath day?"

The Bible doesn't say that the Sabbath was given to the Gentiles. Exodus 31:16 says, “the Israelites” are to observe the Sabbath. Psalms 147:19-20 indicates that the Mosaic Law was given only to Israel. It was part of God's words of encouragement before they went into the promised land.

In Exodus 33:14, God told the Israelites - “I will give you rest.” In Joshua 1:13, the Israelites were told to remember the command of Moses - “The LORD your God is giving you rest and has granted you this land.” Then they did enter the land shortly after!

Genesis - 05 - Sabbath Rest

Read Joshua 21:44; Leviticus 25:2-4 and make notes:

Read Deuteronomy 5:15 and make notes:

Therefore – since they have been delivered! So, what changed? And when did it change?

Go back to the Garden of Eden for just a moment. When God created man and woman - and put them into the garden - they had everything they wanted and needed - all that God asked of them was to care for the garden. there was no need for rest - for at that time there simply was NO TOIL !

After the man and woman "messed up - and were thrown out of the garden - the pronouncement was "by the sweat of your brow you will eat of the earth." - "the earth will grow thorns for you."

Before sin - there was no toil and work and hardship - there was no need for rest. After sin - there was much toil and work and hardship - and very much a need for rest - and for 2500 years there was really no rest - and there was no commandment from God for man to rest - because the toil and hardship was part of the judgment for man's sin.

Read Psalms 95:10-11 and make notes:

Everybody who has had to work and sometimes struggle, can say, “thank you Adam and Eve.”

Genesis - 05 - Sabbath Rest

What Changed? After 2500 years of toil and labor - God said that mankind, in general, had suffered long enough for the first man's sin - and when God brought about "deliverance" for His people - a promise was given to them that "God would give them – His people - rest."

Not only did God promise to give His people "rest" - but it became a commandment, "that His people would rest" periodically- and that even their animals and land would "rest" periodically.

This was to be a sign. The absence of rest was part of the punishment upon mankind for sin. The promise of and the gift of "rest" - was part of the divine deliverance for the "obedient people of God."

"Oh, but brother Bob, that was all part of the Old Covenant, what about Jesus and the New Covenant?"

Jesus observed the "Sabbath" (Mark 1:21, Luke 4:16). While Jesus was on the earth in His earthly body, He observed the Sabbath because He was living under the time of the Law. But Jesus did not observe the many man made laws regarding the Sabbath. Examples of Jesus ignoring the man made laws for the sabbath can be seen in passages like: Mark 2:23-28; Matthew 12:10-12; John 5:9-10; Luke 13:14-16; John 9:14; John 5:16; John 7:22-23.

People of that day were just as dense as the people of our day are. They had come up with so many technicalities of just what it was to observe the Sabbath - day of rest. Jesus was trying to tell them - and us - that He was offering a much better "rest" than the physical cessation of physical activities.

Jesus knew that too many people were still suffering under the curse of the first man. And Jesus came to redeem us from the "curse of the law." Hallelujah! Read Ecclesiastes 2:22-23.

Look at what Jesus was saying to them - and is saying to us today.

Read Matthew 11:27-30 and make notes:

So few people today truly know what it is to be at rest. Most Christians are not at rest. Jesus came to cleanse us from our sins - to forgive us of our debts - and to "give us rest"

Jesus is still saying to His disciples today: "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31).

Genesis - 05 - Sabbath Rest

Church! Want you come by yourselves with Jesus to a quiet place and get some rest? Come with Jesus and leave your jobs behind - Come with Jesus and leave your projects behind - Come with Jesus and leave all your responsibilities behind - Come with Jesus and leave all your planning behind - and get some "rest for the soul."

The "lack of rest" is part of the curse and the punishment that is meant for the disobedient. In Revelation 14:11, we are told that part of the punishment for those in Hell – is that there is “no rest day or night.”

Read Hebrews 3:18-19; Hebrews 4:1-11 and make notes:

Church! - Children of God! - God had a plan in the beginning for us - that DID NOT include all this busy, and rush, and toil, and sweat. God has been offering this original condition to His people - every since Jesus "paid it all."

Why has the Church, - you know the people who make up the Church, - not entered into that "rest for God's people?"

Let's stop trying to do everything ourselves. Let's enter into that “rest” that God so much wants to give us. Let's lay all our burdens upon Jesus and “leave them there.”

Genesis - 05 - Sabbath Rest

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

When you start trying to share the “plan of salvation” with people - and to tell them that it is God's desire to save us from all the hell of this life - some of them have trouble accepting that God would want to do such a thing. What a wonderful thing to discover that it was God's original plan - and when we are talking about the "plan of salvation", - we are really talking about simply "getting back" what we lost.

Read Genesis 2:8 and make notes:

"Eden" signifies delight and pleasure. God had prepared a place for man to dwell. It's specific location is described simply as “in the east” - only to let us know that it actually existed. We don't need to know exactly where it existed!

Read Genesis 2:9 and make notes:

Do you remember that Adam was created to be the Lord of the earth? The place for Adam's residence was not a palace of ivory - or a house filled with gold and precious metals and jewels. It was a garden - adorned with nature itself. Read Luke 12:27.

Read Genesis 2:15 and make notes:

Man was made of material from outside of the garden - and then he was placed inside the garden.

Had man been formed from the substance that was inside the garden - he could have claimed some right by inheritance to the things of the garden. Because man was formed of the common earth, the material from outside the garden area - man could make no claim to the things of the garden.

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

It was purely "the grace of God" that gave man the access to the things of the garden. Man was placed inside the garden to work it - it was never God's intention for man to be idle.

Read Genesis 2:16-17 and make notes:

Do you remember verse 9? It says that every tree that is pleasant for food and pleasant to look at was in the garden. We see in Genesis 3:8 that God walked in the garden with man. In the garden was everything needed – to restore the flesh and the spirit.

There was everything pleasant to eat for the flesh - and there was the communion and the fellowship with God for the spirit. They had everything that was needed for the flesh man and the spirit man. They did not need the fruit from the tree – of "the knowledge of good and evil."

The "tree of life" was intended to provide continuing life - even to the point of immortality. Man could have eaten from the "tree of life" and he would have lived forever!

Something in Deuteronomy helps us understand the situation of man in the Garden.

Read Deuteronomy 11:26-28 and make notes:

God was saying, "I am setting before you a 'blessing' and a 'curse'. You can choose! The tree of Life is a blessing and you can eat of it. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

The Tree of knowledge of good and evil – it was good NOT to eat of it – and it was EVIL to eat of it! Even nature itself testifies to us about what is good and what is evil.

For man to be allowed to eat of any tree in the garden – not only assured man's enjoying life – it assured his continuing life. Obedience would guarantee eternal life - disobedience would forfeit eternal life.

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

Read Genesis 2:10 and make notes:

This was certainly a divinely inspired river - for it is working backward to the rivers of nature! In nature, rivers start as small streams and these come together to make a larger stream. The large streams come together to make a river - these rivers come together to make a larger river. But here, in Eden, the large river that flowed out of Eden - separated and became four smaller rivers.

That which refreshed the place of man's habitation - then went out to refresh the world – around his habitation.

Read Genesis 2:11-14 and make notes:

The specific location of these rivers has been discussed and debated for centuries. Since the "great flood" most likely changed the course of most rivers - it is unlikely that we could locate the specific flows of these four rivers. As with the location of Eden, it is sufficient to know that they existed.

The river that provided the Garden of Eden with its refreshment and sustenance - then flowed out to all the parts of the world man. The land of Havilah had gold, spices, and precious stones - the things that appeal to the flesh. The Garden of Eden had the tree of life and fellowship with God - the things that appeal to the spirit.

It is the nature of the flesh to go down stream - "just go with the flow." Which way does water flow - (up or down)? "Just going with the flow" will take us down Every Time!

We can today, "go with the flow" and it will take us to places where there are the gold and precious stones of this world - but is that what we really want? Would we have rather have the gold and precious stones that the land of Havilah had to offer - or would we rather have the "tree of life" and the fellowship of God that were in the Garden of Eden?

Sure, the world has the gold and the precious stones, and the sweet smelling things – all without Jesus. But we "CAN have Jesus" – and everything we need.

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

Read Genesis 2:25 and make notes:

Adam was perfect - having never sinned - yet capable of sinning. Naked plus Innocence = No Shame.

There are those in most local churches - who could go out, and take off all their clothes, and come back in again and not be ashamed. Because they have "no sin" in their lives! But most of us simply can not do that. Those little toddlers can do that - we adults can not! What is the difference?

If a boy who is still a toddler comes naked into a room of woman - is he trying to tell them something? If a girl who is still a toddler comes naked into a room of men - is she trying to tell them something? What about an adult male coming naked into a room of women - or an adult female coming naked into a room of men? Somewhere along the way, we came to the "knowledge of good and evil" - AND we allowed sin to come into our lives - and we simply cannot walk naked before those around us.

I am sure that there are some who read the paragraph above - who felt a certain twinge of anxiety from just talking about the possibility of someone walking into a room naked and not feeling ashamed. I AM NOT advocating that we try and make a type of "snake handling" doctrine out of it - NO WAY! No one will be able to convince others that they are free from sin by walking naked into a room of people. But we do need to see that it was God's original intent for man to be free of this type of guilt and anxiety. And certainly free of Sin!

Originally, in the beginning - God prepared a place for man to live where there was everything that he would need - and everything that he could want - and he was free from any guilt - and free from and anxiety - and free from any worry or concerns. What a wonderful world that must have been! Most of us would have to say, "that certainly isn't like the life I have today."

Read John 14:2-3 and make notes:

Jesus is busy preparing a place" for us - and when it is finished, He is coming to get us and to "place us" into that "prepared place." It will be even better than the Garden of Eden, because we want be tempted there. There is still going to be the opportunity to eat of the fruit of the "tree of life."

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

Read Revelation 2:7; Revelation 22:2; Revelation 22:14 and make notes:

The "tree of life" has not been destroyed or lost! It is simply not available to us while we walk in this sinful nature of ours. But, when we finally shake loose from this sinful nature and receive our glorified bodies - we will be allowed to eat of the fruit of the tree of life!

Just as in the Garden of Eden - and then later to the Children of Israel - God has placed a "blessing and a curse" before us. But there is one slight difference from the Garden:

Read Romans 10:9-10; John 3:16 and make notes:

Because of the sin that is in the world - and we all partake of it in one form or another - we are already condemned, because we have already sinned. We have already had the curse pronounced!

Read Deuteronomy 23:5 and make notes:

Believe in Jesus and be saved! Do Not Believe be already damned!

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

Look at the promise under the old covenant –

Read Isaiah 41:18 and make notes:

Now look at the promise under the new covenant –

Read John 7:38-39 and make notes:

Word = Water. Holy Spirit – Streams of Water. Even before we go to "that place that Jesus is preparing for us" - we can have the "refreshing rivers of water" that come from the throne of God.

Do you remember the flow of the river in the Garden of Eden? From God, it refreshed the Garden - and then it flowed from the Garden into the world.

That is the intent of the "streams of living water" that He has placed within us. From God, it refreshes us - and then it is to flow from us into the world.

It appears that too many Christians today have allowed their stream of living water to become clogged and damned up. For many it has been prevented from even "bubbling up", let alone kept from flowing. In the beginning, we left God. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we come back to God. When we come back to God, through Jesus Christ as Savior - He gives us everything that we need, both to sustain the flesh and to sustain the spirit.

So why are so many of us choosing to go "down stream" to the things that the world has to offer? If you already KNOW JESUS AS SAVIOR, and have received the Holy Spirit: STAY IN THE GARDEN - STAY OBEDIENT! STAY in that place where the things that are meant for "a curse" - are made to be a blessing by God. AND let the "stream of Living Water" flow from within you out to the world around you! Allow the "Holy Spirit" to flow from you out to the world.

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

If you have received Jesus as Savior - but have never allowed God, - in the person of the Holy Spirit, to flow from you - won't you let go today, and allow God to flow through you and unto the world ?

IF you DON'T know Jesus as Savior, come to Him TODAY - He, as Jehovah Jirah, wants to provide your every need. He wants to Wash you in the Blood of Jesus and cleanse you from every sin. He wants to Baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fill you to Overflowing. He wants to Flow from his throne, - unto His own, - that is us - and out to the world around.

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 06 - Garden Of Eden

(this page for additional notes)

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

God created LIGHT – in the midst of darkness. God SEPARATED the light from the darkness! Man was created in the image of God! God commissioned man to be the Ruler and Master over all the earth!

God put before man “a blessing” and “a curse!” Obedience assured eternal life - Disobedience forfeited eternal life.

In this lesson, we are going to take a look at what happened in the Garden. Why did God have this detailed interchange between man, woman - and Satan recorded here in the 3rd chapter of Genesis?

Surely it would have been enough for us to know that Adam and Eve disobeyed - and lost the blessing and received the curse. Except God had something He wanted us to see and understand. One thing God wanted us to see - and understand - was the system that Satan uses to tempt us.

Read Genesis 3:1 and make notes:

1 - God's Word is questioned.

It might be important that we notes – dos not say “a serpent” but says “THE serpent.”

Read Genesis 3:2-3 and make notes:

Man's version of God's Word. But at least she knew that they were not supposed to eat of this one tree!

Read Genesis 3:4 and make notes:

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

2 - God's Word is challenged!

3 - The truth is perverted

We are given some truth - but we are given more lie than truth! Satan's "standard operating procedure" hasn't changed in some 6,000 years. Satan is still using the same program to tempt people today - and sadly enough it is still working!

Our temptation begins - when we ALLOW God's Word to be QUESTIONED! Then we begin to nibble at the bait - when we listen as God's Word is CHALLENGED! And the hook is set when we listen to the PERVERTED TRUTH!

Satan will give some "tid bit" of truth - and some whale of a lie - every time. 1 - 2 - 3 ; Gotcha! Question - Challenge – Lie.

We can prevent ourselves from being seriously tempted! We CAN NOT stop the "tempter" from coming and trying! But we CAN PREVENT his success!

The first step is to simply not allow the WORD of GOD to be QUESTIONED! "Oh now wait brother Bob, I am an intelligent person and I just can't accept things until I have questioned them and checked them out."

God has given you and me this freedom and right. We certainly can question whatever we choose to. But "intelligent person", doesn't it make sense that somewhere along the line - that we learn from experience? God's Word has never been proven wrong in all of man's history! God's Word has never failed in all of man's history!

Are we still questioning all the basic rules of math? Are we still questioning the pain of being burned by fire? And EVERYTIME that we allow God's Word to be questioned - and then challenged - THEN we wind up ACCEPTING the perverted TRUTH!

If we really are all that intelligent - then somewhere along the way, we will stop allowing God's Word to be questioned! Somewhere along the way, we will begin to ACCEPT God's Word - AS IS - As the TRUTH - - as RELIABLE – and as TRUSTWORTHY! AND we won't listen to anyone who begins to question God's Word - we won't listen to Satan or anyone else who is being used of Satan to question God's Word!

Let's examine ourselves: Have we been questioning God's Word? Have we been listening to those – who through Satan – are questioning God's Word?

We have listed the 3 steps to temptation – now let's take a look at the 4 step process we go through when we respond to the temptation to sin.

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

After the Lie is accepted as truth:

1 - she looked upon the forbidden

2 - she took hold of the forbidden

3 - she tried the forbidden

4 - she then tried to get others to partake of the forbidden

We don't usually set out to take – we only intend to look! We don't usually set out to try – we just want to hold!

Satan CAN NOT make you or I sin! Satan CAN ONLY tempt us to do so! Satan can - and does - make things sound good - that really are bad. We sin of our own free will - no one makes us to commit sin.

Read James 1:13-15 and make notes:

It is NOT Satan's temptation that makes us sin! We sin because of our own lust! It is time that we "grow up" and stop blaming Satan for our sins; You and I sin because "we want to." Our sin will follow this pattern every time - we will begin to look upon what is forbidden - then we will take hold of that which is forbidden - then we will partake of the forbidden - then we will try to get others to partake of the forbidden.

Read Romans 14:21 and make notes:

You and I have enough trouble on our hands trying to answer for having sinned ourselves – we don't need to have to answer for being used of Satan to get someone else to fall. We will see why in a few minutes.

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

Read Genesis 3:7 and make notes:

The Loss of Innocence! This process is still occurring today! Everyone of us are born into this world in a state of innocence. There comes the day when we lose our innocence - and our life is never the same afterwards.

Read Genesis 3:8 and make notes:

The act of a guilty conscience! Satan had told them that they would be like god." Now they couldn't even bear to be in the presence of God. Make no mistake about it - sin brings about some immediate consequences !

It seems to happen all the time - God gives me a heart for a person and a desire to help them grow and mature in Him and to become strong in His Word - and they will go and begin to sin in a certain area - and then they don't want to be around me – and I'm not God!

SIN does separate us from the presence of GOD! And sin separates us from those who are trying to be close to God! When we have sin in our life - we can't bear to be in the presence of God or anyone who is trying to live right!

Read Genesis 3:9 and make notes:

God calls out to the guilty. "Adam (man), where are you?" - "Man, what state are you in?" Praise be to God, He is still calling out to guilty people today!

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

Read Genesis 3:10 and make notes:

"The wicked flee" - sin always brings fear into our life! "The righteous are bold" - getting the sin out of our life destroys fear!

Again, when we have sin in our life - we try to hide from God and from those of God.

Man is given an opportunity to confess. Even though God knows everything - He insist that we confess our sins. God asked a "point blank" question - "Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

I believe God wanted man to confess - to repent of having disobeyed. I can't help but believe that it would have been different if Adam had simply confessed and repented of having disobeyed.

Read Genesis 3: 12 and make notes:

The excuse instead of admission of guilt. Adam blamed the woman - and even tried to insinuate that God was partly to blame – "after all, God, you are the one who gave this woman to me."

We are still trying the same thing today - when we are questioned as to why we did something wrong - "they made me do it " - "you made me do it" - "well if thus and so hadn't happened" - "God made me the way I am." Friends, it didn't work in the beginning - and it doesn't work today.

Read Genesis 3:13 and make notes:

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

The woman is given an opportunity to confess – she gives the Lie Excuse. Satan's temptations are always deceiving. What was it that Satan had told her regarding the fruit from the forbidden tree?

You will not die
Your eyes will be opened
You will be like God – knowing good from evil

Let's examine the facts here -
Had she died yet? Not physically, but she certainly was dying spiritually.
Had her eyes been opened? Yes.
Did she now know good from evil ? Yes.

It looks like what Satan told her was true after all. But, he had not told her the truth, - the whole truth - and nothing but the truth. Simply because the truth is not in him - and he cannot tell the truth.

Because they had disobeyed – they died to the "place of grace" that they had been placed in.
Because they had disobeyed – they died to the access to the tree of life.
Yes, their eyes had been opened - and they now knew good from evil - but they most surely were going to die! Physically as well as Spiritually.

Judgment for Sin!

Read Genesis 3:14-15 and make notes:

The serpent was a tool - or vessel - used by Satan. Those used by Satan will share in the punishment.

Read Genesis 3:16-19 and make notes:

The woman lost her position. She had been equal to man. The duties that had been pleasurable – had now become toilsome.

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

Read Genesis 3:21-22 and make notes:

Right here, we see that man forfeited "eternal life."

The habitation of Grace was lost! Man had lost "the blessing." Man had chosen the curse. Even though God had to correct and chastise his children - He did not disown them. We will see this more clearly later.

Read Genesis 3:24 and make notes:

Before disobedience – man could freely – at will – choose to eat of the Tree of Life! Now, he is being kept from the blessings.

Have you begun to Question God's Word? Have you already begun to Challenge God's Word? You are surely being trapped - and when you sin there will surely be some immediate consequences. You will find yourself kept from the blessings. What a horrible condition to find yourself in!

Let's Stop Sin!

1 let's become aware of Satan's method

2 let's break the chain of events - Then let's do some preventive ministry:

The first thing to do is to confess and repent of the sins that we have already committed.
The second thing to do is to commit that we will never allow God's Word to be questioned.
Then it can't be challenged or perverted.

If we don't look upon it – we won't take hold of it! If we don't take hold of it – we won't partake of it! If we don't partake of it – we won't try to get others to do so!

God is still calling out to guilty people today - God is still desiring that the guilty confess (own up to) their sin and that they repent.

Genesis - 07 - The Fall

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 08 - Do What Is Right

In Genesis 4:1-2, we see that Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was a farmer, and Abel was a shepherd.

Read Genesis 4:3-5 and make notes:

There are two key phrases here: Cain brought "some of the fruits" - Abel brought "fat portions" - firstborn. Some have taught that the problem was Cain brought agricultural items as a sacrifice - they have taught that God only accepts a blood-shed sacrifice.

The ancient Hebrew law has always allowed for either an animal sacrifice or an agricultural sacrifice - depending upon what made up your increase. The problem was not that Cain offered grain or fruits or nuts - The problem was that Cain did not trust God to provide for his needs. Cain felt it was okay to offer SOME sacrifice to God as long as he didn't OVER-DO it - and he appears to have kept back the best items for himself!

Abel, on the other hand, appears to be placing trust in God to provide for him - as he is willing to take the very best that he has and offer it to God in a sacrifice ! First-born - he did not wait to see how much increase he would have - and how much he could afford!

Abel demonstrated that he had faith in God - while Cain demonstrated that he had faith in his own ability to store up for himself! Read Hebrews 11:4 and Matthew 23:35.

Read Genesis 4:6-7 and make notes:

Cain had already demonstrated he did not put as much faith in God taking care of him as he did himself. God could have just crossed Cain off the list - and said, "we'll forget him" - But God called to Cain and tried to reason with him to "do what is right."

While God pointed out to Cain that "he didn't have any reason to be angry or downcast" - God also pointed out to Cain that before him was set, "a blessing and a curse." "Cain, if you do what is right you will be blessed." "Cain, if you do not do what is right you will be cursed."

Genesis - 08 - Do What Is Right

Genesis 4:7 is an important verse if you are one of the many who have been taught that mankind lost his "lordship" - when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. When they disobeyed God, and ate the forbidden fruit - they received very definite judgment and punishment for their disobedience - but it was still God's intention that Man be the master over all the earth!

In Genesis 4:7, God told Cain that sin was "crouching at" his door - and that sin "desired to have" him. But God said something else very important here - He said, "you must master it!" It was God's intent for Man to be the "master" over all the earth - that included not only the earth itself - but all the animals, birds, fish, and even the fallen angels that had been banished to earth!

Here is "the beginning" of God warning "His people" of what Satan was up to - in an effort to help us be triumphant over Satan and to "master" him. God warned Cain that sin was "crouched" at his door, - just waiting for an opportunity to come into Cain's life - and did Cain heed the warning from God?

It doesn't appear that he did - for sin certainly took a place in his life and he shortly thereafter killed his brother Abel. Having received this warning from God - wouldn't that have been a great time to have taken the best "fruits" that you have - and make a proper offering" unto God?

God didn't ask for anything all that difficult - He simply ask Cain to "do what is right!" This has been a primary request of God to His people all along.

Read Genesis 18:18-19 and make notes:

Abraham was the very first of God's "called out people" - and God stated that by Abraham "doing what is right" - He would bring about what was promised." Look at what God said when He "called out" a whole nation of people to be "His people" - in Exodus 15:26. He told "His called out nation" that if they "do what is right" that He would keep them from the curse. Then in Deuteronomy 6:18, God told His "called out nation" that if they "do what is right" that it will go well with them.

Several times in the book of Deuteronomy, God told this "called out nation" that they should be careful to do "what is right." Throughout the books of Samuel and Kings and Chronicles - we see that God measured the kings by saying "he did what was right" or that "he did not do what was right."

Genesis - 08 - Do What Is Right

Read Psalms 4:5; Psalms 25:9; Psalms 106:3; Proverbs 21:2-3; Proverbs 21:7 and make notes:

In Isaiah 33:15-16, we are told “He who walks righteously and speaks what is right - this is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him.”

This IS NOT just "old covenant" stuff - this is the heart of God concerning His people - and we see it in the hearts of His people in the first century Church. Look at what Jesus tried to do for Peter –

Read Luke 22:31-34 and make notes:

Jesus warned Peter that Satan had asked to "sift him as wheat" and that Peter was going to deny Jesus three times this very day. You would think that if someone was warned that they were going to be tried and tested - that they would somehow try to get ready - "Peter, go enter into some Spiritual Warfare" - "Peter, go and get some of the brothers together and start an intercessory prayer" - "Peter, repent of any un-confessed sins in your life, and be built up in the most holy faith."

No! Peter appears to have done nothing with the warning given by Jesus. How blessed Peter was that Jesus interceded for him! Just like when God warned Cain in the beginning - just as God all through the Old Testament centuries, had asked His people to do what is right - Jesus warned Peter - Jesus wanted Peter to do what is right!

Genesis - 08 - Do What Is Right

When Peter and John were told to stop speaking in "the name of Jesus" - Acts 4:19 records their response, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right..." When Satan tried to burden the Apostles down with "good works" – the Apostles focused on "what was right." In Acts 10:34-35, Peter that God accepts men from every nation who "fear him" and "do what is right."

In Romans 12:17, we find the Apostle Paul instructing the Believers to "be careful to do what is right." In Romans 13:3, we are told that Believers "who do right" do not have to fear their rulers, so "do what is right." In his second letter to the Corinthians, (2 Corinthians 8:20-21) he said "we are taking pains to do what is right." Then later in that same letter (2 Corinthians 3:7), he said he was praying that people will see "that you will do what is right."

Ephesians 6:1 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Colossians 4:1 - Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, ...

2 Thessalonians 3:13 - brothers, never tire of doing what is right.

James 2:8 - If you really keep the royal law ...you are doing right.

From "the Beginning" - right on through to "the End" - we find that it is God's desire and will for us "to do what is right." The Scriptures are clear that God's love is UN-Conditional - but His promises are all conditional upon us "doing what is right".

Do you remember – God told Cain that sin is crouching at your door? "Crouching" implies that it is hiding - that it doesn't want you to know that it is there. Sin wants to sneak up on us and take advantage of us the first time we leave the door open.

In Revelations 3:20, we find that Jesus is also at our door - the difference is that Jesus "knocks at our door" - when someone is "knocking" at our door, they want us to know that they are there. Sin wants to sneak in when the door is left open and we are unaware. Jesus wants to be invited in and will only enter when invited.

The account recorded in Genesis - about Cain and Abel - is not just some little story to be told to children. God desires for us to understand that this has been His plan and will for us from "the beginning." Take a few minutes and consider what God is saying to us today:

Read 1 John 3:12; Romans 12:21; Romans 6:13-14 and make notes:

Genesis - 08 - Do What Is Right

Do you remember God told Cain that he was supposed to master sin?

Read Luke 10:19 and make notes:

God had given man "in the beginning" - the authority over everything on earth. Man through the ages had "one by one" given over to sin - man had "individually" given in to sin and given up his position of being "master." Jesus came as "God in the flesh" to restore us to a place of "master."

Read John 16:33; 1 John 5:4 and make notes:

Satan has lied to most of us and told us that he is too strong for us - that this sin in our life is too much for us - that we cannot overcome this thing in our life - that we might as well just learn to live with it - after all, we all have "our thorn in the flesh" don't we ?

Dear friend, God created us "in the beginning" to be masters over all the earth and that includes the sin on this earth! Throughout the centuries, we have continued to "give up" our lordship and position of being "master" - but "Praise be to God", Jesus has overcome the world, - Jesus has overcome sin, - Jesus has overcome Satan himself, - and Jesus has given the victory to us.

Read 1 John 2:28-29 and make notes:

Church, sin is crouching at our door, and desires to have us. If we do "what is right", it will not have us. But if we do not do "what is right" - sin will have us.

Friends in Christ Jesus, listen carefully, - no one can take our position of "master" away from us - but if we do not do what is right, - we will forfeit it over to sin - and sin will become our master.

Genesis - 08 - Do What Is Right

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, I have some good news from God's Word for you:

Read Ezekiel 18:21; Ezekiel 18:27; Ezekiel 33:14-16; 1 John 3:10 and make notes:

If we are a Child of God, we will not continue to do what is not right. That's not just my opinion, it's the Word of God. It is also my opinion, but it is first God's Word. It is God's will for us to commit to do what is right - at home, at work, at school, at church - in our business dealings, in our social dealings, in our church dealings - in our buying, in our selling, in our taxes, - in our word to others about what we will do - NOT JUST THE LEGAL thing - but the "what is right" thing!

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

"In the Beginning God ! " In the previous lessons - we have looked at several principles, or laws - that were laid down "in the Beginning." We have seen how some relationships and positions were established, "in the Beginning."

We are going to look at another relationship today that was established "in the Beginning" - and somehow along the way, we have let it slip out of order - we have lost perspective of just where, who, and what we are!

Read Genesis 4:2 and make notes:

“kept flocks” - *ra<ah* {raw-aw'} = to tend a flock; i.e. shepherd

Most people surely must know - what took place between Cain and Abel.

Read Genesis 4:8 and make notes:

“brother” - *>ach* {awkh} = a brother (used in the widest sense of literal relationship) :
another, kindred, like.

“killed” - *harag* {haw-rag'} = to smite with deadly intent

The word used for "brother" - was not a word that simply meant "two boys that had the same father or mother." It was a word that could mean "relative" - but it also means "another person or "another of like kind." This same word for "brother" is used in the following verses - and since I believe God had His Word written purposefully and with an express intent to get a message across - I believe this is important for us to "get hold of."

Read Genesis 4:9 and make notes:

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

“keeper” - *shamar* {shaw-mar'} = properly, to hedge about (as with thorns),
i.e. guard; generally, to protect

God asked Cain a question, "Where is your "brother" Abel?" Cain lied to God and said, "I don't know. " Then Cain asked God a question, "Am I my brother's 'keeper' or protector?"

How many of us have ever been asked where a certain person is - and we replied, "it's not my day to keep up with them?" Isn't it interesting - when God asked Cain where his brother Abel was - that Cain felt it necessary to deny that he was Abel's "protector." That is an interesting choice of words.

Read Genesis 4:10 and make notes:

After Cain answered God's question with a lie, "I don't know" - Cain then asked God a question - the kind we use when we don't want to own up to our mistakes - and we are trying to throw the other person off track.

Did you notice here that God DID NOT answer Cain's question? God did not allow the opportunity for the issue to be argued. You know how we do sometimes - we get into one of those things where "yes you are" - "no I'm not", etc. God didn't give place to the devil - God continued with the line of questioning that He began with - "Cain what have you done." Let's look at this word for a moment.

“done” - *asah* {aw-saw'} = to do or make, in the broadest sense and widest application
(as follows):-- accomplish, bring forth, become

"Cain, what have you accomplished?" - "Cain, what have you brought forth?" - "Cain, what have you BECOME?"

God would not allow the issue of "your brother's protector" to be argued or debated. And still He is using the word that means "the other person's protector." "In the Beginning", as for as God was concerned, man was surely meant to be the other person's protector.

Now if you think that I may be stretching this too far - then you simply haven't read much of the Bible. When we look at the laws given to the people of Israel - we can readily see how much God stressed the value of Human life. We can see over and over how severe the punishment was for taking another person's life. We can see the severity of punishment and restitution for crippling another person. From "the Beginning" God has intended for us to "protect" one another - and not to hurt, maim, or kill one another.

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

Some will probably want to make an issue of the Israelites being a "tribe" of relatives - and all this "brother stuff" isn't meant to be applied outside the blood family relationship. The word used for brother here is not just a coincidence - it lines up with the rest of the Bible and especially the New Testament.

Acts 9:17 - Paul calls Ananias
Acts 21:20 - Christians call Paul
Acts 22:13 - Ananias calls Paul
Romans 16:23 - Quartus called
1 Corinthians 1:1 - Sosthenes called
1 Corinthians 16:12 - Apollos called
1 Corinthians 1:1 - Timothy called
2 Corinthians 2:13 - Titus called
Ephesians 6:21 - Tychicus called
Philippians 2:25 - Epaphroditus called
Colossians 4: 9 - Onesimus called
Philemon 1:1-7 - Philemon called
Peter 5:12 - Silas called
2 Corinthians 8:18 - brother praised for service to gospel
2 Corinthians 8:22 - brother who has proved he is zealous

The first century Church certainly used this word "brother" freely toward those of the Christian faith. If you were a Christian, then you were "another of like kind" - and they called you brother, and looked at you as a brother.

"Oh, but Brother Bob, we call each other brother all the time, what's the big deal about those first century Christians?" Most of them weren't being "hypocrites" when they used the word brother! That's the big deal! The word "brother" is used as meaningless as the word "love" today among God's people.

Who is Brother? Jesus identified our brother for us.

Read Mark 3:32-35 and make notes:

Not everyone who goes to Church regularly is our brother – or sister. Not everyone who has their name on the Church role is our brother – or sister. Not everyone who says "churchy" words and does "church" things is our brother – or sister. But, those who do God's will ARE.

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

False brothers :

Read 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-5; 1 John 2:8-11 and make notes:

We must be "on guard" against those who are living in a sinful lifestyle - and we must also be "on guard" against those who "hate" the brother. For those who are living a sinful lifestyle - simply are not a child of God and are not our brother or sister. Those who may be saying and doing the right kinds of things - but are walking around with hate toward the brother - simply are not our brother or sister either. That's God's Word.

Helping the brother who has sinned:

Read 1 John 5:16 and make notes:

Wouldn't it be wonderful, when people should see you commit a sin - that they entered into prayer for you and for your forgiveness - instead of telling everyone they "know that you did thus and so?" That is God's plan and intent - So when are we going to begin doing that?

When a brother does you wrong :

Read Matthew 18:21-22 and make notes:

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

Then in following up on this question, - Jesus told them a parable about a servant that had his debt forgiven - but wouldn't forgive others.

Read Matthew 18:32-35 and make notes:

These are pretty strong words - "forgive your brother from your heart" - and if you don't - your Heavenly Father will hold you responsible for your sins and transgressions! Who could bear it?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:5-7 and make notes:

We are making a strong testimony - about our relationship with our Heavenly Father - and our brother when we openly go to court against each other.

Read James 4:11 and make notes:

Part of it is that we simply can not go around saying "bad things" about our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Remember, this is still all under the heading of when a "brother or sister" wrongs you.

Read 1 John 4:20-21 and make notes:

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

Simply stated, we MUST LOVE our Brother and Sister! When a brother sins against you:

Read Matthew 18:15-17 and make notes:

Many people spout off at the mouth that - "Christians can't sue anyone according to the Bible." The Bible does say that we should not sue our fellow Brother in Christ Jesus - But it doesn't say that about pagans. When someone who claims to be "a brother" in the Lord sins against you - The Bible is real plain here - it just told us that we have a four step plan of action:

1. just you and them - privately
2. one or two witnesses
3. present it to the Church
4. treat them like a pagan

I have tried this method and it really works - it doesn't always make the person do the right thing - but it does stop you from becoming angry and bitter over it. I've also tried the "fuss at them until the give in" approach - and that works even less of the time. And even when it does - your usually mad and bitter.

Angry with brother is subject to judgment:

Read Matthew 5:22-24 and make notes:

God never said that living the "Christ like" life would be easy. We simply and plainly - "can not live our life angry at our brother our sister!" Please take notice of this section of scripture - it starts out saying that if we are angry with our brother that we are in danger of "hell fire." Then it goes on to say that if we are about to give our offering - "and remember that our brother has something against us" - "that we are supposed to go and make it right with them." It DOES NOT say that "if we are about to give our offering and WE ARE mad at our brother" - it says "that if our brother has something against us."

Do you yet see that Jesus was telling them and us - that we are supposed to be protecting our brother (and our sister) from hell fire. Some of us have people who have "something" against us - we are our "brother's" PROTECTOR! God IS and WILL hold us responsible for PROTECTING our brother and our sister. Even if they are not doing the right thing - we are to go and do what we can to Protect them!

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

Guard your brother:

Read Romans 14:14-22; 1 Corinthians 8:10-13 and make notes:

The things we do – the things we eat – the places we go – the things we read – the things we say!

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 and make notes:

God says that we are to keep ourselves from sexual impurity - but did you notice that He made a point of saying that the "Lord will punish men" for causing his brother to become sexually impure? We are expected to help "keep" our brother and sister sexually pure! This can be a big job in our culture.

Get your own eye straightened out AND THEN help your brother:

Read Luke 6:41-42 and make notes:

God - "in the Beginning" - would not allow the issue to be argued - that WE ARE our brother's PROTECTOR. God DOES EXPECT us today to "watch out" for our brothers and sisters. God DOES EXPECT us today to "help" our brothers and sisters to remain pure. If they sin, He expects us to help them - pray, counsel, guide, admonish.

But what Jesus said here in Luke 6:41 & 42 - flows into every aspect of our everyday lives. We are expected to get our lives "cleaned up" - SO THAT we can be of use and help to protecting our brothers and sisters.

Genesis - 09 - Brother's Keeper

It was in "the Beginning" that God expected man to be the "protector" of his fellow man. It is "today" that God expects us to be the "protector" of our fellow believer - even if that means that we have to go to them when they are not doing right even when the problem is all them;

WE MUST protect them from sin -

WE MUST protect them from perversity -

WE MUST protect them from "hell fire."

Will you accept the call of God to be your brother's keeper?

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 10 - Cain Cast Out

After Cain killed his brother Abel, God came and asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" Cain's response was a lie, "I don't know. " Cain even tried to get God off the track by asking a ridiculous question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God didn't dignify that meaningless question with an answer. God continued to ask Cain about his brother Abel.

Read Genesis 4:10 and make notes:

I am convinced - God was asking Cain about his brother in order that Cain would have an opportunity to confess and repent before God. Not only did Cain not repent, but his attempt at a rebuttal question was nothing less than rebellion against God. Rebellion ALWAYS brings judgment. Sometimes delayed – sometimes immediate. And so it did for Cain - immediately!

Read Genesis 4:11-12 and make notes:

When Adam sinned, the curse was upon the ground. Here in verse 11, we see that when Cain sinned, the curse was upon him. God said, "Cain, you are now under a curse." The earth had received the CURSE because of Adam's sin - Cain had poured that which is precious - Abel's blood - upon the cursed earth. Now the curse that was upon the earth would take "lordship" over Cain. "You are under a curse."

When Adam sinned, part of his judgment was - from that time on, - he would have to work the soil in order to eat of it. And in the midst of his working the soil, it would bring forth thorns and thistles to harass him in his search for sustenance.

Cain is plainly told in verse 12, - "When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you." Cain was a farmer. Cain obtained his sustenance from the soil. And now it simply wasn't going to produce for him anymore. But that wasn't all of the judgment against him - look at the last part of verse 12, - "You will be a restless wanderer on the earth." "Cain, there will be no place of rest for you." - "Cain, you will not be at peace."

Have you ever seen anyone living with a rebellious heart or attitude? Who could find a place of rest? Have you noticed – rebellious people never are at peace?

Genesis - 10 - Cain Cast Out

When Cain was asked about his sin, and given an opportunity to confess and repent - he played it down - as if his sin was "really nothing" - "it was no big deal, let's not make a mountain out of a mole hill." But when the judgment for his sin fell upon him, - he did just what we do - he cried out in verse 13.

Read Genesis 4:13-14 and make notes:

Cain made nothing of his sin and would completely dismiss it as just "and okay thing to do" - but boy, does he make much of his punishment! Cain cries out that his punishment is much worse than the sin demands – a typical attitude of the rebellious!

Cain cries out that his punishment is more than he can bear - Cain would tell his friends that God is a harsh and intolerant God. But Cain never stopped to acknowledge the GRACE and the MERCY of God - in that God did not immediately strike him down.

When we read the rest of the Bible, - it is very clear that God holds a man's life in great value. It was God that had it written in His Word that, "if a man kills another man, then that man must loose his life also." Sinful Cain clearly deserved to be put to death by this righteous God. But God was showing mercy toward Cain in that He first allowed him an opportunity to confess and repent - and even after Cain rebelled instead, God still showed His Mercy in that he did not kill Cain.

But Cain was so wrapped up in himself that he could not acknowledge the Mercy of God. And part of his judgment was that of being "unable to rest or to be at peace - and when Cain whined that the others would kill him for what he had done:

Read Genesis 4:15-16 and make notes:

If we read on in the following verses, - we see that this farmer who was told that the ground would no longer produce fruit for him- began to pour himself into building a city.

Genesis - 10 - Cain Cast Out

From that day of "judgment", Cain never had rest within himself again. We can not find any evidence in the scriptures that Cain ever came back to God and tried to repent and ask for forgiveness. This is a very sad and tragic picture - and it is still being played out today. Every family must have at least one just like this. I know of several in our family. They go out and in their selfish actions - they break God's law - and most of the time, they break civil laws - plural - and they never voluntarily confessed to having done wrong - they never apologize or repent or say a simple "I'm sorry" from the heart.

But when they begin to see the judgment of God come to pass in their life - just like Cain, who didn't make anything of his sin, but really let loose about the judgment - we begin to hear it from them - "this just isn't fair" - "I'm not getting my fair share of life's goodies" - "I'm mad because things don't go as good for me as they do for others" - "everybody else always gets all the breaks."

On part of me just wants to grab them by the front of the shirt and slap them good and hard - and then say, "wake up dummy, and get right with God, just be thankful that God hasn't allowed Satan to take your life!"

Dear friends, when we come into this world, we are innocent of any sin - and we are not under the curse! But each one of us somewhere along life's way - comes to the knowledge of Good and Evil - and when we choose "the evil" - then we "come under the curse. From that time on, the "curse of this earth" is in Lordship over us. There is no peace for those in sin - There is no real rest for those in sin!

They may get to a place where they can stand still on the outside - but their inside is jumping and tossing at warp speed. If you read on in the scriptures, you will find that Cain's descendants became famous for certain abilities. Yes, those of the "worldly system" - can become famous for the things of this world - but they cannot have the "peace of God" or the "rest of God."

A guilty soul is a restless soul. Cain lamented that, "when the others see me, they will kill me." "If God just hadn't brought it up maybe they wouldn't have known." "But God, now that your judgment is upon me, they will know and they will take it out on me."

When we owe someone some money, and we are behind in paying them back - every time we see them, we just know that they are going to ask us for their money - so we are always on the look out for that person, so that we can avoid them - we can never let our guard down and just rest and take it easy.

It is the same when we have sin in our life - every time we see someone, we just know that somehow they have found out - and then they will expect me to make it right - "Oh dear God, what if they find out" - "Oh Lord, I'll have to be careful what I say, so that I don't let it slip" - "Oh my, they might ask me - I must keep alert and not let my guard down" - "better yet, I'll just stay away from everybody."

Genesis - 10 - Cain Cast Out

When we sin, we give up our "lordship" over the earth and come under the "lordship" of the earth! Some of us may have absolutely knotted up on the inside when I asked "about yourself" -we know that we have sinned and that we are trying to pretend that it isn't really sin for us - and we are concerned that those around us might find out.

I have some bad news for you. There is someone who is praying and interceding for your. God has told them about many of your sins so that they could pray for you. The really bad news is that GOD KNOWS!

God knows about that one who is still using drugs - He knows about that one who is still speaking forth profanities - He knows about that one who has been engaging in sexual activity with someone they are not married to - He knows about those who have hard feelings against another and just won't make it right - He knows about those who have spoken negatively toward others but come in and say "I love you and support you" to their face - He knows about that one who is acting sinfully against their spouse and family. There, it is out in the open between you and God - What are you going to do with it?

I can't tell you how much peace or rest the descendants of Cain had. The Bible tells us that they had some success in the world market. But it doesn't speak to their peace. They never knew God. They never had a relationship with God. Maybe they had some measure of rest in that ignorance. BUT Cain had experienced the presence of God - Once you have experienced the presence of God - you CAN NOT live with sin in your life and be at peace!

The MERCY OF GOD is this - "God gives us ample opportunity to confess and repent before judgment comes upon us."

The GRACE OF GOD is this - "That even after judgment has come, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness "

God loves us whether we repent or do not. God gives a Pastor a love for the people and they will love the people even if they don't get right with God. But God's rest and peace and His blessings will be proportioned by our confessing and repenting. "Oh, why not today?"

One thing that Cain said that is surely true, - "this lack of rest and this being cut off from God's presence is more than I can bear." Let's not allow our life's record end as did Cain's - with there being no record of him ever coming back to God and confessing and repenting. Just as much as Abel's blood cried out for vengeance and justice - Jesus Christ's blood cries out for pardon and cleansing!

Please come on back under the flow of the cleansing blood of Jesus today. There are two attitudes: one is saying, "if I confess that I haven't been right in some area of my life, these other people, what will they think?" - That's the attitude of Cain and you can just guess who was putting those thoughts into your head. The other attitude is saying, "I thank you Lord God for allowing me to confess and repent." Those who have already confessed and repented would tell you in a minute that the freedom and peace and rest that comes - far outweighs what anyone could possibly think badly toward you.

Genesis - 10 - Cain Cast Out

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 10 - Cain Cast Out

(this page for additional notes)

Genesis - 11 - Good And Bad Fruit

In this lesson - we are going to look at the sowing of good fruit and bad fruit. We are also going to see some "good news" from God. After Cain killed his brother Abel - and rebelled at God's opportunity to confess and repent - we see Cain departed from the presence of the Lord.

As we read the last half of chapter 4 - we will see the descendants of Cain were a proud and boastful lot. One of them named Lamech even boasted that he too had killed a man just like Cain had done.

Read Genesis 4:23-24 and make notes:

The word was passed down - that if anyone tried to kill Cain, vengeance of seven fold would be taken out on them. But it looks like it got a little distorted along the way. It sounds more like they began to take it that "Cain is tough and he is rough" - and in today's language, "Cain is BAD man, if you try to kill him, he'll get back at you seven times over."

Cain sowed some bad seed - when he refused to confess and repent when God gave him the opportunity. And he rebelled against God and left the presence of God. Some seed produces 30, some 60, and some 100 fold! The seed Cain began to sow was now producing with increase!

Lamech was proud, confident, and boastful. If Cain would be avenged 7 times - then Lamech would be avenged 77 times. If you follow the scriptures through to Noah, you can see the bad fruit and seed continued to increase.

Read Genesis 6:5-6 and make notes:

Sowing wicked seed produces wicked fruit. The wicked fruit produces a greater number of wicked seed. This greater number of wicked seed produces a greater amount of wicked fruit - and on and on it goes!

Adam and Eve - oh how they must have suffered! One of their children had been murdered - he didn't just die - he didn't just have an unfortunate accident and die - he had been murdered! He hadn't even done anything to deserve it - this other person had just come up and killed him! Then how the pain must have increased to find out that the one who had killed their son was their other son. Then the only son they had left alive was driven from God's presence and their own presence because he rebelled against God.

Genesis - 11 - Good And Bad Fruit

Read Genesis 4:25 and make notes:

Adam and Eve knew Cain was the one who killed Abel. Isn't it terrific to see here in the earliest stages of man's history that they acknowledged their children were a gift from God?

Seth - means "appointed" or "substitute." Seth became the appointed substitute for that which was destroyed.

Read Genesis 4:26 and make notes:

This substitute for that which was destroyed - became a father of faith among men - "at this time men began to call on the name of the Lord." This is one monumental statement - for you see up until now, they had just waited for God to come to them. Adam and Eve waited for God to come to walk with them in the Garden during the cool of the day - while Cain and Abel offered sacrifices up to God they did not call on Him. Cain waited for God to come to him and confront him with his sin. But now, with Seth and Enosh, men began to "call on the Name of the Lord."

When a salesman "calls on his clients", what does he or she do? When a man "calls on his sweetheart", - what does he do?

From reading the whole text, - I believe that it means - men "began to call out to God, or to bring things to God." They actually would seek out God - they would call to Him - they desired to talk to Him - they wanted to share things with Him.

We see here - the family, which consisted of Adam and Eve and their children - the family went from losing their place of grace and blessing with God - on to having lost those precious children - on to suffering great emotional pain and agony - and on to having a spiritual revival and growth.

No longer did they just sit around and wait to see if God would show up - but they eagerly and excitedly and expectantly began to "go to God" and to call upon His Name. I have no doubt at all that He answered them when they called to Him.

Genesis - 11 - Good And Bad Fruit

Maybe you have been one of those who has basically just waited for God to come to you. Maybe you have experienced the loss of those things or persons that were precious to you. Maybe you have felt as though you have lost it all. Maybe you have been to the place where it just can't get any lower or any darker.

Dear friend please Go calling on God today. Call out to God - and He WILL answer you. You CAN have revival today. Your family CAN be restored today. Your joy and you peace and your excitement CAN be restored today. But it won't be restored through anything this world has to offer - ONLY through the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is one other person we need to look at briefly. In chapter 5, there is a list of genealogy of those who were born from Adam, to Seth, and then on down to Noah. I know genealogies are not the most exciting things to read for most people - but there is some light in this list.

As you read this list you see over and over - "when he lived so many years, he had a son. After his son was born, he lived so many years and then he died ... This is repeated over and over right to the end - with one exception.

Read Genesis 5:21-24 and make notes:

If you are one of those who is into numbers and their meanings - you will know that 7 is the number of perfection (or completion). Enoch was the 7th generation starting with Adam.

There isn't very much written about Enoch in the scriptures - but these few words say a great deal; - "Enoch walked with God." There are a number of people recorded in the Bible who "walked before God." But it is said of Enoch that he "walked with God." And because he "walked with God", he did not taste death as other men do.

If you read chapter 5, you will notice that everyone in this list "died" - except Enoch. Enoch - means "consecrated." Enoch was a man of faith.

Read Hebrews 11:5-6 and make notes:

Genesis - 11 - Good And Bad Fruit

It was "faith" that made it possible for Enoch to walk with God. It is "faith" that will make it possible for us to walk with God. It is "faith" that will make it possible for us to have revival in our life. It is "faith" that will make it possible for us to experience the restoration that came to Adam and Eve.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. We must believe that God exist! But we must also believe that God rewards those who seek earnestly Him!

We can easily see in these passages from Genesis that the wicked fruit bore wicked seed - and with each generation it increased! We can also see that the good fruit bore good seed and it increased with each generation.

Many of us are a product of a previous generation's fruit. Some of us are Simply improving on the previous generation's good fruit - or it's wicked fruit. Some of us desperately need "revival" to come into our life and to our family. Some of us desperately need "restoration" to come to our life and our family. Some of us need to be busy taking the "good news" that revival and restoration is available - to a dying and hurting world.

I may not know how low you are - I may not know how low you have been - but I do know what it is to be in the darkness. I do know what it is to lose the precious things in life - I do know what it is to be away from God - I do know that no matter how low you have let your life sink - or how dark you have let it get - My God is able to "lift you up", - to "cleanse you", - "purify you", - and "restore" your life and joy.

Things got pretty sad and dark in Adam and Eve's lives - they had lost every good thing - their home of grace in the garden, - their children - then God sent the gift of "substitution" - and with that began to be "sown the good seed." Revival of joy came to them - restoration of family came to them. Today, we can break the cycle of wicked fruit in our life - Today, we can have revival and restoration begin in our life.

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group:

Genesis - 12 - The Commission

In a number of places through the Scriptures - Water represents the Word of God. In the flood of Noah's time - the same water that destroyed the wicked, lifted up the righteous to a place of safety and deliverance. In this lesson, we are going to take a look at God's will after the Flood.

Read Genesis 9:1 and make notes:

Hopefully, this doesn't sound too new or unusual to you - but have you really stopped to think just how consistent God has been on this one subject? This particular idea of God that "man should increase and fill the earth" - is part of His original design - and while it has been modified slightly, - it hasn't changed today.

Read Genesis 1:21-22 and make notes:

When God made the "critters" of the earth, He wanted them to fill the earth with their kind.

Read Genesis 1:27-28 and make notes:

When God made man, He wanted him to increase in number and fill the earth. In the original plan, Man was to increase in number, fill the earth, and rule over all the "critters" that were told to fill the earth.

Of course, we know that evil began to take over the hearts and minds of almost everyone on earth - and as a result, God destroyed most of the people and animals upon the earth with the flood. After the flood was over – after the great purging was complete - a new order was about to begin - God could have given a totally "new charter" to mankind - but He didn't!

Genesis - 12 - The Commission

Read Genesis 8:17 and make notes:

In the "New Order" - God still wanted the critters to fill the earth.

Read Genesis 9:1; Genesis 9:7 and make notes:

Now, when the earth is starting all over - God gave the same charge to the living things - and to man - "increase in number and fill the earth." New Beginning – SAME Commission!

One of the many reasons that the Bible is so good to read and study - is that the people recorded in the Bible are just like us today!

Read Genesis 11:2 and make notes:

Today, among God's people, we find too many ready too quickly to "just settle." Remember this for a few minutes, they began to move, and then decided to "just settle".

Read Genesis 11:3-5 and make notes:

Genesis - 12 - The Commission

“Brick” represents man's provision. “Stone” represents God's provision. “Tar” represents man's provision to protect against another flood – having no faith in God's promise to protect.

The people of the earth had a plan, - "but the Lord came down!" It wasn't wrong for the people to build a city. It wasn't wrong for some of them to live there for the rest of their lives.

The purpose for this city was what was wrong - "that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

What had been God's instructions to man? To "fill the earth." In effect - God said that man was to scatter over the face of the earth" - man devised a plan to prevent the "scattering over the earth."

Read Genesis 11:6-8 and make notes:

Once they could no longer understand each other, they found it desirable to separate from each other. It is understandable that those who did speak the same language, began to congregate together. "Okay pastor, but the earth has been pretty well filled with people; in fact there are simply too many in some places" - "This is a nice story, it is even a little interesting to know how we all became different, but it isn't really relevant to today." WRONG – Wrong – Wrong!

When Noah and his family came off of the ark to the new and fresh beginning - God's plan for man was the very same as in the beginning. Throughout the centuries that followed, - wickedness among man flourished and all but destroyed mankind.

Then Jesus came, (hallelujah!). In Jesus, there was a fresh new beginning - and just what do you suppose was God's instructions to the people of this "New Beginning?"

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and make notes:

The desire of God for this "new beginning" in Jesus - was for the earth to be filled with "like kind." The instructions given to the first disciples - and to every disciple since - and even to today - is "fill the earth with like kind." God is so very consistent! He never changes. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

Genesis - 12 - The Commission

God desires for the earth to be filled with "His kind of people." Alright, while Jesus was still alive in His fleshly body that is what He told His disciples to do. Look at the instructions He gave them after He had died and risen from the dead and was in His Glorified Body.

Read Acts 1:3-8 and make notes:

After Jesus had received His glorified body, - while things seemed to have changed for the disciples - Jesus made it quite clear, that His original plan was still to be carried out - that His original expectations of disciples was still in tact. So, how did they do?

Read Acts 6:7 and make notes:

Sounds like success, "the number increased." But it was only increasing in Jerusalem.

The Holy Spirit that they were instructed to wait on - had come. The Spirit of God had begun to move - and the disciples decided to "settle." If you read the scriptures carefully, you can't find any indication that they were trying to take the "gospel of Jesus" to the world. They decided to "settle there" – in Jerusalem.

If Satan can't stop us from receiving salvation, then at least maybe he can stop us from receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If he can't stop us from receiving the Holy Spirit, then at least maybe he can stop us from spreading it around or sharing it - just "settle" where we are. That's what those first century disciples decided to do – Just Settle.

You are probably familiar with the account of Stephen - how that as he began to share his testimony and the "good news - that the religious leaders of that day had him stoned to death.

Read Acts 8:1-4 and make notes:

Genesis - 12 - The Commission

It wasn't wrong for some of the disciples to remain in Jerusalem. It was directly opposed to God's instructions and God's will for every disciple to remain in Jerusalem. After receiving the Power of the Holy Spirit in their life - they should have eagerly and excitedly begun to take this "good news of salvation in Jesus" to the rest of the world - to the "utter most parts."

I'm sure that many people at the time of the tower of Babel, thought God to be a mean God - because He confused their languages. Perhaps some even blamed Satan for what happened there. I know for sure that some people have become mad at God in our time - because He allowed some in their church to receive the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" - and because of the confusion, some had to leave and go somewhere else. I also know that some have even blamed Satan for the whole thing.

Satan didn't "do it" - at the tower of Babel - and Satan isn't the problem concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. "The People" were the cause - and are the cause - of the separation and the confusion.

I have watched as people go about and find someone who is different - they decide then that the other person should be somewhere else. But when they find someone like themselves, then they should come where they are.

We want to congregate with those of "like kind" just like the people following the tower of Babel incident. God's instructions to us have never wavered since the very beginning - go and fill the earth with "like kind!"

"Oh, but pastor, if you are starting to talk about that evangelism stuff, you've got to leave me out." If I leave you out, God WON'T! "But I don't know enough to share the gospel." If you have been "born again" - you know enough.

In the New Testament there is an account where Jesus gave sight to the eyes of a man who had been born blind.

Read John 9:24-25 and make notes:

This man didn't know the Bible of his day. He didn't know chapter and verse anything. He didn't know doctrine and theology. He ONLY KNEW WHAT JESUS HAD DONE FOR HIM. It is okay to learn one of the evangelism programs - you can learn a lot from most of them. But the very best thing you ever share is "what Jesus has done for you."

Genesis - 12 - The Commission

After you are sure of what Jesus has done for you personally - and you can tell others what that is- then you can be a witness for Jesus. If you are not sure what Jesus has done for you personally - then there is reason to ask yourself - if you are really saved.

Write your thoughts and questions regarding this study to share with the group: