

**Sunday - January 1, 2017**

## **Preparation**

Today is the first day of your “pursuit” through the written word of God. By accepting the challenge of reading the Bible through, it is inevitable that you will indeed face challenges yourself. You will be challenged to examine yourself. You will be challenged to respond to the word of God. You will be challenged to share what you’ve learned with others. In beginning the book of “beginnings” , there will be much that can be learned and applied to your daily lives. As you dive into Genesis, be prepared to see Jesus on the very first page. Be prepared to see God as Isaiah saw him, “high and lifted” (Isaiah 6:1), as He unfolds creation as we know it through the “breath of his mouth” (Psalm 33:6). As you begin to see God in this light, be prepared to respond as Isaiah did once he was confronted with who God was: “Woe is me” . (Isaiah 6:5) This Book is incredible. You will learn how alive it really is.

In preparation of your pursuit, the best way to start your week would be to gather together with your local body of believers. This is an opportunity to learn more of God and His desire for you through the preaching of His word, or fellowship with other believers. You will have the privilege to worship Him through the singing of songs unto Him from your heart. Worship of God continues as His word is opened and the man of God expounds on the Holy Scripture. Be encouraged to truly apply yourself as you go, seeking the face of God and desiring to hear from Him in the services. As the day ends, think about what was read; read the passage(s) again at home and meditate on Gods message to you from His holy word so that your mind is renewed in Christ and your heart is refreshed in the Spirit by Gods great love for you. Be encouraged to set aside this day each week to worship the Lord in preparation for another week of pursuing Him who pursued you.

**Monday - January 2, 2017**

## **TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 1-3**

### **OVERVIEW:**

Creation of all things; creation of Adam and his bride; their commissioning; temptation by Satan; Adam and his bride rebel against God, forfeiting the Garden of Eden, their relationship with God, and the ability to fulfil their commission.

### **HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

The word "genesis" means "beginnings." The Book of Genesis records the beginning of the universe, man, woman, marriage, the family, sin, judgment, sacrifice, salvation, worship, civilization, false religion, and war.

In the first 10 words of the Bible (Gen. 1:1), God sums up the five elements of science: TIME ("*beginning*"); SPACE ("*heavens*"); MOTION ("*created*"); MATTER ("*the earth*"); and ENERGY ("*created*"). In this simple verse,, God destroys atheism ("*... GOD created*"), denies polytheism ("*... GOD (singular) created*"), and dispels evolution ("*... God CREATED*").

Man is the crown of creation. God formed the first man "in His own image" and "likeness," and gave him the place of dominion over the whole earth from Eden, the Garden of God. Lucifer once held the position as the crown of creation (Ezek. 28:11-17; Isaiah 14:12-14) and held dominion over the whole earth from Eden, the Garden of God. Since Lucifer could not have the place of God in the universe, he sought to have the place of God in the life of men. Sadly, he was successful.

Some interesting things to note...

The first recorded words of Satan (Gen. 3:1), come in the form of a question, and the question is about the Words of God ("Yea, hath God

said?”). Some things never change!

When you compare Genesis 3:6 with Matthew 4:1-11, you find that Satan tempted the Lord Jesus Christ the same way he tempted the woman... through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (I John 2:16). In Christ's case, however, the temptation was resisted. James 4:7 says, *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

In the first chapter of the Bible God made us in His image. In the twenty-first century in America we attempt to make God in our image. Instead of, *“This is the day which the Lord hath made,”* as it says in Psalm 118:24, it's *“This is Lord which the day hath made.”* Rather than submitting to the control of God, our Designer, we seek to design a God we can control.

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As CREATOR – Gen. 1:1 (John 1:1-4; Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16-17) As the SEED OF THE WOMAN – Gen. 3:15 (Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; Gal. 4:4) In ADAM – Gen. 2:21-24 (John 19:34; Eph. 5:28-32)

*\*Note: God caused a sleep to fall upon Adam, and from the substance that came from his side, God formed for him a bride. God caused a “sleep” to fall upon the second Adam, Christ (I Cor. 15:45-47), and from the substance that came from His side, God formed for Him a bride.*

As the SACRIFICIAL LAMB – Gen. 3:21 (Prov. 27:26)

**Tuesday - January 3, 2017**

## **TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 4-6**

### **OVERVIEW:**

The sacrifices of Cain and Abel; Cain murders Abel; genealogy from Adam to Noah\*; the days of Noah; Noah's ark.

*\*Note: Through the 10 men listed in this genealogy, God actually outlines the entire course of human history! To learn more, go to our website under Selected Messages and listen to "Genealogical Gems," preached 12.14.03*

### **HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

The physical and spiritual implications of the entrance of sin into the perfect environment into which man was placed were unbelievably devastating. The curse of sin that entered into the world in chapter 3 is already clearly manifest in chapter 4 as Cain murders his own brother.

Cain's is the religion of human works. He offers to God the fruit of his own labor. His offering recognized God as Creator, but it did not recognize Cain as a sinner. Abel's religion, however, is that of faith. His offering not only recognized God as Creator, but the fact of his own sinfulness. He recognized that the blood sacrifice of a lamb was necessary to atone for his sin (Heb. 9:22; 11:4).

Notice that God asks Cain a question in verse 9, giving him the opportunity to confess his sin. Rather than repent (v.16), Cain goes *"out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden."* (Note that every positive move in the Bible is always from east to west. Every negative move in the Bible is west to east.) "Nod" means "to stray" or "to wander." Even the land Cain chose speaks of his willful choice to refuse to confess his sin, his refusal to trust the blood of the lamb, and his refusal to move toward God.

Where did Cain get his wife? It's the age-old question. Obviously, Cain married one of his sisters. By the time he takes a wife, Adam and Eve have many descendants, and there has been given no Divine

prohibition forbidding him from taking one of them to be his wife. The very idea of marrying a relative sounds strange and even repulsive to us, until we realize that though in a much larger sense, all of us are descendants of Noah, and all of us who are married have likewise married another descendant of Noah.

As God describes the sinful days of Noah in chapter 6, we find that there is not much difference between his time and ours. Jesus said in Matthew 24:37, *“But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”* Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

Through Abel’s BLOOD SACRIFICE – Gen. 4:4 (Heb. 9:19-22)  
Through Abel’s SACRIFICIAL LAMB – Gen. 4:4 (John 1:29; Heb. 11:4)  
In METHUSELAH (meaning “the man of the sword”) – Gen. 5:27 (John 1:1,14; Eph 6:17; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 19:15)

Wednesday – January 4, 2017

## TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 7-9

### OVERVIEW:

Noah, his family, seven pairs of clean and one pair of unclean of every living creature enter the ark as God had commanded; the great flood; the Rainbow Covenant; the new beginning; the curse upon the descendants of Ham (the Canaanites).

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

“The Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark” (Gen. 7:1). The ark was God’s secure refuge from the judgment that was to come. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus said, *“Come unto me, ... and I will give you rest.”* In Acts 16:31, Paul said, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”* Just as Noah was saved from the wrath to come, and found rest within the ark, Colossians 3:3 says to those of us who have called upon the name of the Lord, *“your life is hid with Christ in God.”*

The fact of the flood is proved by God’s record of it here in Genesis through Moses, as well as by the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:36), the prophets (Isa. 54:9), and the apostles (I Peter 3:20; II Peter 2:5).

The flood teaches us that God will punish sin, and that there must be death to the old before He will establish the new.

God begins again with eight souls (Noah, his three sons, and each of their wives). Note that from this point in the Bible, eight is the number of “new beginnings.”

In chapter 9, verses 8-17, God enters with Noah what verse 16 describes as an “everlasting covenant.” This is the first of five covenants in the Bible that God refers to as “everlasting.” The other four “everlasting covenants” include: **1)** The Abrahamic (Gen. 17:7); **2)**

The Priestly (Num. 25:10-13); **3**) The Davidic (II Sam. 23:5); **4**) The New (Jer. 32:40).

As God replenishes the earth through Noah's three sons (9:18-19), note that through Shem come the Asians, through Ham come the Africans, and through Japeth come the Europeans.

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

Through the ARK – Gen. 7:1,7 (Acts 4:12; II Cor. 5:17; I Thess. 1:10)

*\*Note: To be delivered from the wrath of God to come, you must be "in Christ," the only "Ark" of safety.*

Thursday - January 5, 2017

## TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 10-12

### OVERVIEW:

The descendants of Noah; Babel: the origin of races and languages; God's call and covenant with Abram; Abram's journey to Canaan and Egypt.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

After listing one name after the other in the midst of the genealogy in chapter 10, when you get to the name Nimrod (10:8-10), all of a sudden God interrupts the list to give you a commentary on him. You might say that this is God's way of taking a highlighter and trying to communicate to us, "Don't miss this!" (*Note that the same thing happens in the genealogy that lists Nimrod in I Chronicles 1:10.*)

Interestingly, Nimrod is the grandson of Ham, which, as we've already seen, is associated with a curse. His name means "rebel," and his epithet is that he was "a mighty hunter before (or, against) the Lord." He was, obviously, a keen hunter of animals in the land of Shinar, but the context lets us know that he was also hunting something else... Men! Men to become a part of a kingdom (10:10). Nimrod wanted to set himself up as a king over a kingdom of rebellion against God!

Keep in mind that the theme of the Bible is all about a kingdom, where Jesus rules over all the earth from His throne for a period of 1000 years (Gen. 2:3; II Peter 3:8). The history of mankind and God's record of history in the Bible is really nothing more than God moving to put His Son on the throne, and Satan doing everything he can, not only to stop Him, but to put himself there! (Isa. 14:12-14) Note that the first mention of "kingdom" in the Bible is in reference to a king whose name means "rebellion," who is seeking to establish a world empire. *If you are unfamiliar with the principle of "First Mention" in terms of Bible study, God has so orchestrated the revelation of His Word that the first time a key biblical principle is mentioned, the context foreshadows its*

*future scope. For example, the first time “love” is mentioned in the Bible, (Gen. 22:2), it is in the context of a loving father offering his only begotten son as a sacrifice. The future scope is obvious!*

Note, also, that the first mention of “Babel” is in verse 10. From this point in the Bible, Babel, or Babylon (Hebrew = Babel, Greek = Babylon), will always stand for that which is opposition to God and His people.

Nimrod recognized that to establish a world empire, he would need to unify the people, both governmentally and religiously (*“Let us build us a city and a tower” – Gen. 11:1-4*). The “city” is the governmental symbol, and the “tower” is the religious symbol. Practically speaking, the “city” and “tower” of Babel was Satan’s attempt to unite the people of the earth in a one-world government, one- world religion, under one king. Obviously, Nimrod is a forerunner and type of the Antichrist who is a king of rebellion who seeks to establish a world empire by unifying the people of the earth in a one- world government and religion.

In striking contrast to rebellious Nimrod, chapter 12 introduces us to Abram, a man who symbolizes submission to God. God’s call to Abram was: *“Get thee out of thy country...unto a land that I will show thee...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him” (12:1-4)*. Without hesitation, consideration, or deliberation, Abram, in faith, left his homeland and all that he knew and loved for an unidentified land. For his uncompromising faith, God holds Abram up as a shining example (Heb. 11:8).

Even though Abram exercised such great faith in God on one hand, when famine struck in verse 10, rather than exercise the same trust in God, *“Abram went down into Egypt.”* This is the first mention of “Egypt” in the Bible. Note that Egypt is always a “downward” move in Scripture, and will always be associated biblically with the world and sin. (i.e. Rather than trust God, Abram looked to the world to meet his needs.)

Abram exemplifies the fine line between walking by faith and walking by sight... Walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh (Gal. 5:16-17).

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the PROMISED SEED OF ABRAHAM – Gen. 12:3 (Gen. 18:18: Matt. 1:1; Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:16)

In ABRAHAM – *(Abraham is a type of Christ in that he leads the way to a better land of promise – Heb. 11:8-11, 13-16)*

**Friday - January 6, 2017**

**TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 13-15**

**OVERVIEW:**

Abram and Lot separate; Abram moves to Hebron, builds an altar; Melchizedek's blessing upon Abram; God's covenant with Abram.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

After the downward move into the world's system of evil, and finding himself in the web of its sinfulness in chapter 12, "*Abram went up out of Egypt*" (13:1), and back to the place of blessing and intimacy with God that he had at the first (13:3-4). It's the same solution our Lord Jesus Christ identified in Revelation 2:4-5 for those times we find ourselves in the world's snare, having "*left our first love.*" Jesus said, "*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.*" Do you need to follow Jesus' admonition and Abram's example? Note the simplicity: Remember. Repent. Repeat.

The separation of Abram and his nephew, Lot, might be called "the curse of God's blessing" (13:5- 9). Sometimes the blessing of God in our lives forces us to make tough decisions. Lot illustrates a carnal believer, walking in the flesh, while Abram illustrates a committed believer, walking in the Spirit.

Lot chose the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh (13:10-11). He chose Sodom, thinking it a place of peace, protection and prosperity, when it was actually a place of warfare, danger, and cursing. Lot illustrates how important it is that we look through spiritual eyes as opposed to physical eyes in order to live the victorious Christian life. Paul said, "*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*" (II Cor. 4:18)

Chapter 14 illustrates that the Spirit-filled life is a life that is blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ, as Melchizedek, a type of Christ, blesses

faithful Abram. Note that Melchizedek, whose name means “Righteous King,” is the King of Salem (Hebrew, “shalom”) or peace, and is a priest of the most high God. Note, also that this mysterious king-priest of Jerusalem, to whom is given no human biographical or genealogical particulars, blesses Abram and receives tithes from him. Our Righteous King, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is not of human descent, is the Prince of Peace, and the God and Lord of peace, and will soon take up his throne in Jerusalem to rule as King over all the world. He blesses those who are surrendered to Him, and He alone is worthy of tithes of all that we possess.

Those, who like Abram, acknowledge Christ’s lordship and are surrendered to Christ’s lordship in their lives hear the word of the Lord in their hearts saying, *“Fear not,... I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” (15:1)*

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In MELCHIZEDEK, THE KING OF SALEM (Jerusalem), THE KING OF PEACE, THE PRIEST OF THE MOST HIGH GOD – Gen. 14:18-20 (Psa. 110:4; Heb. 7:1-6, 17, 21; Isa. 9:6; Rom. 15:33; II Thess. 3:16)

**Saturday – January 7, 2017**

## **Reflection**

We have completed one week in our journey through a pursuit of God's word. This week's reading covered 15 chapters of the book of Genesis. In those chapters much was revealed, much was examined, therefore much is required. Even in just the few chapters that were read, it is evident that only God Almighty could have authored this Book.

In beginning chapter 1 of Genesis, we see Colossians 1:16 being fulfilled, "For by him were all things created," We were able to take a peek into God's word in action. It is apparent that through these first few chapters when God speaks, creation has no choice but to react. We must re-emphasize that even a non-reaction is a reaction.

In the second day of our reading we took the time to focus on the "image of God" . We could take hours discussing this doctrine of our Bible, but suffice to say that the "image" was lost the day Adam sinned, leaving all of mankind to be born "in his own likeness, after his image; "God's plan for creating a race of beings that were created in His image to bring forth praise, glory, and honour to himself were put on hold due to Adam's sin and the results thereof. This plan remained on hold until the "Word became flesh" (John 1:14) to provide Himself a sacrifice for our sins.

As the story continues to unfold in Genesis, we find the evidence of the depravity of man in Genesis 6. It became so overwhelming that "it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." What a statement God makes in regards to man. On a practical note, as we read this chapter, has it crossed our minds if the statement could be made concerning us personally? This thought, without fail, should provoke us to "examine ourselves" . Praise God that "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20), for "Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

By this grace, God chose to save mankind from complete destruction.

Through these chapters what is truly amazing to see is how the different attributes of God begin to be unveiled. We see Him as Creator. We see Him as love. He is revealed to us as light. He shows Himself as righteous. He shows Himself as faithful and true. He reveals to us His longsuffering Spirit. We see Him as holy. Through His relationship with Adam, we see His friendliness. We see Him portray mercy. He reveals Himself as gracious. He also reveals

Himself as judge. He is revealed as the way by prophesying and providing of the way (John 14:6). Needless to say our God is amazing. Our God is deserving of all glory and honour. What a Book we have, and what a God is He!

### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:**

**Genesis 3:6** *“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

**Genesis 5:3** *“And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:”*

**Genesis 7:1** *“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”*

**Genesis 11:4** *“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”*

**Genesis 13:9** *“Is not his whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.”*